

Within the next two or three days - I am afraid or within the next two or three weeks - there will be a further power-cut and we are going to face a very bad position. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to allot more funds and give opportunity for work and solve the unemployment problem. Especially, I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to safeguard the interests of cultivators who cultivate the long-term crops like coconut, rubber etc. We have to wait for 8-10 years for getting the yield. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take more interest in those cultivators and allot more funds to the suffering people and save them.

STATEMENT RE: NATIONAL POLICY  
ON CHILD LABOUR

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA). The Child Labour (Prohibition and regulation) Bill, 1986, the objective of which was to prohibit the employment of children below 14 years in certain occupations and processes, and regulate the employment of children in others, was passed by Parliament in December 1986. During discussion of the Bill, a point frequently made was that the legislation would not be sufficient to tackle the problem of exploitation of child labour. In particular, many Hon'ble Members felt that it was necessary to suitably rehabilitate the children who would be withdrawn from the prohibited employments and to provide welfare inputs like education, health care, skill development etc. to the children working in permitted employments. At that time Government had given a commitment in Parliament that the policy on Child Labour would be formulated to take care of these aspects. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble House that the National Policy on Child Labour has been approved by Government.

The policy consists of three main ingredients - (1) Legal Action Plan; (2) Focussing of general welfare and

development programmes on child labour and their families; and (3) a Project-based Plan of Action.

Under the Legal Action Plan, emphasis will be laid on strict and effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1950, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, and the other Acts containing provisions relating to employment of children.

The second aspect of the policy will be to utilise the on-going developmental programmes for the benefit of child labour and their families. Various national development programmes exist with wide coverage in the areas of education, health, nutrition, integrated child development and income and employment generation for the poor. These programmes will be utilised to create socio-economic conditions in which the compulsions to send the children to work diminish and the children are encouraged to attend schools rather than take wage employment.

Under the Project-based plan of Action, 10 Projects are proposed to be taken up in areas of child labour concentration, which are as follows

1. The Match Industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu.
2. The Diamond Polishing Industry in Surat, Gujarat.
3. The Precious Stone Polishing Industry in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
4. The Glass Industry in Ferozabad, Uttar Pradesh.
5. The Brassware Industry in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.
6. The Handmade Carpet Industry in Mirzapur-Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh.
7. The Lock Making Industry in Aligarh, U.P.

[Shri P.A. Sangma]

8. The Handmade Carpet Industry in Jammu and Kashmir.
9. The Slate Industry in Markapur in Andhra Pradesh.
10. The Slate Industry in Mandasaur in Madhya Pradesh

The following action will be taken in each of these areas

- (i) Stepping up the enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1948, and such other Acts within the Project area. If necessary, special enforcement staff will be created for the purpose
- (ii) Coverage of families of child labour under the income/employment generating programmes under the overall aegis of anti-poverty programmes.
- (iii) Formal and non-formal education of child labour and stepping up programmes of adult education of the parents of the working children
- (iv) Setting up of special schools for the child workers where provisions of education vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care, etc. will be made. If necessary, stipends will be given to children taken out from the forbidden employments, to compensate their loss in earnings
- (v) Creation of awareness through social activist groups and by other means, so as to educate and convince people regarding the undesirable aspects of child labour

Certain infrastructure will be created for the Projects with a Chief Executive Officer in Charge of each project. There will be a Child Labour Project Board for each project, with the local Collector as its Chairman, and with officials, non-officials and representatives of the voluntary organisations as members, to ensure coordination of the inputs by various Departments. There will also be a high-level Monitoring Committee to set up at the Central level with representatives of the concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments on it

Each project will be carefully drawn up in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Ministries concerned to ensure proper coverage and intermeshing of programmes of the Central and the State Governments. In the first phase, the ten projects are together expected to cover upto 30,000 child workers. The likely expenditure on the Projects is expected to be of the order of Rs. 11 crores annually

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13.52 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—Contd

[English]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi) Madam, in the advanced age of science and technology when we are dreaming of marching towards the Twenty-first Century we cannot advance the excuse of inclemency of weather and the whim of nature and we cannot afford to ignore the struggle of our fellow-beings for their basic human need. That is why, instead of calling it fully a natural calamity, I want to call it a man-made calamity because of the denudation of forest and the disturbance of the ecological balance that the human beings are making; modernisation has actually become destruction of nature

'Agricultural drought' is being defined as