

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.

- (b) the reasons for the payment of higher wages to the workers belonging to places from outside Chhattisgarh as compared to those who belong to Chhattisgarh;
- (c) the reasons for the continuance of the practice of sacking of the workers belonging to Chhattisgarh by adopting punitive attitude; and
- (d) whether a report would be provided after properly investigating the above mentioned statement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI) : (a) to (c) Information which falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government is not centrally maintained by the Union Government.

- (d) Question does not arise.

Demand by States for increasing royalty rates for minerals

351. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) which are the mineral rich States in the country;
- (b) whether these States have been demanding substantial hike in the royalty rates of major minerals including iron ore;
- (c) what has been the response of Government to their demand; and
- (d) the State-wise and mineral-wise details of current royalty rate and proposed royalty rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI) : (a) The following eleven States are considered as mineral rich states in the Country; Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.

- (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Central Government in the Ministry of Mines has constituted Study Groups at regular intervals to study the demands made for revising the rates of royalty on minerals (other than minor minerals, Coal, Lignite and Sand for stowing) and dead rent and to make recommendations. The most recent study group report was received by the Government on 28.6.2013.

- (d) The rates of royalty presently applicable on minerals (other than minor minerals, coal and lignite, sand for stowing, and uranium) have been notified in the Gazette of India *vide* G.S.R. 574(E) dated 13.8.2009 which is given in the Statement (*See* below). No decision has been taken by the Government on proposed rates of royalty.