

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : The main question of the hon. Member is not about housing problem; it is about Housing Bank instead. But as regards the hon. Member's observation that the housing problem is very acute, the State Governments have their own schemes in this regard. If his State Government sends any scheme to us, it will be considered accordingly.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the hon. Minister give some specific details as to how many houses the proposed Housing Bank will construct, how much money will it invest in housing and how much money will be advanced to the people as loan for house-building?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : With regard to the question of the hon. Member about the Urban Housing Bank, I would say that the H.D.F.C. meets the requirements of a very limited section of the people, especially the big people. The proposed bank would cater to the needs of small people, especially, the people from the lower strata. This scheme is not meant for a particular State, but we plan to set up such banks at a national level. We shall work on it. It is still a proposal and is yet to be finalised.

[*English*]

Survey about child labour

*44 **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) how many children per thousand are wage earners;

(b) whether the Child Labour Cell under the National Child Labour Cell under the National Child Labour Advisory Board has been asked to survey places of child labour to find out their nature of jobs, working conditions, etc.; and

(c) if so, the results of the survey ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) According to the 1981 Census, based on 5% sample data excluding Assam, the number of child workers in the age group of 0-14 per thousand children was 42.4.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, Articles 24 and 39 of the Constitution have a provision in this regard. What have you stated in your Annual Report and what are you saying in reply to this question. I quote :

[*English*]

“The National Child Labour Advisory Board will advise and guide child labour boards at State level. A Child Labour Cell was set-up currently. Rs. 5 crores is recommended for the welfare and development of children under the Seventh Plan...”

“The Child Labour Cell has undertaken some surveys like in Sivakasi match industry, the labour intensive areas in Aurangabad and other places.”

You have also said in the report like this.

“A Pilot study of working children conducted in Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore stated that 12 per cent of children worked from 14 to 16 hours a day. In Sivakasi (Tamil Nadu) 40 to 45 thousand children are engaged to run the wheels of factories. They work from 11 to 13 hours a day and receive piece rate wages ranging from 50 paise to Rs. 2 per day. The incidence of child labour force is also very high in tea gardens and other plantations.”

This is your survey and the survey

report has come to all of us and you say that nothing has been done.

[*Translation*]

I do not know which of the two is correct, your Annual Report or your reply. Sir, our Prime Minister has recently said that the children are the most important resource in a welfare State, in Article 24.....

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Kindly state whether you have conducted any survey in Madurai, Sivakasi or not ?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, allot half an hour for this.

MR. SPEAKER : It is already half an hour.

[*English*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Which one of the two things is correct ? The children are the most important resource of the country.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, the question was whether the survey of Child Labour has been done by the National Child Labour Advisory Board to which the answer is 'No'. But we have asked some organisations and the State Governments who have done surveys and the specific question which the hon. Member has put is about Sivakasi. There, a survey was conducted by the Tamil Nadu Government. Not by the Central Government and, of course, we had given some financial assistance towards that. But this survey was not done by us and it was done by the State Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOGL CHAND DAGA : You are saying you have not got it done, you have given Rs. 5 crores as financial and to voluntary organisations.

[*English*]

It is in your own report given. During the [current financial year, the

Central Government rendered financial assistance to 5 voluntary organisations engaged in the field of child labour...

[*Translation*]

In your Annual Report on child labour, you have stated that you have given assistance after formulating a scheme, but today you say that you have done nothing. Then let me know which are these voluntary organisations and whether any assistance has been given, if so, in what form ? Today, none of your child labour laws are really effective and the boys have to work for more than 12 to 13 hours in shops, etc. Whereas under the law they cannot be forced to work for more than seven hours a day. Not only this, they do not even get their due wages.

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing. I will not allow. Are you putting a question or delivering a lecture ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question, it involves 110 million children.

[*English*]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, as I said, a survey on the child labour has been done by the Census Department and it has also been done by the Planning Commission. Therefore, there is no question of going in for another survey by the Ministry of Labour. There are certain organisations who try to do it on their own. But we have financed three specific projects. First, a survey was done by an Operational Research Group, Baroda. Now, this survey was not commissioned by us. It was not commissioned by us. It was commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and primarily this Research Group has gone into the aspect of family planning. Out of 88 questions that they have put before the public, three questions related to child labour. Therefore, they wanted our financial assistance. We have given them marginal financial assistance. There are two other projects

which are sponsored by the State Governments. One is in Sivakasi where children are employed. It is in Tamil Nadu and we have given them some assistance. The second survey was done in Bhadohi-Mirzapur where the child labour is concentrated and employed for carpet industry. In these two specific cases, we have given financial assistance. In the other aspects, we have not given any financial assistance.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Whether there is any survey or not, the fact remains that a large number of children below the age of 18 years are working as child labour. Do the Government propose to take stringent measures to stop child labour as also take measures for their proper rehabilitation? Is there any concrete proposal for this?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The question of children below 18 years here does not arise. As pointed by Shri Daga, Article 24 of the Constitution bans child labour below the age of 14. We are concerned with children below the age of 14. Besides Article 24 of the Constitution, there are many other Acts which govern the employment of child labour. It is a very difficult question. One fact is that under the Constitution, child labour is banned and another fact is that child labour exists in our country. It is a very difficult situation for us. There was a special Committee, the Gurupadswami Committee, appointed by the Government of India to go into these special aspects. Government has examined the report and based on those recommendations, we are thinking of having a comprehensive Bill on child labour. I will come to the Parliament and the House will have enough opportunity to consider it. But as I said, it is a very difficult question.

You are asking about stringent measures to be taken against the people concerned. Well, it sounds to be very nice, but the fact remains that practically it becomes very difficult. I must confess that. We are, therefore, trying to undertake some welfare scheme within the constraints of the provisions of the Constitution and the various laws that are operating like the one we have done in Sivakasi.

A 14-crore project has been launched. Another project we are going to launch in UP, Bhadohi-Mirzapur area.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I have not been able to understand the difficulty that the hon. Minister is saying. One can understand the difficulty of implementing the law in the agricultural sector, but in an industrial sector, where there are well organised industries, where the child labour is being used with impunity and which is violative of the Constitution, it is not that difficult to take action. What are the difficulties you are facing in implementing the provisions of the Constitution and the laws in the organised industries? Effective measures can easily be taken in the organised industries.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : This is what we have said. We have already started a project in Sivakasi. It is very difficult to check the child labour in the areas where the child labour is dispersed. There are families who employ child labour; there are small tea shops and restaurants which employ labour. Therefore, to start with, we are trying to enforce the law, and take up welfare schemes in an area where there is concentration of child labour. It becomes easier for the Government. That is why, we have chosen the match industry in Sivakasi, and the carpet industry in Mirzapur-Bhadohi in U.P. There are certain other areas like glass industry, zari industry, where the child labour is concentrated and it becomes easier for the Government to enforce the law as well as introduce some welfare schemes.

Deficit in DDA

*45. **SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount that the Delhi Development Authority needs to meet its deficit;

(b) how Government propose to meet this deficit;

(c) whether Government propose to make a study of deficit in the DDA; and