

seekers and employers for job-matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner and has a repository of career content to job seekers.

Besides, Ministries/ Departments/ States run skill development schemes across various sectors to improve the employability of youth and also facilitate placements. Schemes such as the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) wherein Government reimburses 25 per cent of the stipend payable to apprentices also enhances employability of the youth to access employment.

Eradication of child labour

1080. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR and EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the practice of child labour still going on in various parts of the country in spite of a ban on it;

(b) whether Government has made a law through Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 to eradicate child labour completely from the country; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that only 23 per cent of the cases reach conviction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy. For elimination of child labour, the Government is committed to elimination of child labour in the country. The Government has amended the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which came into force with effect from 1.9.2016. The Amendment Act inter-alia provides for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years of age in any occupation and process and prohibition of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. The Amendment Act also provides the stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and has made the offence as cognizable. As per provisions contained in the Act, whoever employs any child or permits any child to work in contravention shall be punishable with

imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six month but which may extend to two years, or with fine which shall not be less than twenty thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both. Also whoever employs any adolescent or permits any adolescent to work in contravention of the provisions shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to two years or with fine which shall not be less than twenty thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees,, or with both.

Primarily the implementation of the Act is the responsibility of the State Governments. As per information received from State/U.T. Governments during 2018, a total of 338696 inspections were conducted, in which 1636 violations were detected. Against these 1168 prosecutions were launched. During 2018, 690 convictions were made.

Labour reforms

1081. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry aims to reform the labour market for regulating the market, protecting employment and ensuring social security of workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the labour reforms will really be going to achieve the long-delayed Indian industrial revolution in the present system, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the labour reforms will take place for the benefit of employee and employer in fair manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Reforms in labour laws are an on-going process to update the legislative as well as governance system to address the need of the hour so as to make them more effective, flexible and in sync with emerging economic and industrial scenario. Accordingly, in line with the recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour, the Ministry has taken steps for drafting four Labour Codes *i.e.* the Code on Wages; the Code on