

## **Child Labour**

10.21 Concern of children and the elimination of child labour continues to be an area of great concern and article of faith for successive governments. According to the census 2001 figures, there are 1.25 crore working children in the age group of 5-14 as compared to the total child population of 25.2 crore of which 1.07 crore working children are in the age group of 10-14.

10.22 Existing laws prohibit the employment of children below 14 years of age in factories, mines and hazardous employment and regulate the working conditions of children in other non-hazardous areas of employment. The Government of India adopted a National Policy on Child Labour in 1987 with a three-fold strategy; legal action plan, general developmental programs and project-based

action plan. Under the project-based action plan, the Government of India has adopted two schemes, namely, National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP) and Grant-in-Aid to voluntary organizations for taking up action-oriented programs in the field of rehabilitation of child labour. There are currently 100 NCLPs covering 2.11 lakh working children. Government has approved the continuation of the above schemes during the tenth plan. It has also been decided to sanction additional 150 NCLPs during the Tenth plan. Action is already underway for sanctioning these new NCLPs. Under the Grant-in-Aid Scheme, voluntary organizations involved in rehabilitation of child labour have been provided financial assistance for the projects undertaken by them in areas not covered by the scheme of NCLP.