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India,

## Total Ban on Employing Children Under 14 Years Old Expected

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A ban on all forms of employment of children under the age of 14 years is expected in India, per a proposal that the Union Cabinet recently cleared. Currently, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (Child Labour Act) permits children under the age of 14 years to work in "non-hazardous industries," including activities such as agricultural work, forest gathering, etc., while only children over 14 years of age can be employed for hazardous work.

If the Child Labour Act is amended in accordance with the proposal, employing a child under 14 years of age for any work would be an offence punishable with imprisonment up to a maximum duration of three years and/or a fine up to INR 50,000 (approx. US\$1,000). The move is in line with the Government's obligation to meet the International Labour Organization's 2016 deadline for the abolition of the worst forms of child labor.