

Women and Child Labour

10.13 Employment of women in the organised sector (both public and private) at end-March, 2003 at 4.97 million constituted 18.4 per cent of the total organised sector employment compared to 18.1 per cent in 2002. As regards sectoral distribution, community, social and personnel services sectors employed 56.6 per cent of women workers followed by manufacturing (20.3 per cent), agriculture and allied occupations (9.4 per cent) and finance, insurance, real estate and business (5.5 per cent). States with higher female literacy rates have higher proportion of women in organized sector employment.

10.14 Several initiatives are being taken to upgrade skills of women through training. There are about 800 Institutes (218 Women Industrial Training Institutes and 582 Women Wings in General Industrial Training Institutes) providing 46,658 training seats for vocational training facilities for women.

10.15 Concern of the government for the elimination of child labour was discussed in detail in the Economic Survey 2003-04. According to the census 2001, there are 1.25 crore working children in the age group of 5-14 years as compared to the total child population of 25.2 crore. 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. Government 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. It has been decided to sanction additional 150 NCLPs during the Tenth Plan.