

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1056
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025**

MENACE OF CHILD LABOUR

1056. SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to amend to make the principal employer liable in case of contractual child labour;**
- (b) whether Government plans to amend Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to include harsher punishments like attachment of property and licence cancellation;**
- (c) whether the Ministry is aware that figures provided by departments regarding prevalence of child labour are tip of the iceberg in the country;**
- (d) if so, measures taken by the Ministry to assess exact number of child labour in the country with focus on child labour employment being provided by the States; and**
- (e) the measures taken to identify such unnoticed child labour, their rescue and rehabilitation strategies?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 provides for the complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years in any occupation and process and adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. The Act provides for the stricter punishment of employers for violation of its provisions. Also the offences under the Act are cognizable.

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The Government is pursuing multipronged strategy to eliminate child labour and has taken comprehensive measures which include legislative measures, rehabilitation strategy, providing right of free education and general socio-economic development so as to eliminate the incidence of the child labour. 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.**
- (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) Framing of model State Action Plan enumerating action points to be taken by respective State Governments.**

Ministry of Labour and Employment was also implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour. The scheme was subsequently subsumed under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2021.

Further, the Ministry of Labour and Employment administers the PENCiL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) portal, under which complaints related to cases of child labourer are registered on it. The complaints on the portal are dealt by District Nodal Officer of the respective district. The data of rescued child labourer is also required to be uploaded by the District Nodal Officer. The Ministry has also decided to revamp the PENCiL Portal as Unified Portal for Child Labour, Bonded Labour and Women Labour, with the objective inter-alia of better tracking and monitoring.

Government has also devised a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as a ready reckoner for trainers, practitioners and enforcing and monitoring agencies.

There is no proposal at present to further amend the Child and Adolescent Labour (prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.
