

Action Plan to improve the condition of working children

† 2141. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that children of the country are forced to live by working as labourers in their age of study and sports;

if so, whether Government is formulating any action plan to improve the condition of such children; and

if so, the State-wise details of the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, government is following a sequential approach of first covering children working in hazardous occupations/processes. The National Plan of action for elimination of child labour includes project based plan of action covering families of child labour in general development programmes and strict enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from identified hazardous work are put into Special Schools, where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc., before they are mainstreamed into regular education system.

(c) The State-wise number of child labour as per Census 2001 is enclosed as statement.

Statement***State-wise Distribution of Working Children according to 2001 Census in the age group 5—14 years***

SI. No.	Name of the State/UT	2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339
2.	Assam	351416
3.	Bihar	1117500
4.	Gujarat	485530
5.	Haryana	253491
6.	Himachal Pradesh	107774
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	175630
8.	Karnataka	822615
9.	Kerala	26156
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259
11.	Maharashtra	764075
12.	Chhattisgarh	364572
J.	Manipur	28836

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
14.	Meghalaya	53940
15.	Jharkhand	407200
16.	Uttaranchal	70183
17.	Nagaland	45874
18.	Orissa	377594
19.	Punjab	177268
20.	Rajasthan	1262570
21.	Sikkim	16457
22.	Tamil Nadu	418801
23.	Tripura	21756
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997
25.	West Bengal	857087
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1960
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482
28.	Chandigarh	3779
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4274
30.	Delhi	41899
31.	Daman and Diu	729
32.	Goa	4138
33.	Lakshadweep	27
34.	Mizoram	26265
35.	Pondicherry	1904
Total		12666377

New guidelines on scheduled rate for paying wages under NREGS

2142. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the Union Government has issued new guidelines on scheduled rates for paying wages under National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Government has issued clarifications to all States that Schedule of Rates (SORs) of various executing agencies for similar nature of activities and out puts in the same area must be same. States have also been asked to get these SORs notified by the competent authority of the State as SORs would have horizontal application across the departments./agencies.