

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Funds to the tune of ₹ 1178.70 Lakhs was released for rehabilitation of 11,296 rescued Bonded Labourers under the Central Sector Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers since the scheme is introduced in May, 2016 and the funds provided for the purpose is found to be adequate.

(d) and (e) Surveys were conducted by the States *viz.* Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Chhattisgarh since the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour-2016 was introduced and funds released by the central Government thereon. Funds are released to respective State Governments upon receipt of proposals subject to completion of required modalities in terms of the scheme.

#### **Implementation of child labour eradication programmes**

1361. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the child labour eradication programmes have been implemented or are being implemented throughout the country properly so as to achieve the complete child labour eradication target;

(b) if so, what percentage of child labour eradication target has been achieved so far; and

(c) what are the further course of action by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Child Labour is an outcome of various social-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy. To achieve the target of complete eradication of child labour the Government of India has been implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme since 1988. The coverage of NCLP Scheme has been extended to 21 states of the country.

(b) The incidence of child labour which was 1.26 crore as per census 2001 has been reduced to 1.01 crore as per census 2011.

(c) The Government of India stands committed to the elimination of child labour in the country and is following a holistic and multi-pronged strategy. Under the NCLP Scheme, children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued/withdrawn from work and enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health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).

To ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme a separate online portal PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) has been launched *w.e.f.* 26.9.2017. The Portal connects Central Government to State Government(s), District(s), all Project Societies and the General public. Further, online complaints regarding child labour can also be filed by anybody on the Pencil Portal. The complaint gets assigned to the concerned Nodal Officer automatically by the system for further necessary action.

The Government has also amended the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and enacted Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which *inter alia* covers complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes; prohibition on employment of adolescents (14 to 18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes and making stricter punishment for the employers contravening the provisions of the Act.

#### **Employment policy for prevailing unemployment problem**

1362. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has framed/envisaged a comprehensive employment policy for the country keeping in view the prevailing acute unemployment problem in the country; and

(b) if so, the brief outline of the same along with timelines for implementation in key sectors and more specifically in the field of skill development and entrepreneurship and micro, small and medium enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) A Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted to draft the National Employment Policy and consultations were held with various stakeholders like Ministries, State Governments, Trade Unions, Industry Associations, ILO etc. for Inputs to the Policy.

The proposed policy *inter alia*, purports to address macro-economic policy issues, sectoral policy issues, labour policy issues, micro and small enterprises' issues, skill development issues, issues relating to women and vulnerable workers and incorporate suggestions for improving employment opportunities.