

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3894  
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOUR  
Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

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

- (a) whether several lakhs children are being exploited and forced to do work in carpet industries, zari industries, small electrical works, tea shops for more than 14/15 hours without any recess as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 22, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a committee to look into this serious matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps being taken so far by the Government to stop child labour and their exploitation;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to amend the law banning child labour and incorporate strict punishment for use of child labour in certain industries; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) & (b): As per the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children in 13 hazardous occupations and 57 hazardous processes are prohibited. The employers found engaging children in those occupations and processes are liable to be prosecuted under the Act. The Act also provides for regulation of working conditions for children working in non-hazardous occupations. This includes fixing working hours, period of rest, etc. Conducting raids and inspections to detect cases of violations of the provisions of the Act is the regular exercise carried out by the respective State Government. During the special campaign conducted by the Delhi Government in Zari & Embroidery units during April to July 2005, 198 children were found to be working. Prosecution proceedings against the offending employers have already been initiated by the Govt. of Delhi under the said Act.

(c) & (d): Instructions are regularly being given to the State Governments for strict enforcement of Act. In the instant case, Govt. of Delhi has already initiated action in the matter. There is as such no proposal to constitute a separate Committee to look into the matter.

(e): With a view to eliminate child labour of all forms from the country and to bring them into the main stream, a Scheme called National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme is being implemented by the Central Govt. since 1988. The Scheme envisages withdrawal of child labour from work and putting them in special schools for their over all educational and vocational development in order to make them self-sustained adolescents before mainstreaming them into formal system of education.

(f) & (g): Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, there are sufficient legal provisions available prohibiting employment of children in hazardous occupations and processes. Adequate quantum of punishment in terms of fine and imprisonment to the offending employers already exists under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act. Effective implementation of the existing law with simultaneous rehabilitative measures alongwith the convergence with the other developmental programmes is the corner stone of the strategy of the Government in the elimination of child labour.