

State	1978	1979	1980
21. Pondicherry
22. Punjab	9	13	18
23. Rajasthan	10	8	15
24. Tamil Nadu	28	26	37
25. Tripura
26. Uttar Pradesh	26	33	30
27. West Bengal	23	29	23
28. State not indicated	3	2	1
Total	348	365	475

Report of Committee on Child Labour

390. SHRI LADLI MOHAN
NIGAM: SHRI
NAGESHWAR PRASAD
SHAHI:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND
MOHUNTA:

"Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) the date on which the report of the Committee on Child Labour was submitted to Government;

(b) the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to implement these recommendations; and

(e) if answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULART SINHA): (a) The 29th December, 1979.

(b) A summary of the recommendations is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes Sir, out of 23 recommendations, laid by the Committee, Government have accepted 22 recommendations with certain modifications.

(d) In pursuance of the decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Child Labour, a Central Advisory Board on Child Labour consisting of members representing Trade union organisations, Voluntary organisations, prominent Social workers, Employers' organisations and certain members of Parliament has been constituted with the Minister for Planning and Labour as the Chairman to keep a constant surveillance on the problems of working children. The terms of reference of the Board would be:—

(a) review the implementation of the existing legislation administered by the Central Government;

(b) suggest legislative measures as well as welfare measures for welfare of working children;

(c) review the progress of welfare measures for working children; and

(d) recommend the industries and areas where there must be progressive elimination of child labour.

In pursuance of the decision of the Government, a Child welfare cell Has also been created in the Ministry of Labour to gather the ctata of the working children and their working conditions. The Cell has now initiated action for the implementation of the various recommendations of the Committee.

(e) Answer to part (c) is in affirmative.

A Summary of the recommendations of Committee on Child Labour

5.1. The Committee would wish to underline that all future actions in respect of child labour would depend very much on how intensively occupations in which children are employed, are studied and remedial action determined thereafter. Accordingly it recommends more studies to be sponsored in this regard to gather informations and data about working children and their working conditions. This task should be spear-headed by the Ministry of Labour which should have an appropriate cell to sponsor such studies in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare, and other concerned Ministries, and to coordinate further action.

5.2. The Committee recognises that a multiple policy approach is necessary in dealing with the problems of working children. They have to be seen distinctly in the categories of wage earning employmnt; as unpaid family workers; as apprentices in traditional crafts; and as working and schooling. Each specific category has its own peculiar problems which need to be attended to comprehensively.

5.3. The Committee recommends constitution of Advisory Boards both at the Central and at state levels to keep a constant surveillance on the problems of working children. These Boards' should have representatives of Government as well as those of voluntary organisations and trade

unions. The Board should have the powers and resources to undertake investigative studies and surveys to locate the specific areas where regulation of child labour is called for.. It should also review periodically the results of the implementation of the existing legislation and a report on the working of the advisory boards should be placed on the Table of the House of Parliament or Assembly, as the case may be.

5.4. The Committee is of the view that the minimum age should be prescribed for the children for entering any employment. It accordingly recommends that the minimum age for entry into any employment should be 15 years and that the existing laws which prescribe an age lower than this should be suitably amended. Correspondingly, the age for adolescents should be specified as between 15 and 18 years.

5.5. The Committee is strongly <f the view that there is a paramount need for an urgent action on the part of the Government to bring into a proper focus, the laws relating to employment of children. To avoid any ambiguity in respect of the basic objectives, the Committee recommends-that the existing laws relating to prohibition and regulation of employment of children should be consolidated into a single comprehensive one. The new legislation should adopt uniform definitions of the expressions of 'Child' and 'adolescent' and prescribe the 'hours of work', 'conditions of work', etc. The new law should also have flexibility of extending gradually the provisions contained therein to other occupations, such as mechanised agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries, etc.

5.6. The Committee recommends that concerted steps be taken within five years to achieve the objective of providing minimum educational qualification, say eighth standard or equivalent, for entry into any regulated employment.

5.7. The Committee strongly urges that serious attention be given to-

wards strengthening the existing machinery for enforcement of legislation relating to employment of children and that due recognition should also be given in this regard to the role of voluntary agencies and trade unions

5.8. The Committee recommends to the Government to initiate dialogue with the trade unions at an early date so that some institutional framework could be evolved for ensuring collective bargaining in respect of the needs of working children.

5.9. The Committee recommends that the penalty provided in the existing laws for violation of provisions relating to child labour should be made more deterrent. The punishment for the first offence should be imprisonment which may extend to one year or fine extending to Rs. 2,000/- or both. In the case of second or continuing offence, the penalty should be only imprisonment and that, too upto two years.

5.10. The Committee recommends to the Planning Commission to work out the feasibility of taking away all children below the age of 15 years from the labour market in order to find employment for the unemployed able-bodied persons between the age group of 15 and 59 in the country, and to work out a cost benefit analysis of this proposition.

5.11. While accelerated efforts are necessary in national planning to improve the earnings of adult workers, the Committee feels that stricter enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act needs to be ensured. In this regard greater participation should be sought of the entire administrative machinery.

5.12. The Committee feels that a more meaningful and effective educational policy is called for to take into accounts the following:

(A) change of curriculum and integration of educational requirement with local crafts;

(B) greater involvement of voluntary agencies;

(C) change and adjustments in the schedule of vacations and holidays to coincide with environmental requirements.

5.13. The Committee would also underline more comprehensive statutory provisions for providing educational facilities for child workers and to include education as a part of labour welfare measures to be adopted by employers. It recommends arrangements for non-formal education in areas where there is concentration of working children.

5.14. The Committee recommends that in rural areas, creches/child-care centres should be established at the school premises, or at the community centres, so as to encourage girls who have to take care of young siblings in the family to attend schools. This arrangement would also be of great help to working parents.

5.15. The Committee underlines the need for periodical medical check-ups to be lined with national health scheme in respect of child workers.

5.16. The Committee feels that constant attention needs to be paid to keep the working environment hygienically free especially in places where children are employed.

5.17. Supplementary nutrition is to be provided to working children by the employers who could be given suitable subsidy for this programme. The possibility of imposing a cess, or alternatively, to allow concessions in taxes, etc. to employers who undertake to implement the schemes as envisaged above, and other welfare schemes needs to be considered seriously.

5.18. Greater emphasis is needed on housing schemes and provision of basic amenities in areas in which large number of children are working.

5.19. More library and reading facilities linked with special teaching

classes for working children need to be established in selective areas.

5.20. Arrangements for recreational and cultural activities should be provided in areas in which there are large number of working children.

5.21. The Committee recommends effective enforcement of the Apprentices Act and setting up of separate vocational clinics and employment bureaux for children.

5.22. The Committee also underlines the need for a more systematic effort for identification of hazardous occupations, and for detecting occupational diseases and their treatment. There are several areas, both in the organised and unorganised sectors where children are exposed to serious hazardous but no efforts have so far been made to regulate their employment.

5.23. The Committee recommends a more purposeful effort on the part of the media to create greater social consciousness in respect of evils of child labour.

Delegation led by the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission to U.S.A.

391. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation led by the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Dr. H. N. Sethna went to USA to hold discussions with the U.S. officials on the issue of two overdue fuel shipments for the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH):

(a) A delegation consisting of Dr. H. N. Sethna, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Shri Eric Gonsalves, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, visited USA in April 1981 for discussions with U.S. officials on the question of fuel supplies for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station.

(b) During the discussions, the Indian delegation impressed on the Government of the United States of America to discharge their obligations under the 1963 Co-operation Agreement. The discussions were of a preliminary nature and will be continued.

Service and Working Conditions of Scientist^A

392. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH: SHRI GURDEV GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the service and working conditions of scientists in various research establishments in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

,- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Normally for the posts of scientists appropriate grades are provided commensurate with educational qualifications and experience. In several scientific departments, schemes exist for promotion to the next higher grade based on periodical performance assessment and merit promotions without being linked to actual vacancies. The career opportunities, working conditions, personnel poli-