

Government take steps without further delay to bring these areas under TV coverage.

[Translation]

- (v) Need to adopt immediate measures to check exploitation of child labour in the country.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, crores of child labourers are being exploited in different parts of the country. The child-labour legislation was passed in 1985 which prohibits the engagement of children below fifteen years for risky job, provides less working hours for them and protects their right to avail all national and festival holidays. But the employers do not follow the rules and exploit the child-labourers. About six per cent of the labourers in the country are child-labourers below fourteen years employment of whom is against the law. The employers do not pay sufficient wages to them. Every child labourer has to work for months together without wages and only then his wage is fixed. The statistics collected from various cities and towns show that 4.19 per cent of child labourers are working without wages, twenty per cent are getting merely Rs. 50 per month, fifteen per cent are getting Rs. 50 to 100 per month, 45.16 per cent are getting Rs. 100 to 300 per month as salary. It clearly indicates that if immediate steps are not taken to improve the condition of the child-labourers, they will remain exploited all over the country.

Thus, I request the Labour Minister to take immediate steps to stop exploitation of child-labourers as also to provide them more facilities.

[English]

- (vi) Need to exempt completely all the components of power tillers from excise duty.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Powertillers which are primarily designed to cater to the requirements of small and marginal farmers owning up to 5 hectares of land have been exempted from excise duty under Chapter 82.32 *vide* Government Notification No. 64/86. The same order has gone against its desired goal

due to introduction of MODVAT and also rationalisation of excise tariff *vide* Central Excise Tariff Act 1985. Under the new rules all the inputs whether produced captively or procured from other sources are liable to excise duty. In this connection I wish to submit that the cost of inputs for manufacture of powertiller forms more than 80 per cent of total cost of production on which the industry has to pay excise duty. This ultimately increases the rate of a power-tiller by Rs. 4,500/- to Rs. 5,000/- over the existing price. The small and marginal farmers are subjected to difficulties which they are unable to bear because of their poor economic condition. The powertiller industry also suffers a lot. Recently the Tractors of 25 H.P. and below are exempted from excise duty on final product and also on captive consumption. Powertillers are serving the poorer sections of agricultural society and they have to be totally exempted from excise duty on powertiller parts thereof and other inputs like Engines and Tyres fitted to Tillers.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to sanction an Atomic Power Plant in Bihar to meet the power requirement of the State.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these days economic progress is not possible without energy. In spite of various development programmes and plans, the economic condition of Bihar State is deteriorating and the per capita income of Bihar has reduced to the lowest among all the States. The root cause of it seems to be the shortage of electricity. The electricity production capacity of Bihar has now reached 1354 M. W after Barauni and Muzaffarpur power units have started their functioning. The average production is 30 to 50 per cent which means shortage of power. The power shortage has adversely affected the agriculture industries and studies of the children. The power is rarely available for agricultural work. Many industries are closed due to shortage of power. In the evening when children have to study, the light is not available which adversely affects their studies.

The working of Bihar Electricity Board is also not satisfactory. There is an imperative