Charter of Demands by Children

We the Children, demand that:

1. A complete ban on all forms of child labour. No child up to 18 years should be allowed or forced to work in family enterprises even after school hours or during vacations.

2. The strict implementation of provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016. There should be adequate mechanisms to monitor the involvement of children as child labour at small, medium and large-scale enterprises.

3. A constant review and amendment to the list of hazardous and non-hazardous occupations and process as mentioned in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016.

4. The scope of the right to free and compulsory education be expanded to all children up to the age of 18 years. Quality education and entitlements like free books, uniforms, mid-day meals etc. must be made accessible to the last mile for all children.

5. During COVID-19 many of our parents have lost their livelihoods which is making us vulnerable to drop out from our education and work as child labours and provide support to our families; the livelihood of our parents must be secured through effective implementation of schemes and prevent us from falling prey to child labour.

6. Children of migrant workers must be protected from becoming potential child labour. The benefit of schemes for migrant workers must be made accessible to all such families and free education of their children must be ensured.

7. Our health and nutritional needs are addressed through implementation of mid-day meal scheme. During COVID-19 take home ration was not being implemented properly which forced children to work as child labour to fulfil the basic needs of food security.

8. Child protection mechanisms are set up and activated at all levels starting from village level child protection committees to ensure that every child is monitored protected against any kind of abuse or exploitation. These committees can also assist in linking children to education, where required.

9. Child participation should be ensured through setting up and activating children's committee / Bal Panchayats at every village/community level and schools so that they can express their views including the issue of child labour.

10. Different departments and stakeholders i.e. Department of Women and Child Development, Labour Department, Department of Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Department of Education should work together to rehabilitate the rescued child labour.

11. Awareness with respect to Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 and other related laws is created at all levels for children, parents and community. The awareness could be created through campaigns, posters, films and other interactive modes of communication. Such awareness campaigns should also reach out to schools, teachers, anganwadi workers and other stakeholders.