

[26 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

process. The Central Government have continuously been requesting the State Governments for launching special campaign to identify beedi workers and issue identity cards in their respective States. In addition, Regional Welfare Commissioners of the Labour Welfare Organisation are also issuing identity cards to beedi workers through its offices/dispensaries in the States. Presently there are about 1.86 lakh identified beedi workers in Orissa State.

Rate of interest on EPF

†2466. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to reduce the rate of interest on the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, whether this decision has been taken after having the consensus with the Trustees and Trade Unions; and

(c) if not, the justification of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund in its 169th meeting held on 9.8.2004 recommended an interim rate of interest @ 8.5% to be credited to EPF members' accounts for the year 2004-05 after considering all relevant facts. The matter is under examination by the Government.

(b) and (c) As the consensus could not be built on the issue, the decision was taken by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund on the majority basis.

Child labourers

†2467. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey to find out the number of child labourers in the country has been conducted, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) out of child labourers so identified and listed, the percentage of child labourers being rehabilitated and the various ways in which this is being done;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the monitoring arrangement of the schools established and being run by volunteer organisations for child labourers; and

(d) if not, Government's plan to supplement the need to make them more effective?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the provisional figures of Census 2001, the number of working children in the age group of 5—14 years is 12.59 million. The list showing the State-wise number of working children enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) Under the Strategy adopted in the Tenth Plan for elimination of child labour, the Government of India is proposing to rehabilitate child labour in the following manner:—

1. The number of districts to be covered under the National Child Labour Project has been increased from 100 to 250 districts so that child labourers could be rehabilitated in the child labour endemic areas.
2. The children who have been identified to be child labourers and who are between the ages of 5 — 8 would be put directly into the formal education system.
3. The children who have been identified as child labourers as per the census survey and who are between the ages of 9 —14 would be put through a special school mechanism before mainstreaming them into the formal schooling system.

It is expected that through these three steps all children between the ages of 5—14 who are found to be working in the hazardous occupations and processes would be mainstreamed into the formal primary schooling system by the end of the Plan.

(c) and (d) The State Government monitors the functioning of the child labour projects and reviews their performance at the State level through the State Monitoring Committee. At the national level, a Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Secretary (Labour) monitors the overall functioning of the Scheme. In addition, the projects are regularly inspected by the officers of the State Government. Officers of the Central Government also visit the districts to ensure proper implementation of the scheme.

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Statement

*State-wise distribution of working children according to 2001 Census
(provisional)*

| SI.No. | Name of the State/UT | 2001 |
|--------|---------------------------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1363339 |
| 2. | Assam | 351416 |
| 3. | Bihar | 1117500 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 485530 |
| 5. | Haryana | 253491 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 107774 |
| 7. | Jammu & Kashmir | 175630 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 822615 |
| 9. | Kerala | 26156 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 1065259 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 764075 |
| 12. | Chhattisgarh | 364572 |
| 13. | Manipur | ** |
| 14. | Meghalaya | 53940 |
| 15. | Jharkhand | 407200 |
| 16. | Uttaranchal | 70183 |
| 17. | Nagaland | ** |
| 18. | Orissa | 377594 |
| 19. | Punjab | 177268 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 1262570 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 16457 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 418801 |
| 23. | Tripura | 21756 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 1927997 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 857087 |
| 26. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 1960 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------|----------------------|----------|
| 27. | Arunachal Pradesh | 18482 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | 3779 |
| 29. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 4274 |
| 30. | Delhi | 41899 |
| 31. | Daman and Diu | 729 |
| 32. | Goa | 4138 |
| 33. | Lakshadweep | 27 |
| 34. | Mizoram | 26265 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 1904 |
| TOTAL: | | 12591667 |

**Census could not be conducted.

Figures relates to workers of age group 5 — 14 years.

State-wise distribution of working children according to 2001 Census.

Source: RGI and Census Commissioner.

Review of Labour Laws

†2468. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to review the labour laws enacted under the Trade Union Act, 1926, Workmen Compensation Act, 1923 and Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981, in order to make them compatible to the present status of the economy and the emerging needs; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken, so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Review of Labour Laws is a continuous process which is undertaken keeping in view the emerging needs of stakeholders. Accordingly, the last amendments of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and the Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981 were notified on 3.9.2001, 8.12.2000 and 14.12.2001 respectively. There is no proposal at present for further amendments in these Acts.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.