

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 23
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2017**

CURBING OF CHILD LABOUR

†*23. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the new initiatives undertaken by the Government have been successful in curbing the Child Labour;**
- (b) if so, the comparative data for the last three years; and**
- (c) the time by which child labour is likely to be eliminated completely?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 23 FOR 18.12.2017 BY SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA, HON'BLE MP REGARDING CURBING OF CHILD LABOUR:

(a): Government is following a multi-pronged strategy for elimination of child labour comprising of legislative measures, establishing an efficient enforcement mechanism, project based rehabilitation and emphasis on universal elementary education.

Government has amended the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and the amendment has come into force w.e.f. 1.9.2016. The Amendment Act, inter-alia, prohibits employment or work of children below 14 years of age in any occupation or process and adolescents (14-18 years) in the hazardous occupations and processes. The employment of children or adolescents in contravention of the provisions of the Act has now been made a cognizable offence.

After strengthening the legislative framework through amendment in Child Labour Act, Government has framed the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017 on 2.6.2017 which provides for District Nodal Officer (DNO) and Task Force at district level, under chairpersonship of District Magistrate, to ensure that the provisions of this Act are properly enforced. To provide an enforcement mechanism an online portal PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement of No Child Labour) has been developed. The portal has become functional with effect from 26.09.2017 for filing of complaint, child tracking, implementation and monitoring of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and converging with other relevant Central Ministries. Besides, the Ministry has also framed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as a ready recknor for enforcing agencies and other stakeholders. Subsequent to these measures taken by the Ministry, as on date DNOs have been appointed in more than 500 districts of the country to ensure strict implementation of the provisions of the Act. Further, the coverage of NCLP scheme is being extended to all districts having incidences of child labour to provide educational rehabilitation to child labour withdrawn from work.

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Subsequent to these initiatives, Government has reaffirmed its commitment to curb child labour by ratification of the two ILO Conventions No.138 and No.182.

(b): The incidence of child labour is not assessed quantitatively by the government on annual basis. However, as per 2011 Census, the number of main workers in the age group of 5-14 years in the country is 43.53 lakh which shows a decline from 57.79 lakh as per 2001 Census.

(c): Sustainable Development Goal 8.7, inter alia, stipulates to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate child labour in all its forms by 2025. The recent multi-pronged initiatives undertaken by the government are aimed at achieving the goal of Child Labour free India.
