

(b) whether any action has been taken to persuade the NTC authorities to start the mill immediately after modernisation to make it viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) All permanent workmen and staff members are being paid wages though there is no production in the Mill since 1992.

The proposal for reviving Azam Jahi Mill is before BIFR and the revival of the mill will depend on the viability of the scheme and the decision of the BIFR on the revival package.

Wages of Child Labourers

†1609. **SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many such projects run by contractors wherein child labourers between 10 to 12 years of age constitute 40% of total labourers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the child labourers do not get wages according to their labour and are exploited continuously;

(c) if so, whether Government are planning any such scheme that puts a barricade to the practice of child labour and labourers employed get their full wages;

(d) whether Government are taking concrete steps in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to the 1991 Census, the number of working children in the country in the age group 5-14 years is 11.28 million. This constitutes 3.59% of the total working population in the country, which was of the order of 314 million in 1991. More than 90% of child labour is engaged in agriculture and allied employments like cultivation, agricultural labour, livestock, forestry and fisheries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs). Under the scheme, rehabilitation centres have been set up with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health-care etc. So far, 85 child labour projects have been sanctioned in child labour endemic States for coverage of 1.8 lakh children.

in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable for prosecution. The Central Government and State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child related provisions of the laws. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns. It has been the endeavour of the government to enforce all the child labour related laws in a harmonious manner.

Renewal of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers

1610. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 348 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether Government also propose to renew the Minimum Wages for Agricultural and unorganised labourers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Under the Minimum wages Act, 1948 both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of Minimum Wages for scheduled employments in their respective jurisdictions. The Government of India has recently revised the minimum rates of wages for agricultural workers in the Central sphere vide notification No. S.O. 1085(E) dated 11th November, 1999 published in the Gazette of India, part-II, Section-3, sub-section (ii). The prevailing rates of wages in various States/Union Territories for agricultural workers in enclosed in the Statement. In regard to other unorganised labourers working under Central sphere, the minimum rates of wages are revised periodically.

(b) to (e) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes. The employment conditions of children