

National Commission on Child Labour:

2694. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have set up any National Commission on Child Labour in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic conditions and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 the employment of children is prohibited in occupations/ processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The Employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes is regulated under the Act.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects. Under the scheme of NCLP, special schools have been set up with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far 100 child labour Projects have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic States for coverage of 2.11 lakh children. This issue was also deliberated upon by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Court has given several directions, in their judgment dated 10-12-96, including payment of compensation by the employers employing children in hazardous occupations. The government has already taken a number of steps to implement these directions.

Treatment in ESI Dispensaries

†2695. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that registered employees of the Employees State Insurance Corporation are getting

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

their neighbours and relatives treated in the hospitals and dispensaries meant for providing better services to the employees of private sector;

(b) if so, whether medicines worth lakhs of rupees are being distributed unaccounted as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether employees are asked for ESI card in the event of accident of employee which is required to be submitted later on; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps being taken by Government to prevent such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The ESI Corporation takes appropriate action as and when taken such incidents are brought to the notice of the Corporation. As on date no such incident has been reported.

(c) and (d) The ESI Corporation issues an Identity Card to an insured person wherein his details as also those of his family members are indicated. The insured person and his family are given medical treatment on the basis of the Identity Card. In the event of an accident the insured person/family is rendered all medical assistance immediately. In order to prevent any irregularities, pasting of photograph of the insured person and his family members on the Identity Card has been made compulsory w.e.f. 1-4-2001.

Improvement in conditions of workers

2696. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken by Government for improvement in conditions of workers facing adverse working situations; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken for elimination of evils of child labour and bonded labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government have formulated various schemes under existing Welfare Funds viz. (i) Beedi Workers Welfare Fund; (ii) Cine Workers Welfare Fund; (iii) Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Welfare Fund; (iv) Lime Stone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund; and (v) Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund to provide social security and welfare measures like group insurance, medical care, education and housing facilities for the workers in these sectors. Recently, a social security scheme namely "Krishi