GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1068
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021

INCREASE IN CHILD LABOUR DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

1068 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) the total reported incidents of child labour across the country over the last one year;
(b) how many incidents of child labour has increased due to the pandemic and its associated financial difficulties;
(c) whether Government has taken any steps to rehabilitate children who have been forced to take up jobs due to their family's financial instability;
(d) if so, the details thereof;
(e) whether there is any plan to form a separate Committee to understand the impact of the pandemic on children's welfare; and
(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) & (b): As per the information received from National Crime Records Bureau, the latest data pertains to 2019, and according to which 770 cases were registered under Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 during 2019, in the country.

Contd..2/-

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, a central sector scheme, for rehabilitation of child labourers. Under the NCLP, the children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued/ withdrawn from work and enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centers, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. The children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

(e) & (f): There is a Central Advisory Board on Child Labour, which has been constituted in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. This Board not only suggests measures for effective enforcement of Child and Adolescent (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, but also welfare measures for welfare of child and adolescent labour, besides other.

Ministry of Labour and Employment decided to relax the norms in respect of functioning of the Special Training Centers, and released the financial grants under National Child Labour Project from April, 2020 to September, 2020 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

******