

(ii) focus on general development programmes for the benefit of the families of Child Labour; and

(iii) project-based action in areas of high concentration of Child labour.

Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes and regulates their working conditions in those occupations/processes where they are not prohibited from working.

Job opportunities for tribal girls in Jharkhand

3214. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether job opportunities for tribal girls are not enough to protect them from exploitation;

(b) if so, the details of specific steps taken by Government to increase job opportunities for tribal girls especially in Jharkhand; and

(c) the details of the measures taken to create job opportunities in the most backward districts of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Government of India is implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in both rural and urban areas to increase employment opportunities, such as, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA); Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a programme titled "Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) for employment-cum-income generation activities of BPL Scheduled Tribes. The ultimate objective of this programme is to boost the demand-based income-generation and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements the efforts of other Ministries like Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Labour and Employment, etc. in economic upliftment of the tribals in the country.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the following schemes in the country including Jharkhand for the education and self employment of STs:

- (i) Scheme of Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe (ST) Girls in Low Literacy Districts.
- (ii) Scheme of construction of hostels for ST Girls and Boys.
- (iii) Scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas.
- (iv) Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.
- (v) Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students.
- (vi) Upgradation of Merit of ST students.
- (vii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for STs.
- (viii) Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for STs.
- (ix) Top Class Education for ST student.

(x) Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations (under which residential, non- residential schools, computer training centres and knitting, weaving & handloom training centres run by NGOs for ST students are supported, apart from hospitals, mobile dispensaries etc.).

Apart from above schemes, Ministry of Tribal Affairs also administers grant under Article 275 (1) under which grant is also used for setting up of "Ekavaya Model Residential Schools" for providing quality education to ST students (both girls and boys) from class VI to XII. National Scheduled Tribes Financial and Development Corporation provides financial assistance for setting up Project costing upto Rs. 10 lakh per unit.

Problem of child labour

3215. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that child labour is still prevalent in India;
- (b) if so, the industry-wise and State-wise, details thereof;
- (c) the existing safeguard mechanisms in place to prevent child labour;
- (d) whether Government is considering any new proposals in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) As per 2001 census, the total number of working children between the age group 5-14 years in the country was 1.26 crore. However, in the Survey conducted by NSSO, in 2004-05 the number of