

Conference and the Government has agreed, in principle, to have these laws reviewed by setting up a high powered body so as to ensure consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy as also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

Campaign Against Child Labour

1282. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of the Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), the distinction between the hazardous and non-hazardous sector as the Child Labour Prohibition Act, 1986 is "Superfluous and has failed to account for the exact number of child labour working in hazardous units";

(b) whether Government are aware that according to the (CACL), in Orissa the situation is particularly worse in the south-western region which has nearly 1,87,710 child labour; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) had organised a Public Hearing and National Convention on Child Labour from 30th March-1st April, 1997 in New Delhi. Its findings, inter alia, included that the distinction between 'Hazardous' and 'non-hazardous' occupations obtaining in the 1986 Act and in the Government of India policy should be done away with, as all employment of children is per se hazardous to the well-being of the child.

(b) and (c) As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the State of Orissa is 452, 394. Considering the magnitude and the nature of the problem of child labour a gradual, sequential and integrated approach has been initiated by the Government. Under

the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in seven occupations and eighteen processes listed in the Schedule to the Act. The condition of employment of children is regulated in occupations and processes not prohibited under the Act. While total elimination of child labour is the ultimate objective, as a matter of prioritisation, withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations has been taken up in the first instance. So far 76 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of 1.5 lakh working children. 16 child labour projects have been sanctioned for the State of Orissa.

निजी क्षेत्र में पेंशन योजना

1283. श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने नई पेंशन योजना को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए सेमिनारों इत्यादि, के माध्यम से जुलाई, 1996 में प्रयास किये थे,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार निजी क्षेत्र में रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ाने को ध्यान में रखते हुए निजी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में भी पेंशन योजना लागू करने पर विचार कर रही है,

(घ) इस पहलू पर कुछ श्रमिक संघों द्वारा व्यक्त किए गए विचारों की मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या-क्या हैं, और

(ङ) सरकार की इस पर प्रक्रिया है?

विद्युत मंत्री (श्री आर० कुमारमंगलम) : (क) और (ख) सरकार ने कर्मचारी पेंशन योजना, 1995 को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए जुलाई, 1996 में कोई सेमीनार नहीं आयोजित किया था। तथापि, इस योजना के उपबंधों/लाभों का कर्मचारियों के बीच प्रचार करने के उद्देश्य से कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन ने पेंशन योजना के संबंध में विभिन्न भाषाओं में समाचार पत्र, पुस्तिकाएं और प्रेस विज्ञापनों को प्रकाशित/परिचालित करने का पहले ही निर्णय ले लिया था। पेंशन योजना के लाभों पर केन्द्रित "नया जमाना नया तराना" नामक एक रेडियो धारावाहिक तथा अंग्रेजी एवं अन्य स्थानीय भाषाओं में वीडियो कार्यक्रमों के प्रसारण की भी मंजूरी प्रदान की

गयी थी। इसके अलावा, इसका व्यापक रूप से प्रचार करने के लिए पूरे देश में कर्मचारी पेंशन योजना की पहली वर्षगांठ मनाई गयी थी जिसमें विज्ञान भवन, नई दिल्ली का कार्यक्रम भी शामिल है।

(ग) 20 अथवा इससे अधिक व्यक्तियों को नियोजित करने वाले निजी क्षेत्र उपक्रमों पर कर्मचारी पेंशन योजना पहले ही लागू होती है।

(घ) और (ङ) व्यवसाय संघों ने आम तौर पर इस योजना का स्वागत किया है। विवाहित पुत्रों और विवाहित पुत्रियों तथा पुनर्विवाह करने वाली विधवाओं तथा पुनर्विवाह करने वाले विधुरों के बीच भेदभाव को समाप्त किए जाने, पेंशन की शीघ्र अदायगी के लिए बढ़ा दर (डिस्काउन्टिंग रेट) को कम किए जाने, चूक संबंधी मामलों में पेंशन की अदायगी सुनिश्चित करने का प्रावधान किए जाने उजरती दर वाले कामगारों को शामिल किए जाने आदि के बारे में व्यवसाय संघों के विचारों को स्वीकार कर लिया गया है और कार्यान्वयन के लिए अधिसूचित कर दिया गया है। तथापि, वैयक्तिक विकल्प दिए जाने, पेंशन की उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक के साथ जोड़े तथा पेंशन को एक तीसरे लाभ के रूप में दिए जाने जैसे अनेक सुझावों को बीमांकिक रूप से स्वीकार करने के लिए व्यवहार्य नहीं पाया गया है।

Rehabilitation of Child/Bonded Labour in TN

1284. SHRI S. MATHU MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the central assistance sanctioned to the Government of Tamil Nadu under the Ninth Five Year Plan for the rehabilitation of child labour and bonded labour;

(b) the number of child labour and bonded labour identified during this plan in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Under the scheme of National Child Labour Project, financial assistance is given

directly to the child labour project societies at the district level for running special school for the rehabilitation of child labour. Under the scheme, State Governments are not provided any financial assistance for direct rehabilitation of child labour. For the State of Tamil Nadu, 8 National Child Labour Project have been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of 19,500 children. In the first year of the plan, i.e. 1997-98, an amount Rs. 179.79 lakh was released to these district child labour societies. The central assistance sanctioned to the Government of Tamil Nadu during the year 1997-98 for the rehabilitation of bonded labour was Rs. 3 crore.

(b) According to census, the total number of working children in the State of Tamil Nadu was 578,889. In the recently concluded first phase of survey conducted under the directions of Supreme Court, the State Government has already identified 25135 working children. The State Government has also identified 25008 bonded labourers.

(c) Government have taken a series of steps for the elimination of child labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in Parts A and B of the schedule to the Act. Apart from Legal measures, Government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. A major activity undertaken under the child labour projects is the establishments of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. Funds have also been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in all districts and for awareness generation against the evil of child labour.

The Government has also launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the rehabilitation of bonded labour. The