

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

814. Shri Bhageya Gobardhan :
Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, State-wise/U.T.-wise ;

(b) the estimated number of bonded labourers in each State/Union Territory and the corresponding number identified so far ;

(c) the number of bonded labourers rehabilitated till December 31, 1990, State/U.T.-wise ; and

(d) the involvement and contribution of voluntary agencies for identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers ?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Labour (Shri K. Ramamurthy) : (a) to (c) : The Bonded Labour System has been abolished throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition)

Act, 1976. The Act envisages release of all the bonded labourers from bondage and simultaneous liquidation of their debts. The responsibility for implementing the Act is that of the State Governments concerned. As on 31-3-91, the State Governments have reported the identification of 2,55,608 bonded labourers out of which 2,22,935 have been rehabilitated. A statement showing the number of bonded labourers identified and rehabilitated by various State Governments as on 31-3-91 is attached.

(d) The Scheme "Involvement of Voluntary Agencies in the identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers" has been launched on 30-10-87. The State Governments have been requested to give wide publicity to the schemes so that more and more voluntary agencies come forward, to take up the task of identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. So far two voluntary agencies ; one each in Maharashtra and in Madhya Pradesh have come forward to take this job.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Name of the State Governments	No. of bonded labourers identified as on 31-3-1991	No. of bonded labourers rehabilitated as on 31-3-1991	Balance BLs available for rehabilitation as on 31-3-1991	Not available for rehabilitation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35,810	25,397	10,413	—
2.	Bihar	12,525	11,378	31	1,116
3.	Karnataka	68,876	53,835	6,430	8,611
4.	Madhya Pradesh	12,535	11,236	390	909+
5.	Maharashtra	1,382	1,300	—	82*
6.	Orissa	49,913	46,654	73	3,186
7.	Rajasthan	7,300	7,164	38	98
8.	Tamil Nadu	38,347	38,015	272	60
9.	Uttar Pradesh	27,489	27,048	441	—
10.	Gujarat	64	64	—	—
11.	Haryana	544	21	—	523**
12.	Kerala	823	823	—	—
TOTAL		2,55,608	2,22,935	18,088	14,585

+ 893 bonded labourers have repatriated to their home States and 16 bonded labourers have died.

* The Govt. of Maharashtra has stated that 82 bonded labourers do not require rehabilitation assistance.

** The break-up of 523 bonded labourers as reported by Haryana State is as follows—124 BLs have left of their own. 96 are not willing to go from the Haryana State, 2 BLs died of natural death and 321 BLs have been sent to their home States viz. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa and Maharashtra. 1 BL is still employed in the office of Secretary, Red Cross, Gurgaon.