

(e) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employers found engaging children in identified hazardous occupations are liable to be prosecuted. For violating provisions of the Act, it further provides for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months but which may extend to one year or with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000/- but which may extend to Rs. 20,000/- or with both.

(f) No, Sir.

Unlawful activities among educated youths

198. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the grave unemployment situation in the country and the educated youths are taking to unlawful activities;

(b) what action Government propose to create more employment opportunities to contain unemployment in the country; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) As per the estimates available from the quinquennial employment & unemployment survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1999-2000, open unemployment in the country on usual status basis was of the order of 90 lakhs. Out of them, around 60% are educated unemployed.

(b) and (c) Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th plan period. Out of these, around 3 crore will be created in normal growth process and the remaining 2 crore through the special employment generation programmes.

Exposure of EPF in Equities

199. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the investments made by the EPF during the last one year and the returns earned therefrom;