

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3103  
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000  
CHILD LABOUR  
C. KRISHNAN

**Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the child labour still prevalent in a large scale in our country;
- (b) whether many countries refused to purchase certain products on the ground that the child labour was involved in the process; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government restrict employment of child in these industries?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOMENT ( SHRI MUNI LALL )

- (a): As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million.
- (b): In October 1997 , the US Congress passed an Amendment, attached to the Appropriations Bill, prohibiting the importation of goods made with indentured or bonded child labour. In June 1999, President Clinton issued an Executive Order prohibiting articles made with forced child labour. He directed the US Department of Labour to publish in consultation with the Department of Treasury and State, within 120 days, a list of products identified by their country of origin to have been produced by forced child labour. The US Department of Labour has not yet brought out the list even though the dead line of October 10, 1999 has passed.
- (c): Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation ) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable for prosecution. The Central Government and State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child related provisions of the laws. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.