

[English]

Divestment of Equity from State Run Hotels

*123. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to divest its equity from State run hotels which have proved unprofitable; and

(b) if so, the names of such hotels, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government have approved the disinvestment by ITDC in Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation and Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation.

Child Labour

*127. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to his notice that young children are being employed in various fields like Agarbatti manufacturing, tailoring shops, fire crackers factories, kirana shops, beedi manufacturing etc.;

(b) if so, the total number of such children employed in various places as mentioned above;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken any concrete steps to check the menace of child labour in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) According to the census data of 1991 on child labour the number of working children in the country is of the order of 11.28 million. Industry-wise, number of working children are not maintained.

The concern for children and the problem of child labour continues to be an area of great concern and article of faith & commitment for successive Governments employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in certain occupations and processes (including Agarbatti manufacturing, fire and crackers industry beedi manufacturing etc.) under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. Through a Notification dated 27.1.99 the Schedule has been substantially enlarged to add six more occupations and 33 processes to the schedule bringing the total to 13 occupations and 51

processes respectively. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable for prosecution. All the State/UT Governments have an enforcement machinery to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects. Under the scheme of NCLP, special schools have been set up with provisions for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far, 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned in the child labour endemic States for coverage of 1.5 lakh children.

[Translation]

Advisory Commission on Labour Rules-Acts

*128. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted or have decided to constitute a Commission to advise on labour laws, labour related problems and present labour rules-Acts;

(b) if so, the time by which the said Commission is likely to be constituted; and

(c) the composition of the Commission and the details of the terms of reference thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) It has been decided to set up the Second National Commission on Labour comprising of a Chairman and two full time Members. There will be 07 part-time Members to represent Government, Industry and Workers etc. The tenure of the Commission will be 24 months from the date of its Constitution. The terms of Reference of the Second National Commission on Labour include the following:—

(i) to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and

(ii) to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organised sector;