

Child Farm Workers

2725. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that child farm workers in India are working under dangerous and gruelling conditions;

(b) whether laws governing minors working in agriculture are less stringent than those for other sectors of the economy;

(c) whether Government agree that Indian laws should be changed to protect the health, safety and education of all children;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to take steps in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The effort of the Government is to implement the child labour and other related labour laws in a manner so as to prevent the exploitation of children. Employment of children below the age of 14, is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes listed in the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The occupations and processes considered hazardous are added to the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted under section 5 of the Act. The schedule does not include children working in farms.

Government of India has been implementing two schemes, for rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under NCLP is running special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. Under the Scheme of grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up

action oriented projects for the benefit of children withdrawn from work.

Task Force for creating jobs

2726. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Uns asked Question 4185 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th May, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the task force has reviewed the measure taken to generate at least ten million jobs in each year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and how many jobs have been created during the Ninth Plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Task Force is reviewing measures to be taken to generate at least ten million jobs in each year.

(b) The task force has not yet submitted its report. Therefore, the details will be known only after the report is finalised and submitted.

As per the Planning Commission the estimate of the increase in the work opportunities during the 9th Plan (*i.e.* 1997—2002) will be of the order of 50.22 million.

Sub-Standard Quality of Medicines at ESI Hospitals

2727. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that only sub-standard/inferior quality medicines are procured from the Companies which do not have proper working Capital, Professionals, by the ESI hospitals around the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and the details thereof;