

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 412
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024**

REHABILITATION OF CHILD LABOURERS

412. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of child labourers rescued in the last five years in the country, State- wise;**
- (b) the child labour cases reported, the action taken thereon, and the number of children rehabilitated during the said period;**
- (c) whether it is a fact that lack of educational opportunities is a reason for child labour, if so, the details of steps taken by Government to ensure educational opportunities for children; and**
- (d) whether Government has issued any guidelines to States where child labour is prevalent?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) to (c): Child Labour is an outcome of various social economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness, lack of access to basic services, illiteracy, etc. The Government is pursuing multipronged strategy to eliminate child labour and has taken comprehensive measures which include legislative measures, rehabilitation strategy, providing right to free education and general socio-economic development. The details of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation strategy and education are as under:

- (i) Enactment of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The Act inter-*alia* covers complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years of age in any occupation or process and prohibition of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. It also provides for stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and made the offence as cognizable.**

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- (ii) Framing of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 1988. The Rules inter -alia, provide for District Nodal Officer (DNO) and Task Force at district level under chairpersonship of District Magistrate to ensure that the provisions of the Act are properly enforced.**
- (iii) Implementation of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour, which has now been subsumed under Samagara Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Scheme with effect from 01.04.2021.**

As per “Crime in India” a publication of National Crime Records Bureau, 464, 772, 476 ,613 and 751 number of cases were registered during calendar years 2018,2019, 2020,2021 and 2022 respectively under Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 in the country.

(d): Ministry of Labour & Employment has framed model State Action Plan enumerating action points to be taken by respective State Governments for eradication of child labour. Government has also devised a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as a ready reckoner for trainers, practitioners and enforcing and monitoring agencies. The Ministry of Labour & Employment issues directions / advisories from time to time for strict enforcements of the Act.
