

relatives/friends who were already working in Delhi at various sites. Hence, they cannot be termed as Inter-State Migrant workmen under the above mentioned Act.

Ragpickers in the country

1641. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the number of ragpickers in the country is going up;
- (b) whether it is a fact that ragpickers are not covered by any substantial labour laws;
- (c) to what extent the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, helps in ameliorating the living conditions of ragpickers in the country;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that Government has constituted a Task Force for evolving a policy framework for ragpickers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) The exact number of rag pickers is not known. Rag pickers are unorganized workers who are presently not covered by any substantial labour laws. However, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 for the social security and welfare of unorganized workers which includes rag pickers.

The Government has set-up a Task Force for rag pickers. The Task Force will consider extending social security schemes to rag pickers.

Compensation paid to workers died during Commonwealth Games projects

1642. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of persons died during the construction of various projects/stadiums for Commonwealth Games, 2010;
- (b) the details of compensation paid/granted to the family members of the deceased;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action against the erring officials; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The details are given in the Annexure [See Appendix 229 Annexure No. 7].

(c) and (d) The officers of Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) conducted inspections in the project of Central Sphere are ensuring the provision of Safety and Health for Building Workers and filed complaints against erring employers. During the year 2008, 2009 and 2010, 40, 20 and 18 prosecutions were sanctioned and 21, 11 and 9 convictions were made respectively.

Children working in private coal mines

1643. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Human Rights Commission report alleged that about 70,000 children from Nepal, Bangladesh, Bihar and Jharkhand are working in the private coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to save the children since it is a case of violation of rights of these children and also such unscientific mining is causing a lot of danger to the environment and creating health hazards for the people in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (b) As per the information received from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), they took suo-moto cognizance of a report published in a national weekly on 03.07.10 titled "Half life of the coal child" regarding illegal employment of nearly 70,000 child labour in mining industry in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya and the inhuman and life threatening conditions in which they were working. Pursuant to the notice issued by NHRC to Chief Secretary, Meghalaya, the State Government submitted a preliminary report to them stating that survey and inquiry is still going on. It was also stated by NHRC that a report had been sent to the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. The National Commission of the Protection of Child Right has been requested by NHRC to inform them the status of the case alongwith the date of cognizance by the Commission.

(c) The Central Government also has constituted a Team under Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) to investigated the rampant use of child labour in the coal mines of Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. The Special Team visited different areas in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. They visited 63 coal mines but could not find evidence of rampant use of child labour. It may be mentioned that the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes including mines. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- .