

- Safety Weeks and Campaigns
 - ◆ Promoting -
 - safety education and awareness programmes
 - workers' participation in safety management through -
 - workmen's inspector
 - safety committee
 - tripartite reviews
- Simplification and Streamlining of "Approval Policy" and issue of several standard based General Orders (Approvals) to replace Special Approvals.
- Successful launch of paperless computer based statutory examination for metal and coal mines.
- Imparting of specialized refresher training on OSH to key personnel of mining industry and DGMS officers.
- Promoting proactive risk based Safety and Health Management System (SHMS) in Mines.
- Modification in the Methodology of Accident Inquiry followed by inspectors, which, among others, include root cause analysis.

(e) Enquiry into the accident of Lalmatia Coal Mines by Directorate General of Mines Safety is under progress. Further action as required by the law will be initiated after the enquiry.

The accident occurred on 29.12.2016 due to collapse of side dump in Lalmatia Coal Mine in Jharkhand. In the accident 23 persons were affected. Dead bodies of 18 persons have been recovered.

Rehabilitation of child labour

†725. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children have been engaged in a variety of jobs across the country;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take any step for rescue and rehabilitation of such children; and

(c) if so, the details and time-limit thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The number of main workers in the age group of 5-14 years in the country is 43.53 lakh as per 2011 Census.

(b) and (c) Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy etc. Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour since 1988. The major objective of the Scheme is to withdraw children from work and mainstream them into formal education system. Under the Scheme, children below 14 years of age employed or working in any occupation or process are identified through survey and are withdrawn/rescued from work. Children rescued/withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Suicides by labourers due to demonetisation

726. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of labourers in the country have committed suicide due to demonetization rules of Government during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of report of such cases registered during the last three months thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to protect the human lives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) No such information is available.

Setting up of Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund

727. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Provident Fund money has been diverted for setting up of a Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund despite strong resistance from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Trustees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;