

reported in the Financial Express dated 23rd July, 1992;

(b) whether Government have so far undertaken any survey as to ascertain the number of children in the country working as bonded labour in brick kilns, stone quarrying hazardous construction work and in thousands more in carpet weaving in India, if so, their number and working conditions thereof; and

(c) whether Government have examined the report of Committee of Experts on the Exploitation of children released recently by ILO Director-General, if so, what action Government have taken so far against Child Labour below 14 years of age with a View to grant basic rights to millions of such children in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No comprehensive survey has been conducted which reveals number of working children industry-wise. However, according to the 1981 Census, the number of child workers upto the age of 14 years was 13.6 Million (excluding Assam). About 27,000 children were working in mines and quarries and 79,000 in construction.

(c) No specific report of committee of experts on exploitation of children has been received in the Ministry.

Caracas, Resolution on Child labour

3217. DR. BAPU KALDATE; Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the 15th World Congress of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, in Caracas V held from 17th to 24th March, 1992 have adopted a resolution on Child Labour;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that one of the recommendations of the Resolution is to intensify international campaigns to deny favourable terms of trade to those countries which practise child labour and inclusion of minimum labour standards, including

a ban on the practice of child labour in the international trade and co-operation agreements; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR); (a) and (b) The recommendation is for the affiliates of ICFTU and their Executive Board.

(c) Child Labour is prohibited in certain occupations and regulated in others under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Similar provisions exist in other labour laws also. Total elimination of Child Labour is not considered feasible immediately owing to the existing socioeconomic conditions of the country.

Application of trade sanctions for the purpose of elimination of child labour is not considered appropriate as they may be counterproductive and lead to economic hardship to children and their families.

Child Labour in Carpet Industry

3218. DR. BAPU KALDATE;

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) what, according to the recent study, is the percentage of child labour in the carpet industry in the country;

(b) what are the prevailing working conditions in the carpet industry and to what extent the child labour laws are being implemented and the nature of the drawbacks noticed in the implementation of the child labour laws;

(c) what follow up action has been taken by Government to improve the working conditions in the carpet industry so far in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider complete elimination of child