

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 934
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021**

FIGHT AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

**934. DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K.:
MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:**

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

- (a) whether fight against child labour needs to be mobilised further into a movement;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard to effectively curb the problem;**
- (c) whether the Government has also any data on increasing number of child labourers in the country during the last six months of 2020 thereof; and**
- (d) if so, the plan of the Government to rescue and rehabilitate the children forced into child labour during this period?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) & (b): The Government is committed to eliminate the child labour in the country. The Government has amended the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which came into force with effect from 1.9.2016. The Amendment Act inter-alia provides for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years of age in any occupation and process and prohibition of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. The Amendment Act also provides the stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and has

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made the offence as cognizable. As per provisions contained in the Act, whoever employs any child or permits any child to work in contravention shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six month but which may extend to two years, or with fine which shall not be less than twenty thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both. Also whoever employs any adolescent or permits any adolescent to work in contravention of the provisions shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to two years or with fine which shall not be less than twenty thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both.

(c): Labour being in the concurrent list, enforcement of the provisions of the Act is the responsibility of both central and state governments in their respective sphere. As such, data regarding increase/decrease of child labour is not centrally maintained.

(d): The Government has been implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for the eradication of child labour in the country. Under the NCLP Scheme, children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued/withdrawn from work and enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres (STCs) under the District Project Societies, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
