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**Child labour in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

2657. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to place a total ban on child labour in hazardous industries in particular;

(b) whether employment of children in family enterprises and farms will be exempted from such a ban; and

(c) the present status of child labour in the country, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain occupations and processes. A Bill to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in December, 2012. The Government has recently decided to move official amendments to the Amendment Bill. The official Amendments along with the Amendment Bill inter-alia covers complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years and linking the age of prohibition with the age under Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. However, exceptions have been proposed where:

- (i) the child helps his family or family enterprises, which is other than any hazardous occupations or processes set forth in the Schedule, after his school hours or during vacations;
- (ii) the child works as an artist in an audiovisual entertainment industry, including advertisement, films, television serials or any such other entertainment or sports activities except the circus, subject to such conditions and safety measures, as may be prescribed, and provided that such work does not affect the school education of the child.

(c) As per the data of Census 2011, there were 43.53 lakh working children in age group of 5-14 years in the country which includes 4,04,851 working children in Andhra Pradesh including Telangana.