

Out of 13.4 thousand vacancies notified to the employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh, 3.7 thousands placements was made during 2003.

(c) Creation of 5 crore employment opportunities are being targeted during the Tenth Plan period in the country. This will benefit job-seekers in Andhra Pradesh also.

**I.L.O.'s programme on elimination of child labour**

1722. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the International Labour Organization has launched a programme aimed at preventing and eliminating hazardous child labour by enhancing the human, social and physical capacity of target communities;

(b) if so, its salient features thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that 11 million working children exist in our country; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to eliminate child labour during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Labour, Government of India and US, Deptt. of Labour have developed a project named INDUS Project under ILO-IPEC for Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in identified Hazardous Sectors. This project has been developed as a follow-up of the Joint Statement on "Enhanced Indo-US Cooperation on Eliminating Child Labour" signed between the Ministry of Labour and the US Department of Labour in August, 2000 whereby each reiterated their respective nation's commitment to the Prohibition and Elimination of the Worst Forms of child labour as a matter of urgency and agreed that each would support and facilitate the development of comprehensive projects in identified sectors.

(c) As per the Census figures of 2001 (provisional), the number of working children in the country is 12.59 million.

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RAJYA SABHA

(d) The Tenth Plan strategy proposes to eliminate child labour in hazardous sector through the National Child Labour Projects Scheme. The number of NCLPs has been recently extended from 100 to 150 districts and the names of additional 100 districts have already been identified on the basis of the recent census figures of 2001 (provisional). Children between the ages of 5-8 years would be put into primary schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and children between the ages of 9-14 years would be put into primary schools after attending the special schools run under the NCLPs.

**Plight of mine child workers in Rajasthan**

†1723. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 980 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July, 2004 and state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to gather information regarding plight of children under fourteen years of age working in various mines in Rajasthan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to seek help of voluntary organisations to ascertain the factual position in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The Mines Act 1952, does not permit working of children in any mine. Further, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits employment of children below the age of fourteen years in mines (underground and under water) and collieries. The Inspectors of the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and the Central Industrial Relation Machinery (CIRM) under this Ministry make regular inspections of mines for gathering information of the employment/plight of the child labour. They have not found child labour under fourteen years of age working in the mines of Rajasthan during their inspections.

(b) and (c) For the rehabilitation of child labour, the Government is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in various child labour endemic districts in State of Rajasthan for children

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.