

Title: Need to launch schemes for ameliorating the lots of child labour particularly in Orissa.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (KENDRAPARA): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the number of child labour is increasing in the country in general and the State of Orissa in particular. According to a survey report, as many as 52 lakh children are working as child labour, when they should have been in school. It is unfortunate that due to lack of formal education, they are working in restaurants and *dhabas*. A large number of them are working as domestic servants as well as in the fields. They are passing their days in great misery. No working condition is prescribed by the employer for them. Several of them are victims of the super cyclone that swept over the State of Orissa in October, 1999 and they belong to Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts.

Unless these children are identified and rescued, they pose a serious problem for the society in future. As such, I demand that these child labourers should be identified and provided proper education free of cost. Schemes should be specially sponsored for their suitable training and rehabilitation. Hundred per cent grant should be extended to the State of Orissa for this purpose.