

Child

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Labour plight

It is a fact that workers are the backbone of the country's economy. It is well said that a satisfied worker could play an important role in the social economic development of a country. Industrial development depends on the well being of industrial workers.

1. Role of National Industrial Relations Commission:

In terms of section 22-A of I.R.O 1969 one of the functions of the commission is to advice trade unions and federations in respect of education of workers, in the essentials of trade unionism, including education in respect of their rights and obligations and to secure provisions and facilities required and to apportion the cost there of between the provincial and federal government industry-wise trade unions, federation of such trade unions and federation at national level of employers in such a manner as may be considered equitable by the commission.

2. Child Labour:

Child labour is another hazard of the important policy. By law, children below the age of 14 are not allowed to pursue health deteriorating occupations. Against that law, 12 to 13 million children work in the informal sectors. Large number of girls under 12, working in urban areas, is well over a million. Carpet industry, family establishments, cottage industries and agriculture are some of the areas where the worse form of child labour exists. People making use of children's services, are deliberately oblivious to the

laws against child labour.

3. The role of women workers:

No doubt, woman constitute an important section of any civ-

ilized society. Pakistan stands aloof from the rest of the world in that claim. Law provides a working women with security but society denies her that right. Few years passed there was es-

tablished a commission to deal specifically with the problems of women. Research of the commission centered around examining the existing laws discriminatory against women workers,

and the possibility of amending them to improve the status of women workers in Pakistan. Majority of women work in the area of stitching, packing, carpets industry. The age at which there women start working, stretches form the range of 10 year old to over 55 most of the women labour are between 14 to 19 years. Usually, women are contacted by the middle men to work either at a factory or else-

where. Wages of the women are shockingly low. Moreover, the manner in which work is distributed to the women makes it difficult to have a fixed rate of payment. Being illiterate, they are further exploited by the middle men who demand their commission. With the result, that there is no government policy to redress it. In any other country, they can be liable to legal prosecution. But in Pakistan a woman cannot bring about enough evidence to support her claims. Reports published by the human rights commission in Pakistan point out the inability of the government to solve the labour problems, especially as far as female workers are concerned. The workers all over the world are celebrating May Day, commemorating the beginning of the workers movement which started on this day in 1886 with the martyrdom of the Chicago workers who were demanding on 8-hour work day and protesting against the practice that required them to put in humanly impossible long hours of work. So we should give the workers their dues before drying of their perspiration. The message of this year's May Day is that only the owning class can cut through this rotten crises by over coming the conflicts on the basis of religion, race, colour, caste and nationality only the class struggle can lead to the over-throw of this rotten system and transform society where want, misery, disease and property can be abolished through socialism under workers democracy. This will abolish conflicts between human beings and the actual history of mankind can really begin.

