

committees have been appointed to revamp the public sector undertakings. Now, Sir, the Common Minimum Programme has identified three categories of public sector undertakings. Sir, the first group is those industries that have comparative advantages. Sir, the Government has to support them in the drive to become global giants. The second category is the profit-making and efficient public sector companies. These companies will be strengthened and their management professionalised and participation of workers in the management of the companies will be encouraged. The third category is the sick and potentially sick public sector companies have to be rehabilitated. It may include handing over management to professional groups or workers's cooperatives.

These are the things we have said in our Common Minimum Programme. Sir, we have to approach it from this angle. Very soon, we will come out with a programme regarding our attitude to the question of revamping of the public sector undertakings.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered the question.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: My question was(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered the question substantially. (Interruptions)

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, we are very happy to note one thing, that so far as the cause of sickness is concerned, labour is not the problem. All through, outside, it has been attributed as the main reason for the sickness. Now it is very clear that labour is not the reason.

Regarding the steps to revive the sick units, as far as the BIFR is concerned, the Act stipulates that it is mandatory so far as its recommendation for closing down a sick unit is concerned. It is recommendatory so far as revival is con-

cerned. Therefore, even after a draft scheme is given, if it is not acceptable to any party, it will not be mandatory to revive that unit. For this purpose, what is required is — it has been mentioned in our Common Minimum Programme also — the amendment of the Sick Industrial Companies Act so that the BIFR has the mandatory power to revive amendment of SICA. A punishment measure is there only when a scheme is sanctioned after acceptance. Therefore, I would like to know whether the SICA is going to be amended in such a way that even the revival measures suggested by the BIFR become mandatory on all parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already replied that he is going to revamp it.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has said that labour is not the main reason for the sickness of any industry. I agree with him completely. Recently, the Indian Statistical Institute has come out with a report. There, they have clearly said — I quote: "Labour unrest is a poor explainer of the permanent closure or winding up of companies across all the States."

As the hon. Member has said, there should be some amendment in the law in order to revamp the BIFR. Naturally, when we consider it, his suggestion would be taken note of and we will consult all the parties before we bring in the law.

83rd Conference of ILO on Child Labour

*164. **SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SHINDE: †**
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of **LABOUR** be pleased to state:

(a) whether ILO at its 83rd Conference in Geneva held in June this year, observed that 25% of children in age group

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sushilkumar Sambhajirao Shinde.

of 10—15 years in certain target areas of India, Ghana, Indonesia and Senegal are either bread earners or they supplement family income depriving them of their childhood and schooling;

(b) whether the conference also observed that over 13% of target age children in the world (10 to 15 years of age) are employed in thousands in parts of Asia and Africa in virtual slavery; and

(c) the extent of child labour force in India brought home to ILO-Conference and observations made by it in respect of child labour in this country; and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Regarding 83rd Conference of ILO on Child Labour

(a) to (c) In a paper prepared and presented by the ILO for consideration of the Informal Tripartite Meeting at the Ministerial level held alongwith the 83rd Session of International Labour Conference, it was reported that 25% of the children aged between 5—14 years in India, Indonesia, Ghana and Senegal were found engaged in an economic activity which was the principal activity for 1/3 of them and was a secondary (In addition to school) activity for 2/3 of them. The ILO has made the above estimate of the child labour in India on the basis of experimental surveys conducted in two districts of Gujarat, namely, Surendranagar and Surat. The paper and the study *inter-alia* found that (i) many of the children working in hazardous occupations were paid low wages, (ii) child workers in rural areas were mainly unpaid family workers and casual workers engaged more in agriculture activities; (iii) the boys in an enterprise were paid less than adult workers and (iv) 10% of the paid workers in rural areas were children. The International Labour Con-

ference through a Resolution adopted by its Resolution Committee called upon the Governments and employers and workers organisations to develop a formal policy and set priorities so as to immediately put an end to most intolerable aspects of child labour and exploitation of children.

The ILO's general assessment of the magnitude of the child labour problem in India is based on the experimental survey carried in just 2 districts in the State of Gujarat. Such surveys are very often inaccurate specially when such survey was conducted for the limited purpose of testing the methodology developed by the ILO for measuring the extent of child labour and such limited data extrapolated to gain a country picture. A sizeable percentage of child labour in the country is engaged in family based occupations. However, an estimated 2 million child workers are engaged in hazardous occupations. Considering the magnitude of the problem, Government of India has launched a major programme to eliminate child labour in hazardous industries by the year 2002 A.D. Since the root cause of child labour is poverty and under development, total elimination of child labour can be achieved in a phased manner with progressive improvement in poverty situation and development in economic and social sectors.

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे: महोदय जी, इस देश में 17.36 मिलियन चाइल्ड लेबर हैं और यह पूरी लेबर का 6 प्रतिशत है। मैं इतना ही पूछूंगा कि जब 1990 में इंटरनेशनल लेबर ऑर्गेनाइजेशन ने इस चाइल्ड लेबर को खालिफा करने के बारे में तय किया था और इलिमिनेशन करने के बारे में भी तय हो गया था; तो उस वक्त की भारत सरकार ने और विशेषकर 15 अगस्त, 1994 को उस वक्त के भारत सरकार के प्रधान मंत्री, श्री पी.वी. नरसिंह राव ने..... (व्यवधान).....

एक माननीय सदस्य: 12.00 बज गए हैं।

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे: 12.00 नहीं बजेंगे, बजाएंगे, जग उठरिए आप। तो उस वक्त उन्होंने बोला था कि हम सन् 2000 तक इलिमिनेट करेंगे और विशेषकर जो "बंगड़े" के कारखाने में काम करते हैं, जो

“शिबाकाशी” जैसे फायरवर्क्स में काम करते हैं, जहाँ पर 2 मिलियन बच्चे हैं, ऐसे लोगों के बारे में रिहेबिलिटेशन का क्या प्रोग्राम इस सरकार ने किया है, यह बताइए?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, after the announcement by the former Prime Minister in 1994, on Independence Day, that child labour would be abolished in hazardous occupations by the year 2000 AD, the International Labour Conference has committed on the issue.

After the declaration, several measures have been taken by the Government to mitigate these problems of child labour and employment of child labour in hazardous work. A dedicated national workshop on child labour as well as employment was held in New Delhi in 1995. District Collectors and the State Governments and Central Government personnel in charge of child labour participated in it. Presence of the Prime Minister, Union Ministers of Labour, Industry and Textiles underscored the political will in the country to eliminate child labour. Sir, we are implementing a lot of programmes for the abolition of child labour under which I can illustrate many schemes. We are running special schools for the children.

SHRI MD. SALIM: What is the outcome ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: We should have a Half-an-Hour discussion on this....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, it is a very important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice. Question Hour is over.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS
Trade with Iran**

*162. **SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of exports to Iran during the last three years and the commodities exported;

(b) whether India and Iran have any bilateral trade agreement, if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the total imports from Iran during the last three years alongwith the commodities imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) India's exports to Iran during the last three years were as follows:

Year	Value of Exports (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	499.92
1994-95	492.18
1995-96	512.89

The main commodities exported from India to Iran were iron ore, rice, oil meals, basic chemicals, engineering goods, textiles, jute manufactures, processed minerals, tea, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the Trade Agreement between India and Iran signed on 31st August, 1974 are as follows:—

(i) Both the Governments have agreed to explore all possibilities for expansion and promotion of trade between the two countries on the basis of mutual advantage and keeping in view the requirements of each other in the context of their developing economies;

(ii) Both the Governments have identified items for export to each other and have agreed to facilitate the import/export of these items to each other in accordance with their national laws and regulations.

(iii) Payments under the Agreement shall be effected in freely convertible currencies acceptable to both countries.

(iv) Both the Governments have agreed to accord reasonable facilities for the holding of trade fairs and exhibitions.