

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Child labourers in the country

2449. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that at present there are more than six crore child labourers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether around Rs. 1,20,000 crore is pocketed as profit by employers of child labour annually in India, an amount that is rarely reported as income to Government in order to evade taxes; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to stop exploitation of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) As per 2001 census, the total number of working children between the age group of 5-14 years in the country was 1.26 crore,. However, in the Survey conducted by MSSO, in 2004-05 the number of working children were estimated at 90.75 lakhs.

(c) No such report has been received in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

(d) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-

Kosa research and development Institute at Kunti, Jharkhand

2450. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) how does Kosa research and development centre located in Kunti district of Jharkhand assure that it trains and assists large number of tribals in LWE districts of its neighbourhood like Gumla, Simdega, Latehar etc.;
- (b) how many families have benefited from this research and development centre in tribal districts mentioned above;
- (c) how do they ensure that tribals get fair price for Kosa cocoon which they collect from jungles; and