

to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) There is no provision for regularization of the contract labour under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) act, 1970. Hence no such proposal is under consideration.

Elimination of Child Labour

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

- (a) whether Government is committed to eliminate child labour;
- (b) whether Government proposes to launch any drive against Child labour in the wake of rapidly increasing child labourers in the country;
- (c) whether the child labourers are mostly working in small scale and domestic industries in the country;
- (d) whether the existing child labour laws are repeatedly being violated; and
- (e) if so, whether Government proposes to frame stringent laws against child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of working children in the country has declined from 1.26 crore as per the Census 2001 to 43.53 lakh as per Census 2011 which shows 65% reduction. However, efforts to eliminate child labour especially in hazardous occupations and processes continues to be a priority of the Government.

(c) As per 2001 Census, the child labourers were mostly working in Pan, Bidi, construction, domestic work, spinning and weaving etc. Sectoral dis-aggregated data on child labour from 2011 Census is not available.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Discrimination in payment of wages by private steel companies in Chhattisgarh

†350. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the proportion of the number of workers belonging to Chhattisgarh, working in the private steel factories situated in Birgaon town of district Raipur in Chhattisgarh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.