

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## • Question # 1 •

The Government has not succeeded so far in respect of children.

Inspite of all promises made by Government, no one could be able to eradicate the evil of child

labour. Moreover, the Government has failed in making primary education compulsory for each child. Hence,

between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school and around 10 million

are working in hazardous industries.



## + Question # 2 +

⑥ The implementation of child labour law is difficult due to the following reason. Firstly, According to Child Labor Act, employment of children below 14 years of age in hazardous occupation is ban. But as every state has different set of rules for minimum age of employment for children, this creates an issues in enforcing law. Secondly, this Act is applicable for hazardous occupation such as factories. It doesnot apply to non-hazardous occupations like cleaning, waitering, serving etc and other ~~forms~~ of unskilled form of work. Moreover,



non-strict behaviour towards its implementation prevails child labour.

### → Question # 3 →

- ⊙ Industries like gem cutting, pottery, and glass prefer child labour and remain competitive in employing children because of their nimble fingers. Children are quick learners and efficient in doing task. They have high level of concentration with more capacity of doing work. They can easily do the task effectively at very low wages.

### → Question # 4 →

Hazardous industries have adverse effects on children. Children working in hazardous industries are more likely susceptible to debilitating diseases. Spending time in damp and unhygienic

environment stops their physical and mental growth, thus making them physically disable. Furthermore, children working in industries such as matchsticks, fireworks become victim of bronchial diseases and T.B.

### → Question # 5 →

Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 provides punishment to the employers of child labour and grants children their right of education.

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For many years now the Governments have been promising the eradication of child labour in hazardous industries in India. But the truth is that despite all the rhetoric no Government so far has succeeded in eradicating this evil, nor has any been able to ensure compulsory primary education for every Indian child. Between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school, and around 10 million are working in hazardous industries. India has the biggest child population of 380 million in the world; plus, the largest number of children who are forced to earn a living. We have many laws that ban child labour in hazardous industries. According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations has been strictly banned. But each state has different rules regarding the minimum age of employment. This makes the implementation of these laws difficult. Also, there is no ban on child labour in nonhazardous occupations. The act applies to the organised or factory sector and not the unorganized or informal sector where most children find employment as cleaners, servants, porters, waiters, among other forms of unskilled work. Thus, child labour continues because the implementation of the existing law is lax. There are industries, which have a special demand for child labour because of their nimble fingers, high level of concentration and capacity to work hard at abysmally low wages. The carpet industry in U.P. and Kashmir employs children to make hand-knotted carpets. There are 80,000 child workers in Jammu & Kashmir alone. In Kashmir because of the political unrest, children are forced to work while many schools are shut. Industries like gem cutting and polishing, pottery and glass want to remain competitive by employing children. The truth is that it is poverty which is pushing children into the brutish labour market. We have 260 million people below the poverty line in India, a large number of them are women. Poor and especially woman-headed families have no option but to push their little ones in this hard life in hostile conditions, with no human or labour rights. There is a lobby which argues that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment for work is conducive to learning new skills but studies have shown that the children are made to do boring, repetitive and tedious jobs and are not taught new skills as they grow older. In these hellholes like the sweet shops of the old, there is no hope. Children working in hazardous industries are prone to debilitating diseases which can cripple them for life. By sitting in cramped, damp and unhygienic spaces, their limbs become deformed for life. Inside matchstick, fireworks and glass industries they are victims of bronchial diseases and T.B. Their mental and physical development is permanently impaired by long hours of work. Once trapped, they can't get out of this vicious circle of poverty. They remain uneducated and powerless. Finally, in later years, they too are compelled to send their own children to work. Child labour perpetuates its own nightmare. If at all the Government was serious about granting children their rights, an intensive effort ought to have been made to implement the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 which laid down punitive action against employers of child labour. Only compulsory primary education can eliminate child labour.

**Questions:**

**(5 marks each)**

1. On which two counts has the Government not succeeded so far in respect of children.
2. What makes the implementation of child labor law difficult?
3. Why do industries prefer child labor?

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4. What are the adverse effects of hazardous industries on children? Given any two.
  5. What does the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 provide?