

Central Trade Unions' Demand for Indexation of Pension

1031. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Central Trade Unions requesting them to provide for indexation of pension; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is a contributory scheme, with limited resources. Therefore, it is not considered economically viable to burden the pension fund with unlimited liability which will arise due to indexation of pension. However the Government has agreed to valuation of the pension fund and Review of pensionary benefits on an annual basis.

Supreme Court's Directive to Eliminate Child Labour

1032. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A.
PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court directed convening of a high level meeting of States to evolve the modalities for progressive elimination of child labour and to provide them with a better quality of life;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the progress made by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to ban child labour in the most hazardous and intoler-

able activities like bonded labour, trafficking, prostitution, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 21st February, 1997 in Writ Petition Civil No. 12125/84 and 11643/85-Bandhu Mukti Morcha etc. (Petitioner) Vs. UOI & Ors (Respondents) had directed Government to convene a meeting of the concerned Ministers of the respective State Governments and their Principal Secretaries holding concerned Departments to evolve a principle of policy for progressive elimination of employment of children below the age of 14 years in all the employments governed by the respective enactments mentioned in M.C. Mehta's case and to evolve such steps consistent with the M.C. Mehta's scheme laid down in case. The directions of the Supreme Court were considered in the State Labour Ministers Conference convened on 7-8th July, 1997. In the Conference, the progress in the implementation of the directions given by the Supreme Court in the M.C. Mehta's case was reviewed. The State Governments also reaffirmed their commitment for expeditious implementation of the directions in light of the latest judgement in the Bandhu Mukti Morcha case.

(d) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in Part A and B of the Schedule to the Act. The practice of bonded labour is a cognizable offence punishable under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 provides for care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent juveniles. The effort of the Government is to implement all the child labour and other related laws in a harmonious manner to prevent the exploitation of children.