

Children employed in MNC seed farms and Bt. Cotton farms

3842. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children including tribal children are being employed in various MNC seed farms and Bt. Cotton farms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Central Government is actively considering to take any step to stop the practice and free the children;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) No specific complaint has been received. Moreover, employment of children in Bt. Cotton farms is not prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

(c) to (e) The State Government is the appropriate authority in enforcing the provisions laid down in Part-III of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The Government regularly monitors the enforcement of the provisions of Act.

Ratio of female and male work force in agriculture sector

3843. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise estimated number of women and men workers who do not own land but are engaged as agricultural labourers in the country;
- (b) the per thousand distribution of female and male work force in agriculture sector;
- (c) the contribution of this work force in national income; and
- (d) the social security measures undertaken by Government for the above work force?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) The State-wise number of landless agricultural workers (men and women) is given in the Statement (*See below*). The per thousand distribution of female and male workforce in agriculture sector is 463 and 536 respectively.

(c) As per Economic Survey, 2010-11, the agriculture sector accounts for 12.3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2009-10.

(d) With a view to providing social security to unorganized workers, including agricultural workers, the Government enacted the "Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008". The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board to recommend social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers.

The Government launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana to provide smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum on family floater basis to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganised sector, including agricultural labourers. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme is presently being implemented in 25 States/UTs and more than 2.4 crore smart cards have been issued as on 31.08.2011. Remaining States are in the process of implementing the scheme.

The Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) was launched on 02.10.2007 with a view to providing insurance cover to the head of family or one earning member of rural landless households between the age of 18 years and 59 years. Under the scheme, the head of the family or an earning member of the family is eligible to receive the benefits of Rs. 30,000/- in case of natural death, Rs.75,000/- accidental death, Rs. 75000/- for total permanent disability (loss of two eyes or two limbs or loss of one eye or one limb in accident) and Rs. 37,500/- for partial permanent disability (loss of one eye and one limb in accident). AABY also includes Shiksha Sahyog Yojana (SSY), a free add-on benefit of scholarship of Rs. 100 per month up to a maximum of two children of the beneficiaries studying between class IX and XIII. More than 1.78 lives have been covered as on 31.07.2011

The Government has been implementing Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension which has been expanded by revising the criteria of eligibility. All citizens above the age of 60 years and living below poverty line are eligible for benefits under the scheme. For persons above the age of 80 years, the amount of pension has been raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month.

Statement

Details of State-wise male and female agricultural workers

(Source, Census 2001)

Sl.No	Name of the State/UTs	Number of Agricultural labourers		
		Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6453741	7378411	13832152

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10329	8511	18840
3.	Assam	832508	431024	1263532
4.	Bihar	8730251	4687493	13417744
5.	Chhattisgarh	1262559	1828799	3091358
6.	Goa	15970	19836	35806
7.	Gujarat	25039651	2652007	5161658
8.	Haryana	717133	561688	1278821
9.	Himachal Pradesh	55658	38513	94171
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	190339	56082	246421
11.	Jharkhand	1485322	1365975	2851297
12.	Karnataka	2620927	3606015	6226942
13.	Kerala	1078354	542497	1620851
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3518368	3882302	7400670
15.	Maharashtra	4924034	5891228	10815262
16.	Manipur	4998	63702	113630
17.	Meghalaya	90888	80806	171694
18.	Mizoram	12775	14008	26783
19.	Nagaland	15985	14922	30907
20.	Orissa	2587196	24111908	4999104
21.	Punjab	1104140	385721	1489861
22.	Rajasthan	1055332	1468387	2523719
23.	Sikkim	8762	8238	17000
24.	Tamil Nadu	4256360	4381270	8637630
25.	Tripura	162640	113492	276132
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8245599	5155312	13400911
27.	Uttarakhand	190494	69189	259683
28.	West Bengal	5080236	2282721	7362957

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4043	1126	5169
30.	Chandigarh	461	102	563
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5429	9286	14715
32.	Daman and Diu	347	976	1323
33.	Delhi	11224	4549	15773
34.	Lakshadweep	00	00	00
35.	Puducherry	42117	30134	72251
	TOTAL	57329100	49446230	106775330

*NOTE: India and Manipur figures exclude Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul sub-divs. of Senapati District in Manipur State as census results were cancelled due to administrative and technical reasons.

Action against companies employing children

‡3844. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of children are engaged in most of the companies, factories, restaurants and shops of the country and only children work in them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is proactive or proposes to formulate a stringent law against these companies, shops and restaurants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) As per the 2001 Census, there were 1.26 crore working children in the country in the age group of 5-14, out of which approximately 12 lakhs children were working in the hazardous occupations/processes.

(c) and (d) 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. 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 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/-.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.