

**Child labour in rural areas**

965. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many child workers in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such workers, the sectors/areas where they are employed, wages provided in various sectors during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the details of action taken to control the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic data in respect of child labour in the country. According to the 2001 census, the number of working children in rural areas is 1.13 crore. The information pertaining to the number of child labourers employed in various sectors in rural areas and their wages is not maintained in the Ministry.

(c) Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in the hazardous occupations and processes. The action plan adopted by the Government to eliminate child labour comprises of legislative measures, general development programmes for benefiting children and project based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, the children are withdrawn from work and put into special schools where they are provided basic education, vocational training, mid-day meal and health checkup in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into the formal schooling system. During the 9th Plan, the NCLP Scheme was implemented in 100 districts of 13 child labour endemic states. The number of districts has been expanded to 250 districts in 20 states during the 10th Plan.

**Gender inequality in wages**

966. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:  
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Wage Report in Rural India" for the agricultural year 2004-05, shows stark evidence of gender inequality;

- (b) if so, the outline of observations made in this regard in the report;
- (c) whether Government are aware that the prevailing wages differential between male and female workers, in agricultural sector is reportedly at a level of 27.6 per cent taken as a proportion of male workers wage; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government to eliminate gender inequity in wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per the recommendations of the Technical Group on Rural Retail Prices set up by NSSO, Wage Rate data in respect of 18 agriculture and non-agriculture occupations, entailing manual work are being collected on monthly basis along with Rural Retail Prices by NSSO from 600 villages spread over 20 States in the country since July, 1996. Based on this information, the Labour bureau is compiling Average Wage Rates in Rural India for these selected states. Under the scheme, information is collected only in respect of prevailing Wage Rates in different occupations in Rural India. No data is collected on reasons for difference or inequality in wage rates between male and female workers.

(c) As per the data for the year 2004-05, compiled by the Labour Bureau, there is difference in the prevailing wage rates among male and female workers. The prevailing wage rates among female workers as compared to male workers, vary from 58% to 82% of the male workers for the rural areas.

(d) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration without discrimination between men and women workers in respect of wages and other amenities. The Act is being implemented by the State Governments. The Central government regularly monitors the action taken by the State Governments in the implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act.

### **Uniform minimum wages for labourers**

†967. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's scheme for uniform minimum wages for the labourers in all the States; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.