

The Central Government takes appropriate action on National Human Rights Commission reports or references on the issues regarding bonded labourers.

The responsibility for rehabilitating the freed bonded labourers lies with the respective State Governments. In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour is in operation since May, 1978. Under the scheme, rehabilitation assistance @ Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labour is provided which is equally shared by the Central and State Government. The scheme also provides for financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for conducting surveys, awareness generation activities and evaluatory studies.

**Safety of mine workers from occupational Hazards**

2127. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government does not has a policy or legislation for ensuring safety of mine workers from occupational hazards;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has prescribed directives in ensuring the safety of workers in an event of an accident;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (e) Adequate statutory provisions exist under the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder to ensure occupational safety and health of mine workers. The Government has declared National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at Work place in 2009 which includes mine workers. Besides, directives in the form of guidelines and instructions are being issued by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) from time to time.

**Child Labour in the country**

2128. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the approximate number of child labour in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of child labour has increased over the last year as compared to the figure prevailed five years earlier:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by Government to punish the guilty employers; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to put an end to child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (c) The state-wise details of working children as per NSSO Survey 2009-10 is given in statement. (*See below*). 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 numbers 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 a declining trend.

(d) and (e) Under the Child Labour Policy, Government of India follows a multi-pronged approach with the following three major elements:

- Legal Action Plan
- Focus on general development programmes for the benefit of the families of child labour; and
- Project-based action of high concentration of child labour.

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. The Act regulates the working conditions of children where they are not prohibited from working. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Child Labour Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extended to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- As per the data received from various States, the details of inspections carried out, prosecutions launched, convictions made against the guilt employers under the Child Labour Act during the last five years and current year are given as under :

Year	No. of inspections	No. of prosecutions	No. of convictions
2007	363927	12705	617
2008	355629	11318	763
2009	317083	11418	1312
2010	239612	8998	1308
2011	84935	4590	774
2012**	25040	589	167

\*\* The information yet to be received from many States.

Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme since 1988. The scheme seeks to adopt a sequential approach with focus on the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes in the first instance. The scheme is being implemented in 266 districts of 20 States in the country. Under the Project, children rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in the special schools, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Further, the Ministry launches awareness generation campaigns against the evils of child labour and enforcement of child labour laws through electronic and print media at the centre as well as at the district level.

#### *Statement*

*Data on Child Labour based on Employment Unemployment Survey during NSS 66th Round (2009-10)*

Sl. No.	Major State all India	age group 5-14			
		Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	88156	110191	20767	15548
2.	Assam	144655	31909	11833	757

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	224292	38665	11017	2548
4.	Chhattisgarh	3669	7321	636	0
5.	Delhi	-	-	18576	0
6.	Gujarat	150487	207973	15945	16282
7.	Haryana	22664	17471	28073	3988
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2300	2942	2156	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	11274	16872	1139	0
10.	Jharkhand	63684	14661	4123	0
11.	Karnataka	89796	113429	20793	2479
12.	Kerala	1182	0	0	1583
13.	Madhya Pradesh	91454	32812	57688	9063
14.	Maharashtra	66370	127996	54230	12077
15.	Odisha	54390	38288	36522	5363
16.	Punjab	16802	6433	15664	9937
17.	Rajasthan	93055	261871	43184	7826
18.	Tamil Nadu	0	13880	3471	0
19.	Uttarakhand	14810	7239	3219	2103
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1012294	546320	147820	68899
21.	West Bengal	357265	134657	31946	27716
ALL INDIA		2511101	1727271	546897	198602

**Bonded Labour**

2129. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that bonded labour is rampant in the country;