

labourers and do not pay them even the minimum wages.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, as I have already said, when the proposed Board is constituted, a provision will be made to ensure that builders will first have to take permission before starting construction work.

[*English*]

DR. VENKATESH KAHDE: Sir, the construction workers are at the mercy of the contractors or the middlemen who are making all the money. It is a sort of capitalist system. There is no consideration for the welfare of the labour. It is a good idea that the Minister is considering some reform in this direction. However, my question to the hon. Minister is whether in the interim period, the existing State machinery or the Central Government machinery could be used for making random checks at the construction site to see that the minimum wages are paid to the labourers, they are insured as also to see that there is no question of inequality in wages between men and women. There is a great deal of difference. I would like to know whether these matters could be checked by the existing State machinery or the Central Government machinery.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, the

laws are still in force and there is no laxity. In fact, it is the duty of State Government officials to ensure that minimum wages are paid and other labour laws are enforced. Whenever I get time, I shall also look into it.

[*English*]

Training to Orphans

*495. **SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of orphans living in orphanages in various States, State-wise;

(b) whether training is being given to them in technical skills under different technical trades to enable them to earn livelihood;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Centre to provide necessary training to the orphans?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Central Government is implementing a Centrally sponsored Scheme for the Welfare of Children in Need of Care and Protection through which assistance is being provided to voluntary organizations for the maintenance of orphaned and destitute children in Children's Homes. The State-wise number of children covered under this Scheme are given below:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State/U.T.</i>	<i>No. of Children covered upto 31.3.90</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3125
2.	Assam	1020

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	1450
4.	Gujarat	1218
5.	Haryana	540
6.	Himachal Pradesh	82
7.	Karnataka	4690
8.	Kerala	1200
9.	Madhya Pradesh	875
10.	Maharashtra	3045
11.	Manipur	175
12.	Meghalaya	525
13.	Nagaland	425
14.	Orissa	2853
15.	Punjab	260
16.	Rajasthan	2850
17.	Sikkim	100
18.	Tamil Nadu	10493
19.	Tripura	475
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3142
21.	West Bengal	5285
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	100
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	145
24.	Delhi	1134
25.	Goa	375
26.	Mizoram	25
27.	Pondicherry	350

Total

45957

However, information regarding the number of orphans living in orphanages in the States which are assisted directly by the State Governments or orphanages which are not receiving any assistance either from the Central or State Governments is not available.

(b) to (d). The objective of the Scheme for the Welfare of Children in Need of Care and Protection is to rehabilitate orphaned and destitute children in the community through a range of ameliorative services. One of the main objectives of this Scheme is to provide vocational training and vocational guidance to the children being maintained in the Children's Homes. These include training in occupations like, tailoring, carpentry, radio mechanics, printing, book binding etc. In addition, education is also provided to the children in schools either within or outside the institution. The guidelines which have been issued under the Scheme mention that non-formal vocational training, especially through apprenticeship and expansion of vocational training facilities in the form of service and repair centres and production-cum-training centres should be major plank for enabling such children to earn an honourable living.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Sir, in the statement of the hon. Minister, he has not mentioned the list of orphan Homes and Voluntary Organisations dealing with the orphan children. Sir, millions of orphaned and destitute children are in the country and the assistance and subsidy given to them are very meagre. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether a list of welfare measures sent by the Orissa Government for extension of Orphanages and construction of buildings is pending before the Central Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have the list with me. It includes the details regarding Orissa also. The list prepared by us has two heads. One is that of children staying in orphanages which are given assistance by

the Central Government. Assistance is given at three levels. 45% assistance is given by the Central Government, 45% by the State Governments and 10% by voluntary organisations. A list of organisations which receive Central Government assistance is attached. Apart from this the State Governments and private organisations also give assistance but that list is not available with me. So far as Orissa is concerned there are 51 organisations which are functioning as orphanages in the State.

[*English*]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that there have been large-scale irregularities in most of the orphanages in Orissa, and also I would like to know whether the roster-wise study has been made on the outgoing children of the orphanages or not because in the case of rehabilitation, economic rehabilitation and vocational education are neglected very much. So, I would like to know how many orphan children coming out of these orphanages has been rehabilitated so far.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member is very important. We have received complaints and action has also been taken but the steps taken are not adequate. In 1989-90, a grant of Rs. 3.7 crores was given to voluntary organisations. In 1990-91, a grant of Rs. 5 crores is proposed to be given. This amount is meagre considering the number of orphan children. An orphanage spends Rs. 250 on each of its inmates. Rs. 125 is paid by the State Government and Rs. 125 by the Central Government. Previously this amount was Rs. 150, but after I joined the cabinet, I increased the amount to Rs. 250. Previously Rs. 6,000 was given to orphan homes but now this amount has been increased to Rs. 10,000. But it is surprising that though money is being spent on orphan children there is no machinery to monitor it. Such organisations are granted funds ac-

ording to the provisions made for this. When the Ministry was asked to supply information on how the orphanages were looking after orphans and the steps being taken by these homes to rehabilitate the orphan children neither the Ministry nor the State Government could supply this information. The Centre will monitor this process in future and organisations which receive funds directly from the Centre will be asked to explain as to what action they take for the welfare of orphans.

[English]

SHRI S. BENJAMIN: Sir, there are certain voluntary organisations and individuals who have taken up the issue of these orphans. But at the State level there is no machinery to extend the concessions announced here by the Minister. So, I would like to know whether a machinery can be evolved to take up this responsibility of enumeration and extension of benefits.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, my reply pertains to all States and not Orissa alone. Now we are trying to extend the facilities being given to orphans to street children and other children also.

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: The officials of orphanages in Bihar misuse the funds received by the orphanages from the Central and State Governments. With the result that orphans do not get the facilities that they should get. Have any directives been issued by the High Court in this regard?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Actually, the question does not relate to each State individually but to all States taken together. So far as Bihar is concerned I shall get the information and place it before the House and shall pass on the same to the hon. Member as well. At present there are 45,957 children in the orphanages. As you are aware, these are not orphanages; they are Beggars' Homes. I have personally looked into this matter Hon. Shri Khurana also raised this

matter a few days back and had said that there was corruption in the running of these Homes. I agree that corruption is there. We are trying to make surprise visits. In this we need the cooperation of all hon. Members and I urge them to personally conduct surprise checks in beggars homes. The complaints received by them should be communicated to us. We shall certainly take follow-up action.

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till what age are orphans permitted to stay in orphanages?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, orphans stay in the orphanages till they are 18 years of age. But the law provides that orphans can stay on in the orphanages and avail of all facilities if they do not become self-dependent even after 18 years of age.

[English]

Environment Monitoring Committee

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*496. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted an Environment Monitoring Committee to ensure effective implementation of environmental safeguards in irrigation, multi-purpose and flood control projects;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) whether Government have asked the Committee to submit reports in the matter from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.