

Non-Involvement of Child Labour

4027. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that issue relating to the miserable conditions of child labourers in India has been discussed in the Parliament of any European country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have opposed all the allegations in this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to object to American laws regarding stationing of Child Labour Inspectors for the abolition of the evil practice of child labour;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the export of the country is being adversely affected due to the boycott of goods by some European countries on the pretext that child labour is engaged in the production of these goods;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Organisation called Human Rights Watch, which has offices in different parts of the world including Brussels, has brought out a report titled "The small hands of slavery: bonded child labour in India" recently. The Director of the organisation's office in Brussels sent a summary of this report to members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Sub-Committee on Human Rights and the Committee on External Economic Relations of the European Parliament. A draft Resolution was also circulated on 15th October, 1996 by the organisation for sympathetic Member to propose for plenary session of the European Parliament. Some MEPs declared the intention to introduce a Resolution on bonded child labour but there are no unanimity amongst the different political groups in the European Parliament and the proposal was, therefore, dropped for the time being.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Indian Mission to the European Union took up the issue individually with all the Member States in the European Community conveying the Government of India's position in the matter. In addition, in bilateral meeting with high level officials from the concerned countries, the issue was taken up with different countries and our position was conveyed.

(e) There is no American law as yet whereby the child labour inspectors were to be stationed in India. However, India will be opposed to any extra-territorial laws which may authorise stationing in India of child labour inspectors to ensure non-involvement of child labour.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply to 'e' above.

(g) and (h) Indian exports are being affected by the campaign in some European countries like Germany, on account of the so-called concern about some of these goods being produced with the use of child labour in India e.g. carpets, garments.

(i) Apart from the corrective steps being taken by Government of India, to progressively eliminate the social phenomenon of child labour, the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad have taken appropriate steps to inform and clarify the matters and to sensitise European and North American leadership, opinion makers, media and importers against adopting a trade related penal approach and have instead sought development and cooperational approach to deal with the phenomenon of child labour at its roots.

Users of VSNL GIAS Facilities

4028. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for conferring concessions to users of VSNL GIAS facilities;

(b) whether any age limit is contemplated for students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The criteria for conferring concessions to users of VSNL GIAS facility is in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Upper age limit for students is 30 years.

STATEMENT

Category	Type of Access	Criteria for concession
1	2	3
Students	Terminal Dial-up	Studying full time in Std. 11 and above in recognised institutions and should not have any source of income including stipend/scholarship; required to furnish bonafide certificate from Principal on letterhead each year.