

Unemployment Youths in Gujarat

351. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVASHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) The details of total number of unemployed youths registered with the different Employment Exchanges in Gujarat;

(b) The number of youths come out for seeking employment from the universities and colleges every year during the last three years;

(c) The details of the youths given employment and whether Government have chalked out any scheme/programme to provide the employment opportunities to them; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LAL): (a) The total number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with different employment exchanges in Gujarat as on 30th June, 1999 was of the order of 9.34 lakhs.

(b) The number of job seekers with graduate and higher qualifications registered with employment exchanges in Gujarat during the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 (latest available) was of the order of 15.1, 17.9 and 16.1 thousands respectively.

(c) and (d) The placement of job seekers by the employment exchanges in Gujarat during Jan-June 1999 as of the order of 31.1 thousands. In order to provide gainful employment to the job seekers the State Govt. of Gujarat has been organising 'Rojgar Mela'. They have also started Pandit Din Dayal Sankalit Swavlamban Yojana besides the normal employment generation programmes like IRDP, JRY etc. which are being implemented.

Child Labour in Fireworks Industry

352. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that child labour is still prevalent in fireworks industry as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 5th November, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1996 has not been enforced strictly either by the Union Government or State Governments; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to enforce the various Child Labour laws in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LAL): (a) and (b) As per the news-item Child Relief and You (CRY) and three other NGOs had undertaken a study on the children working

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in fireworks industry in Sivakasi. It has been reported that 1,25,000 children were still being exploited despite the provisions in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. These children work under the risk of Asthma, T.B., Uterine damage besides a general shortening of life span. It has also been reported that to camouflage the illegal implications of the employment of children, the factories have emergency exit which are used for escape during inspections.

(c) and (d) Employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in certain occupations and processes (including the manufacturing of matches, explosive and fire-works) under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and process is regulated under the Act. All the State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child related provisions of the laws. Employers found employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are prosecuted under the provisions of the Act. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.

The employment of children is also prohibited under section 67 of Factories Act, 1948. As regards enforcement of provisions of this Act, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has deployed 10 Field Inspectors who have been conducting regular inspections. During 1999, 1340 regular inspections, 231 special inspections, 21 night inspections, 39 check inspections, 27 squad inspections and 52 holiday inspections have been done. The State government has also reported strict vigilance and enforcement by the Inspectorate of factories in Sivakasi.

Elimination of Child Labour

353. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic facilities and infrastructure required to eliminate Child Labour in the country is still lagging behind;

(b) if so, whether Government have received foreign assistance to eliminate Child Labour in the country during the past few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which that foreign assistance has been spent; and

(d) to what extent Child Labour have been eliminated in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LAL): (a) The Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate Child Labour. So far 85 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the child labour endemic districts of the country for the rehabilitation of child labour.