

Need to allocate adequate funds under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to reintegrate child labour-Laid

SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI (BAPATLA): Despite the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act in place, the International Labour Organization reports around 10.1 million children are still trapped as child labour in India. This issue demands urgent attention, with a primary focus on reintegrating these children into schools under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act. Since the National Child Labour Project Scheme was integrated into the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in 2021, it is crucial that the scheme adopts a focused approach to provide education to children brought back from child labour. The Government must take proactive steps under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to expand access to bridge courses by strengthening platforms such as Government Schools, Community Learning Centers, and Digital Education initiatives. This would also require ensuring the continued operation of the already established 324 Special Training Centres across the country, which provide bridge courses, holistic development, and non-formal education to help these children remediate. I urge the government to allocate dedicated funds under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for bridge courses, hostel facilities, and medical and counseling services while strengthening infrastructure, deploying trained educators, and running awareness campaigns to facilitate seamless reintegration.