

ILO's Report Regarding Labour

4933. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Labour Organisation (ILO) has expressed concern in their annual report over the pitiable condition of the labourers residing in India; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve their lot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The International Labour Organisation (ILO) World Labour Report, 1992 has touched upon the working conditions of child labour in India. Legal Protection against exploitation has been extended through enactment of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which prohibits engagement of child labour in certain hazardous occupations and processes and provides for regulation of their working condition in notified establishments. Violation of the provisions of the Act attracts stringent penalties. Prohibitory and regulatory provisions also exist in certain other laws. In addition to stricter enforcement of law, Government have adopted a National Child Labour Policy in 1987. This Policy envisages a legislative action plan; focussing of general development programmes for the benefit of child labour and a project based plan of action in areas of high concentration of child labour. Further, financial assistance is granted to voluntary organisations for taking on action-oriented projects for the welfare of working children. In addition, with ILO's assistance two projects for the benefit of working children namely IPEC (International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour) and CLASP (Child Labour Action and Support Programme) have also been taken up.

[English]

LIC Branches in Orissa

4934. SRHI ANADI CHARANDAS: Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation is being expanded in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of branches of the Life Insurance Corporation in rural areas in Orissa at present as compared to Urban areas; and

(c) the number of new branches of LIC proposed to be opened in rural areas in Orissa during the Eighth Five Year Plan period and the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Branches in Rural areas - 40

Branches in Urban areas - 11

(c) Opening of new Branch Offices is an annual exercise and the decisions are taken for each year on the basis of potential for procurement of new business and the number of existing policy holders to be serviced. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate the number of branches to be opened during the 8th Five Year Plan period. The process has been set in motion for the year 1993-94 and the areas in which the new branch would be opened in Orissa would be decided in the first quarter of the financial year.

Voting Power in IMF

4935. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our IMF quota and the voting power in the International Monetary Fund have been on the decline;

(b) if so, the names of the countries which have a higher quota as on April 1, 1993 both in

absolute and comparative terms; and

(c) the particulars of and the reasons for the decline over the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). During the Eighth Review which was completed in March 1983, India's quota increased from SDR 1717.5 million to SDR 2207.7 million. However, our share in total Fund's quota declined marginally from 2.814% to 2.458% and our voting power from 2.695% to 2.385%. During the Ninth Review which was completed in November 1992, India's quota increased from SDR 2207.7 million to SDR 3055.5 million. Our share in total Fund's quota has declined marginally from 2.45% to 2.26% and voting power from 2.38% to 2.22%. Though our share in total Funds' quota has declined marginally as also our voting power at the time of these reviews, our quota has increased from SDR 2207.7 million to SDR 3055 million, enabling us to have higher access on the Fund's financial resources.

Following countries have higher quota in IMF than India:

USA, Japan, Germany, UK, France, Italy, Canada, Saudi Arabia, China, Netherlands, Belgium.

Reports of the Extreme Focus Product Groups

4936. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 696 on February 26, 1993 and state:

(a) the details of composition of various Extreme Focus Product Groups;

(b) when the reports were submitted to the Government;

(c) whether the reports have been made available to the concerned Export Promotion Councils, Federation of Indian Export Organisations and other bodies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANABMUKHERJEE): (a) The Groups set in respect of the 34 Extreme Focus Products consisted of representatives from the concerned Trade and Industry and a few Government officials. One of the industry representatives was made the Chairman of each Group.

(b) The reports were submitted by the various Groups during early 1992. These reports were then synthesised into a single Report entitled, 'Strategy for Export Growth in Extreme Focus Product Groups- An Agenda for Action', which was submitted to the Government in July, 1992.

(c) and (d). The Groups who have submitted these reports consisted of representatives who are themselves members of the various Export and Industry Organisations. Only a limited number of copies were made available to the Government.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Bridge in Bihar

4937. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the proposal submitted by the Government of Bihar in regard to the two lane road bridge on the Magerdehi Ghat of Samastipur;

(b) the total estimated cost of the project; and

(c) by what time approval is likely to be