

productivity, climatic conditions, tissue development, research and other things. We will pass on the information to you. I think that it is a very good suggestion. Thank you very much.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, most of these commodities covered by the Agreements relate to primary commodities including metals and the Minister is surely aware that in the case of most of these commodities there is a very concerted attempt on the part of the advanced industrial countries to press down the prices that are offered and even when these Agreements are renegotiated, there is an attempt to tilt the terms of trade against the primary producing countries. Now in this tussle the poorer countries had a very strong support made available to them by the United Nations agency, UNCTAD—the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In fact, this is the only United Nations Conference which, time and again, has come in support of the poorer countries. What has happened recently is that the advanced industrial countries are now irritated and they have a certain attitude of animosity towards UNCTAD, and recently, apparently there was a meeting of the Executive Board where a concerted attempt was made to pass some laws and by-laws which would diminish the integrity and independence of the UNCTAD Secretariat. I would hope that our Government and the Minister would look into the matter and ensure that the kind of support that we are getting from UNCTAD, we would continue to be getting and there would be no interference or aggression on behalf of the advanced industrial countries.

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Thank you very much. Sir, the hon. Member's advice is well taken and we will take that into consideration when we come to the UNCTAD Agreement, but it involves mainly nondiscrimination, greater transparency, unilateral demonstration, elimination of trade

distortions, effective and reliable dispute redressal, and some of these things will be part of it, and definitely we will take into consideration the point which he has suggested and we will have to take up this in the next round of the Conference and we will safeguard the interests of our country in all respects.

Schools under the National Child Labour Project

*422. **SHRI SANATAN BISI:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a body has been constituted to monitor at regular intervals the running of special schools under the National Child Labour Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A high powered body, namely, National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) was constituted on 26th September, 1994 under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister. Secretaries to Government of India in the Ministries of Labour, Information & Broadcasting, Welfare, Rural Development, Textiles and the Departments of Expenditure, Education, Health, Family Welfare and Women & Child Development are members of the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour. The functions of NAECL, inter alia, include formulation of policies and programmes for the elimination of child labour particularly in hazardous employments and monitoring the progress of the implementation of programmes, projects and schemes for the elimination of child labour. So far NAECL has met four times.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, my first supplementary is this. According to the answer a monitoring body was constituted or monitoring was being done from 26th September, 1994. This answer is contradictory. In the evidence given by the Ministry of 8.8.1996, during the consideration of Demands for Grants for 1996-97, at page 59 it was clearly stated that evaluation would be carried out after finalisation of the scheme which was under review. I would like to submit that this scheme was introduced only in 1995-96. The second contradiction is this. On several occasions it was discussed that monitoring was not being done. As per the compendium of 1995-96 the performance should be monitored. The answer was that it related to 1994-95. The third thing which I would like to submit is that as per the last Annual Report—it is stated at page 141—a new technology of monitoring will be introduced. I would like to know which one of these is correct.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the Prime Minister has announced a child labour abolition scheme in 1994 on the independence day. Since then a committee has been constituted at the national level and at the district levels. This has been monitored from the date of the constitution of the district-level committees as well as the national-level committee.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: No, Sir. Here I would like to submit that the position regarding the number of projects commissioned State-wise during 1995-96 has been stated on page 58. How could the monitoring be done in 1994?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The projects had already been started in 1994. *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SANATAN BISI: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to the Minister.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: This is a continuing process. We have identified

only 75 districts in the country so far. There are more than 300 districts in the country. In the first phase we have taken up 75 districts and subsequently we will be taking up the other districts. It is a continuous process. It is not a time-bound programme.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Though in Orissa there are altogether 43 schools and 3,300 children in 16 districts, as far as the implementation of this programme in Orissa is concerned, nothing has been mentioned in the Economic Survey of 1995-96. I would like to know from the Minister whether this programme is being implemented in Orissa or not.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: In Orissa we have taken up 16 projects in 16 districts.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I wish to know from the hon. Minister this. There are sanctions against India in respect of products allegedly made by children in India. The international sanction says that they will not purchase products made by child labour as such. I want to know from the Government, (a) what they are going to do to disabuse the world at large about the products made by child labour. (b) There is no comprehensive vision regarding learning of traditional skills and arts like carpet weaving. In the name of abolition of child labour -- there is a lack of accurate monitoring agencies; I don't know how they are going about the monitoring; I would like to know about that also-- they are preventing children from learning traditional skills which are part of our cultural ethos. Has the Ministry given any directive as to how the skills of these children from the traditional families like carpet weaving, textile weaving, etc., which is the largest employment sector of our nation, should be monitored educationwise up to a certain level? Or, are they just being brushed aside at one stroke?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, regarding the export of goods manufactured by children, a policy is being evolved by the Commerce Ministry in consultation with the Textiles Ministry. As far as the labour Ministry is concerned, we are taking away children from the industry which is hazardous in nature. We are taking away children working in the carpet industry. Therefore, a policy on export of goods manufactured by children is being evolved by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Textiles. Coming to the question of giving training on traditional skills in carpet weaving, etc., we are giving vocational training to the students. We are taking the children to special schools.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No. These two statements contradict each other. What I want to know is this. What are your monitoring agencies? How do you know? Can you come out with the figures as to how many children are working in industries of hazardous nature? What are the monitoring systems? On the one hand, you say that the Commerce Ministry is taking care of it and is going to formulate a policy. On the other hand, India is losing her exports because there is a blanket ban on anything made by children. The third is what India's perception about child labour is, what it means to us. He says carpet industry is a hazardous industry.

What are they doing about improving the living conditions of people engaged in carpet industry? It is not just an aptitude. You cannot do vocational guidance and counselling. Some things are traditional skills which are handed over by word of mouth to generation to generation. What about deaths every year? What about children involved in match industry, cracker industry and bangle industry? I would like to know the figures.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, there are about two million children working in hazardous industries.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: How did the Minister come to this figure?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We are collecting this information from various sources. We get this information through NSS. We are depending upon the Planning Commission and the National Sample Survey. We have to depend on something. There are about two million child labourers working in industries of hazardous nature. The Government of India has, so far, taken away 75,000 children from hazardous industries and they have been sent to special schools. NGOs with aid from foreign agencies have taken away 76,000 child labourers from hazardous industries. Altogether 1.5 lakh children have been rehabilitated in special schools. So far as training is concerned, vocational training is an important component in special schools which are being specially run for child labourers.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Sir, part (a) of my question is : What exactly are the objectives of this scheme? Is there any coordination between the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development? Part (b) of my question is: Will the hon. Minister inform the House as to how many times the State Monitoring Committee or the State Advisory Committee in each State where these districts have been identified, have met?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the purpose is to conduct door-to-door survey and massive awareness programmes among parents whose children are working in industries of hazardous nature and create a positive awareness among parents. With this aim, we are running special schools.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Are these schools for children or for parents?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: These schools are for children. So far we have established 1100 schools in the country.

We propose to establish 2, 500 schools. The remaining schools will be opened very shortly.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: What is the coordination between the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development? There has to be a collective approach towards the question of child labour which has been discussed so many times in this House.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We have a District Child Labour society registered under the Societies Act. The District Collector is the Chairman of this Society. He is coordinating with all the departments at the district level. We have conducted four meetings at the national level from 1994 onwards.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: I am asking about States.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We do not have any system at the State level. It is at the district level.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I learn that a Committee under Dr. Subramanian Swamy has done a comprehensive report on the state of child labour in our country. Will the Government care to make that report public or place it on the Table of the House?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the Department of Labour has not yet received that report. So I am not in a position to say anything in this regard.

श्री नरेश यादव: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अन्य खतरनाक उद्योगों की तरह देश में चर्म उद्योग में कितने बाल-श्रमिक काम करते हैं? क्या उन बाल-श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए आपने कोई कदम उठाया है?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I do not have a break-up of the figures of child labour working in various industries. We have classified seven industries as hazardous industries. Regarding processing industries, 18 industries have

been classified as hazardous industries. I do not have the figures of children working in the leather industry.

श्री नरेश यादव: माननीय मंत्री जी, क्या आप इसका आंकड़ा देंगे?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I have given the figures of the total number of children working in hazardous industries.

*423. [The Questioners (Shrimati Malti Sharma and Shri Raj Nath Singh) were absent. For answer vide col.....infra.]

*424. [The Questioner (Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann) was absent. For answer vide col.....infra.]

*425. [The Questioners (Shri Satish Agarwal and Shri Bangaru Laxman) were absent. For answer vide col.....infra.]

*426. [The Questioners (Shri Bangaru Laxman) was absent. For answer vide col.....infra.]

Proposal to Decanalise Export of Sugar

*427. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decanalise export of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether such moves of Government have been opposed widely;

(d) whether Government propose to drop such moves of decanalisation of sugar exports in view of such opposition;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति उपचोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) से (च) एक विवरण सभा के फ्लोर पर रखा जा रहा है।

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Ranbir Singh.