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'Govt making laws to eliminate child labour'

Our Correspondent
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LAHORE

PROVINCIAL Minister for Labour and Human Resource Raja Ashfaq Sarwar has said the Punjab government is making new legislation for ensuring elimination of child labour throughout the province.

He said the European Union and ILO had expressed satisfaction over government measures regarding the elimination of child labour in Punjab. He said that a mega project of the Punjab government for the elimination of child labour was continuing with Rs. 180 million in four districts which was leaving a far reaching impact.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting regarding the assembly business pertaining to the departmental affairs at the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution on Tuesday.

Secretary Labour Ishrat Ali, Director Admin Social Security Khalid Mehmood and other officers concerned were also present.

Secretary Labour Ishrat Ali informed the meeting that the Labour Department was implementing eight international conventions of the ILO and European Union regarding the labour which included the elimination of child and bonded labour, right to freedom of association, indiscriminate incentives and jobs.

The minister informed the media that the Labour Department was spending more than 15 billion on the development schemes and welfare of labourers under the Social Security Institution and Punjab Workers Welfare Board. He said the Labour Department was regularly sending reports to monitoring the body of the ILO.

He said the labour inspection had been restored under the Punjab Industrial Policy since 2012 throughout the province while modern inspection kits had been provided to workers for ensuring occupational safety during work. He said that important legislation had been made for the protection of rights of labourers and elimination of exploitation. Raja Ashfaq Sarwar informed the media that the Punjab government had introduced the Punjab Prohibition of Children Employment Act.

MPAs: Provincial Minister for Education and Youth Affairs Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan administered the oath as a patron-in-chief to the newly elected office-bearers of the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus.

Patron Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Affairs Punjab of Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus Ch. Sarfraz Afzal was also present.

Chairman Youth Caucus Sardar Waqas Hasan Moakai MPA, General Secretary Mian Irfan Daultana MPA, and Finance Secretary Nabila Hakim Ali Khan MPA and Minority Member Punjab Assembly Mary Gill also took the oath as Vice-Chairman Caucus. Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan advised the young members of the Punjab Assembly up to the age of 35 years to pledge that they would make legislation for the betterment and welfare of the youth by rising above political consideration and bring forth effective suggestions for resolving the problems of the youth.

He said the PML (N) leadership had awarded party tickets to more than 70 percent youth for sending them to assemblies during the last three general elections. He expressed the hope that members of the youth caucus would coordinate with each other in the national affairs and would not allow any hindrance in the welfare of youth.

The minister said that only those young parliamentarians had the right to be called as future leadership who would set an example of commitment with collective objectives.

He asked the members of the Punjab Youth Parliamentary caucus to start interaction with the assemblies of other provinces through video conferencing and the Punjab government would extend all-out cooperation to them. Parliamentary Secretary Ch. Sarfraz Ahmed also spoke.
