

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country and the placement effected through them for the last 3 years is given below:

| Year | Job-seekers on the Live Register (in crores) | Placement through Employment Exchanges (in lakhs) |
|------|--|---|
| 1999 | 4.04 | 2.21 |
| 2000 | 4.13 | 1.77 |
| 2001 | 4.20 | 1.69 |

(c) The Tenth Plan will focus on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it will be one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on the rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of the employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential. This will help the educated unemployed in rural areas as well.

Child Labour

1711. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a recent Supreme Court Judgment regarding imposition of strict punishment on employer for engaging child labour;

(b) if so, the details of the directions as issued by the Supreme Court;

(c) whether Government have issued any mandatory orders to all the States to implement and monitor the Supreme Court's directions in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have introduced any scheme to eradicate child labour in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 10th December, 1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465/1986, has given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from work and rehabilitated. These include payment of compensation amounting to Rs. 20,000/- by the offending employer for every child employed in contravention of the provisions of the Act.

(c) Government has issued detailed guidelines to all State/UT Governments for implementation of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under the NCLP is the running of special schools/centres largely through Non-Government Organisations, for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. At present 100 NCLPs are under implementation in 13 child labour endemic states for the coverage of 2.11 lakh working children. Under the Scheme of Grants-in-aid, Non-Government Organisations are assisted directly for taking up projects for the rehabilitation of child labour.

Social Safety Network

1712. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the steps Government have taken for various social safety network for workers in unorganized sectors through flawless legislations and Government intervention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): The Government have taken several steps for the welfare and social security of workers in the unorganised sector. The Government have enacted several legislations viz. The Maternity