

Proposal to Open Special Schools for Child Labourers

227. SHRI N. THALAVAI
SUNDARAM:
SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open special schools for child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the States identified for setting up such schools;

(c) whether Government will allocate more funds for opening such schools around Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu which has a high concentration of child labour; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed scheme to open special schools?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) 76 child labour projects have already been started for rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children in the child labour endemic States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In Sivakasi district in the State of Tamil Nadu, one National Child Labour Project for rehabilitation of 5,000 children through 89 special schools has already been sanctioned.

Ban on Child Labour in Hazardous Industries by SC

228. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A.
PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Supreme Court Judgement ordering ban on child labour in hazardous jobs, industries and mines, only postulates the pious direction of the framers of the Constitution of India as

articulated in Article 24 and the wishes of the Parliament as embodied in the Child Labour (Prevention and Regulation) Act, 1986;

(b) if not, to what extent and details of further directions given by the Apex Court in this judgement to effectively enforce the ban; and

(c) the specific steps taken or being taken to effectively carry out the directions of the Supreme Court to ban child labour in hazardous jobs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 10.12.96, apart from referring to Article 24 of the Constitution of India and Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986, has given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from work and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. The important directions given in the judgement include survey of children working in hazardous occupations, payment of compensation amounting to Rs. 20,000/- by the offending employer for every child employed in hazardous occupations in contravention of the provisions of the Act, giving alternative employment to an adult member of the family in place of the child withdrawn from such hazardous occupations, provision of education in a suitable institution for the children so withdrawn, creation of Child Labour Relief & Rehabilitation Fund etc.

(c) As a follow up of the directions of the Supreme Court, all the State/UT governments have been sent detailed guidelines on 26th December 1996 indicating the manner in which the directions of Supreme Court could be given effect to. A conference of States/UTs Labour Ministers was also convened on 22.1.97 to formulate an action plan for