

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. The present law, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 is effective and adequate to prevent child labour.

(b) As per 2001 census, the total number of child labour in the country was 1.26 crore. As a result of various welfare measures taken by the Union Government and the State Governments coupled with stricter enforcement of the provisions of the Act, the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has estimated the child labour in the Country at 0.89 crore during 2004-05. However, the next Census figure of working children will be available after the 2011 census.

(c) and (d) Various State Governments are implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), a central sector scheme, for the children withdrawn from hazardous work. During the last one year more than 40,000 child labourers have been rescued. As per information available from States/Union territories, the freed children are rehabilitated through various measures such as bridge education under NCLP, repatriation to parents, employment opportunities to families of child labour under various welfare schemes of Government.

Schemes for removal of unemployment

†705. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed throughout the country;

(b) whether Government is introducing new schemes to remove unemployment, the number of people to be benefited with these schemes, and what would be the position of Madhya Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) the target set for completion of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. The last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the most recent quinquennial round of survey on employment and unemployment, unemployment was estimated at 10.84 million on usual status basis in 2004-05.

(b) and (c) Government have already been implementing various schemes to address the issue of unemployment such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNRGS), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). Therefore, no new scheme is proposed at present.

Unemployment in the country

706. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the figures of unemployment in the country for the last three years;
- (b) the steps taken by the Ministry to increase employment for young people, especially those in the age group of 18-30;
- (c) whether the Ministry has considered setting up agencies to develop key soft skills (such as communication, computer, interview skills) as required by the industries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. The last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per these survey reports, unemployed persons were estimated to be 7.47 million, 9.04 million and 10.84 million during 1993-94, 1999-2000 and 2004-05, respectively.

(b) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million employment opportunities on current daily status basis through normal growth process and by implementing various employment generation programmes for men, women and youth. Some of the important programmes are the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has not considered setting up agencies to develop key soft skills. However, Sub Committee of National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT) on norms and courses has recommended to introduce compulsory modules on communication skills, English language proficiency, entrepreneurship development skills, basic computer literacy, quality management tools and occupational safety and health under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS).

Child labour in the country

707. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a concrete figure of child labour available in Ministry;
- (b) the total amount till date paid for National Child Labour Projects (LCLP), State-wise and the child labour protected and brought back to schools; and
- (c) the total persons and industries prosecuted for employing child labour in the country, State-wise from 2007 to 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes Sir. As per census 2001, conducted by the Registrar General of India, the number of working children in the country is 1.26 crore.