

Maneka seeks report on child workers

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Jaipur: Union minister for women and child development Maneka Gandhi has sought action in the matter of minor tribal children of Banswara being sold into back-breaking work as shepherds in Madhya Pradesh. TOI had reported the matter on April 15.

Delhi-based lawyer Shehzad Poonawalla had filed a petition with the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the National Human Rights Commission, the Rajasthan chief minister and the Union minister for women and child development in this matter.

Maneka Gandhi noted that the report indicates the blatant violation of child protection laws, and sought action. An email sent from the Union minister's office, addressed to the NCPCR, a copy of which is with TOI, said, "You are requested to inquire into the matter urgently and initiate appropriate action against all guilty parties, if required. Please send a copy of your report early."

Children from tribal families as young as seven and eight-years-old were found to be sold into labour for as little as Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 per month. TNN

Petitioner Shehzad Poonawalla said, "I am awaiting a copy of the report on this. I hope the Vasundhara Raje government will show seriousness in dealing with the issue of child labour. The intervention by the Central government indicates that the state needs to do much more to stop this illegal, unconstitutional and unethical treatment of children."