

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 713
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

PROMOTION OF GIRL'S EDUCATION

713. SHRI AZAD KIRTI JHA:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any State-level initiatives/schemes has been taken to promote girls' education with a view to disincentivize child marriage, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of children working in the age group of 5-14 years during the last three decades, State-wise;
- (c) whether any State-level initiatives/schemes have been taken to bring down the incidence of child labour; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education implements the scheme of Samagra Shiksha, effective from 2018-19, for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of Samagra Shiksha. The scheme reaches out to girls, and children belonging to SC, ST, minority communities and transgender.

In order to ensure greater participation of girls in school education, under Samagra Shiksha, various interventions have been targeted, which include opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, free uniform and text-books to girls up to Class VIII, additional teachers and residential quarters for teachers in remote/ hilly areas, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, stipend to CWSN girls from class I to class XII, separate toilet for girls, teachers

sensitization programmes to promote girls participation, gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including text books.

In addition, to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education and ensure access and quality education to girls, under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) which are residential schools for girls from class VI to XII from age 10-18 years belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL), sanctioned in Educationally Backward Blocks of the country.

Further NEP 2020 focuses on 'Equitable and Inclusive Education' which reverberates the idea that no child should be left behind in terms of educational opportunity because of their background and socio-cultural identities.

Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) has been using the data of "Crime in India", published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) with regard to report of cases registered under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The report "Crime in India" is available in public domain on website i.e. ncrb.gov.in.

MoLE has taken a number of steps to prevent the children being employed as child labourers, and these include:-

- i. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 provides for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years of age in any occupation and processes and prohibition of employment of adolescent in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. It also provides for stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and made the offence as cognizable and rules framed thereunder, namely the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 1988.
- ii. To supplement the provision under the Act and rules thereunder, framing model State Action Plan enumerating action points to be taken by respective State Governments.
- iii. Further, MoLE was implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rescue & rehabilitation of child labourers under which the children in the age group of 9-14 years were rescued from work, enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centers (STCs) and provided with bridge education etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. The NCLP scheme has now, been subsumed with Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a scheme of Department of School Education & Literacy under Ministry of Education with effect from 01.04.2021
- iv. Also, to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, an online portal, namely 'Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCL)' has been developed by the Government. The portal has five components namely, Central Government, State Government, District Project Societies, Child Tracking System and complaint corner.
