

It has been reported by the Government of NCT of Delhi that at present all the posts of presiding officers of Labour Court/Industrial Tribunals have been filled up appointing officers of Delhi Higher Judicial Service. The Labour and Employment Department of Government of NCT of Delhi thereafter formulated the proposals for the creation of various categories of posts and other infrastructure as recommended by the aforesaid committee and incorporated the same in the Annual Plan of the Department for the year 1998-99.

It has further been reported that separately action also been undertaken to review the pendency of cases before the conciliation officers and the Department has also set a target to bring down the period of conciliation to three months.

Child Labour In Gujarat

1280. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of child labour in Gujarat is around 13 to 15 lakhs and the budget allocation made for child labour projects being implemented by the Union and State Government is not sufficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) As per 1991 census, the total number of working children in the State of Gujarat is 523, 585. Under the Scheme of National Child Labour Project, 76 projects have been sanctioned so far including two projects for the district of Surat and Panchmahal in the State of Gujarat. These projects are fully funded by the Central Government through the child labour project societies at the district level. There is no State-wise budget allocation under the scheme. It has been decided that the question of

expanding the coverage under National Child Labour Projects would be considered only after the revision of the existing scheme for which necessary action has already been initiated.

Planning and Implementation of New Labour Policies

1281. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to seek the services of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in planning and implementation of new labour policies;

(b) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to recast/modify/amend the existing labour laws in the wake of liberalisation and globalisation process to facilitate accelerated growth of industry;

(c) what is the present status of the proposal initiated in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are considering setting up of Experts Committee to study the problem in-depth for evolving desirable changes in various laws?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) International Labour Organisation had sent a Project proposal to the Ministry of Labour in Feb., 1998 to assist the Govt. of India in reviewing the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(b) to (d) Labour laws have been enacted over a period of time to address a number of issues which assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. While many of these issues are of continued nature, some of these might have ceased to be of importance, hence the need for review of labour policies, programmes and laws flowing from them. This question has also been discussed in the Tripartite meeting of the Standing Labour Committee and Indian Labour

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 प्रैस 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