

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 883
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023**

COAL MINING BY MINORS

883. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that minors are involved in the occupation of coal mining, especially in North-Eastern part of the country;**
- (b) whether Government has any data on the extent of child labour prevailing in mining activities;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) the manner in which Government intends to tackle this issue and the details of the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate them; and**
- (e) whether there is any timeline for completely eliminating child labour from the country?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Government having given consideration of various aspects of the problems of child labour enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which was amended in 2016. The amended Act is now called the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which *inter-alia* provides for 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 also provides for stricter punishment of employers for violation of the Act and made the offence as cognizable. Also, Mines and Collieries have been included in the Schedule - Part A, of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, wherein adolescents are prohibited to work and children are prohibited to help in mines including coal mining.

Contd..2/-

As per “Crime in India” a publication of National Crime Records Bureau, 613 numbers of cases were registered during calendar year 2021 under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 in the country.

Ministry of Labour & Employment has been implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labourers through District Project Societies under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate. Under the NCLP scheme, the children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued / withdrawn from work and enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres (STCs), where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. NCLP scheme has now been subsumed under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Scheme with effect from 01.04.2021.
