

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2747 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.02.2014

Rehabilitation and eradication of child labour

2747. SHRI N.K. SINGH

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) the State-wise estimated number of child workers/labourers in rural and urban areas of the country at present;
- (b) the details of child labour eradication and rehabilitation programmes being implemented by Government and the success achieved as a result thereof; and
- (c) the stringent measures taken by Government for complete eradication of child labour particularly those engaged in hazardous occupation, etc.?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a): As per Survey conducted by NSSO, in 2009-10, the number of working children is estimated at 49.84 lakh. The rural, urban and state-wise details of working children as per NSSO Survey 2009-10 are Annexed.

(b): For rehabilitation of child labour, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme since 1988 in the areas of high concentration of the child labour. The major objective of the Scheme is to withdraw children working in hazardous occupations and processes, and mainstream them into formal education system. Under this scheme, all children rescued/withdrawn in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. The Scheme also envisages awareness generation campaigns against the evils of child labour and enforcement of child labour laws. At present the Scheme is approved for 270 Districts in 20 States of the country covering about 3 lakh children through approximately 6200 Special Training Centres. The total number of working children in the country has declined from 1.26 crore as per the Census 2001 to 49.84 lakh in 2009-10 as per NSSO Survey.

(c): Under legislative action plan, Government is implementing the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes and also regulates the working conditions of children where they are not prohibited from working. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Child Labour Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment or with fine. As per the information received from the States, 1,62,031 inspections were carried out and 4817 prosecutions were launched during 2012.