

- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether retired Doctors (Ayush) of ESIC have not been given benefits from the dates when such benefits were extended to CHS Doctors; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government proposes to take to extend such benefits and also to remove anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The doctors of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) have been extended service facilities as per Central Health Service Rules, as adopted by the ESI Corporation, from time to time.

(d) and (e) All retired doctors of ESI Corporation have been given consequential benefits, wherever applicable, as per ESIC Service Rules.

Elimination of child labour in the country

1811. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what measures are being enunciated or already in existence in preventing and eliminating child labour in hazardous occupations by enhancing the human, social and physical capacity of target communities;
- (b) the highlights of various important aspects of flagship programmes concerning elimination of child labour in the country;
- (c) whether the Ministry is monitoring practice of child labour in the country;
- (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) and (b) Elimination of child labour is an area of great concern and Government of India is committed to address the issue. Considering the magnitude and nature of problem Government is following a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of child labour. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rescue and rehabilitation, universal

primary education alongwith social protection, poverty alleviation and employment generation. The objective is to create an environment where families are not compelled to send their children to work. The Child Labour (Prohibition & 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 or with fine. For rehabilitation of child labour the Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme since 1988. The scheme seeks educations rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes. 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 being mainstreamed into formal education system. The Ministry is also running the awareness generation programme against the evil of child labour through print, folk and electronic media and calls for requisite training and sensitization workshops etc.

(c) to (e) The NCLP Societies at District level conduct survey to identify child labour and submit its report to the Ministry. Survey ordinarily provides information on the magnitude of child labour, its classification by occupations, age and its geographical distribution, economic conditions of parents and access to primary education etc. As far as possible, the figures collected by the SSA on the number of children not going to school are made the starting point for this survey. Children, in the age group of 9-14 years, rescued/withdrawn from hazardous occupations/process are enrolled in the NCLP special schools for educational rehabilitation. At the national level, a Central Monitoring Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship Secretary (Labour & Employment) for overall supervision, monitoring and evaluation of various Child Labour Projects. The functioning of Child Labour projects are monitored and reviewed at State level by the State Department of Labour.

Expansion of skill development

1812. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether rapid growth in the recent past has been accompanied by shortage of specific skills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and