

**Child Labour**

1396. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of child labourers in India;

(b) the reasons for the increase in number of child labour; and

(c) the special child development programmes and schemes proposed to educate the rural children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) Authenticated information on Child Labour is generated during the decennial Census. As per the 1981 and 1991 Census, the number of working children in the country is 13.6 million and 11.28 million respectively. The figures of the 2001 census are awaited. According to the 55th round of NSSO Survey 1999-2000, the estimated number of working children in the country has decreased to 10.4 million.

(b) In view of (a) above, there is no increase in the number of working children in the country.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing two Schemes for the benefit of child labour withdrawn from work, namely, the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. Under these schemes, special schools/centres have been set up with provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and healthcare etc. So far, NCLPs have been sanctioned in 100 districts in 13 child labour endemic States for coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

The Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan aims at universalisation of the elementary education in the country, including rural children.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.