

CHILD LABOUR

1. Clauses (e) and (f) of Article 339 of the Constitution refer to protective measures for children. According to the former, the State should direct its policy towards ensuring that the tender age of children is not abused and they are not forced to enter into avocations unsuited to their age or strength. According to the latter, children have to be given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity: further, childhood and youth should be protected against exploitation and moral and material abandonment. Employment of children under the age of 14 years is banned by law. Despite these provisions, child labour in the country is a harsh reality. The problem is acute in vulnerable areas and among vulnerable sections in society. Poverty in these areas and among such sections is a compelling factor; the lack of awareness for education is another. More often than not, tribal children provide economic support to their families by working in homes, fields, forests, markets, mines, factories, etc. in tormenting conditions. The female is frequently subjected to sexual abuse.	Child labour among the Scheduled Tribes of this UT may be treated Nil.
2. In which fields or avocations are the tribal children employed in your state? Has any survey been undertaken?	Does not arise in view of our reply to point No.1.
3. Have any laws been framed to protect the conditions of working of the tribal male and female child labour? If so, please furnish copies. If not, do the State Government propose to do so? What is the implementing machinery?	-do-
4. The Parliament enacted the 93rd Constitutional Amendment on 27 November 2002 for providing free education to all children between 6 and 14 years as a Fundamental Right. What steps have been taken by the State Government in this regard for tribal areas? If no steps have been taken, what are the proposals?	This is being implemented.