

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Labour & Employment**

13-June-2017 19:54 IST

Ratification of core ILO Conventions No. on 138 and 182 on Child Labour

“It is a historic moment for India as we are going to take another giant step to affirm our commitment for a child labour free India by ratifying the two Core Conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 138 regarding admission of age to employment and Convention 182 regarding worst forms of Child Labour”, said the Minister of State for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge), Shri Bandaru Dattatreya at the sideline event held in Geneva at the International Labour Conference, 2017 on 13th June 2017. At this event, Instruments of Ratification were handed over by India to ILO.

The Labour and Employment Minister said that the Government of India has been working in a concerted manner to eliminate child labour from the country by following a multipronged strategy by including both stringent legislative and Project based approach.

A landmark step in the endeavour to have a child labour free society was the enactment of the Child labour (Prohibition and Prevention) amendment Act, 2016 in August 2016 that provides for complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years in all occupations and processes and prohibits employment of adolescents (14-18 years) in hazardous occupations and processes. The age of admission to employment has been linked to the age of compulsory education under Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009.

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya informed that besides the amendment in the Act, Government of India has also notified the amendment in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Central Rules after extensive consultation with the stakeholders. The Rules for the first time provide broad and specific framework for prevention, prohibition, rescue and rehabilitation of child and adolescent workers. To clarify on issues related with help in family and family enterprises and definition of family with respect to child, specific provisions have been incorporated in rules. Further, it also provides for safeguards of artists which have been permitted to work under the Act, in terms of hours of work and working conditions. The rules provide for specific provisions incorporating duties and responsibilities of enforcement agencies in order to ensure effective implementation and compliance of the provisions of the Act. In order to clarify the issues on Schedule of hazardous occupations and processes, the Schedule has been reviewed and the intent notification has been issued to include a comprehensive list of about 118 occupation and processes.

The Minister further informed that India was in the process of providing a digital platform ‘PENCIL’ which has components ensuring enforcement of the Act, mechanism for redressal of complaints, child tracking system and a monitoring mechanism. This platform would integrate all the State Governments with the Central Government for effective coordination and convergence of various measures being taken for compliance of the Act.

On this occasion, Director General, ILO, Mr Guy Ryder said “this is an historic step. From today, Convention 182 will cover more than 99 percent of the world’s children and the coverage of Convention 138 will leap from

approximately 60 percent to almost 80 percent. I pay tribute to the Government, employers, trade unions and civil society of India and to all those who have assisted them in building an extraordinary alliance in India in the past decade- an alliance that made this latest great step possible. That strong alliance must now turn its attention to full implementation of these two Conventions, with no child left behind.”

Shri Dattatreya mentioned that among the various measures taken recently to meet the objective of child labour free society, the prominent one was strengthening of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), which is a rehabilitative scheme, providing bridge education and vocational training to adolescents. This scheme has been strengthened recently in terms of improving its quality and extending its coverage to all the districts of the country. For effective implementation of the project, the NCLP guidelines have been reviewed.

The Civil Society groups and the prominent child labour activists have widely appreciated India’s recent initiative for complete eradication of child labour.

With ratification of these two core ILO conventions, India has ratified 6 out of 8 core ILO conventions, with the other 4 core ILO conventions relating to abolition of forced labour, equal remuneration and no discrimination between men and women in employment and occupation, thus reaffirming its commitment for promoting and realising fundamental principles and right at work.

A short film showcasing the series of interventions on eradication of child labour was presented during the event. An information brochure was also distributed at the venue.

The event was attended by, besides the DG, ILO, Mr Guy Ryder, PR and Ambassador, PMI, Geneva, Shri Rajiv K Chander, Senior officials of ILO Child Labour Division of ILO, officers from PMI Geneva, and other Indian Missions working in Geneva , the tripartite members from G20, BRICS and ASPAG countries , Indians working in ILO and the Indian tripartite delegation.

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