

Child Labour in unorganised industries

2996. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what is the exact number of child labour in the unorganised industries;

(b) whether any such surveys are being carried out by the Government in recent times; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being taken to end such inhuman act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. Industry wise number of children are not maintained.

(c) The Central Government is responsible for enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in Railways, major ports, mines, oil fields and establishments under the control of the Central Government. In all other cases, State/UT Governments are responsible for enforcement of the Act. Employers found employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are prosecuted under the provisions of the Act. State/UT Governments furnish information to the Central Government on implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Government of India has been implementing two schemes for rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under the former scheme is running special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. Under the scheme of Grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action-oriented projects for the benefit of working children.