

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof along with their numbers, for the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether Government has prepared or proposes a time-bound programme to eliminate child labour from the country;

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

(e) the steps taken by Government to address this menace and also for the rehabilitation of the rescued children?

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 working children were estimated at 90.75 lakh. As per NSSO survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh which shows declining trend.

(c) to (e) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of first covering children working in hazardous occupations/processes. Under the Child Labour Policy, Govt. of India follows a multi-pronged approach with the following three major elements:

(i) legal action plan.

(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. Further, the Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 266 districts of the country for rehabilitation of children rescued/ withdrawn from work. Under the Project, children rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in the special schools, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care, etc. before mainstreaming into formal education system.

#### **Unemployment rate on a usual principle status basis**

3673. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is taking into consideration the unemployment rate based on current daily status basis and not on a usual principle status basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what has been the unemployment rate on a usual principle status basis since 2005;

(d) the reasons for rise in unemployment rate based on usual principle status basis; and

(e) what action Government has taken to curb rise in unemployment rate?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) The employment and unemployment projections for Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plans made in 11th Five Year Plan were based on current daily status instead of usual principal status basis.

(b) Current Daily Status approach has been used because it includes under employment prevailing in the country which is important for countries like India where there is significant problem of under employment.

(c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office. Last such survey was conducted during 2009-10. As per results of last two surveys, rate of unemployment on usual principal status basis during 2004-05 and 2009-10 in the country was 3.1 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government have taken several steps to reduce unemployment in the country. The focus is on creation of productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise incomes of masses to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports etc. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.