

In order to accelerate the pace of rehabilitation of bonded labourers, the procedure for sanction of rehabilitation schemes is being simplified further, whereby the District Collectors and Divisional Commissioners are being empowered to sanction the schemes. It is also proposed to simplify the procedure for release of funds for rehabilitation of bonded labourers by placing the funds at the disposal of the State Governments in advance.

There is also a proposal to involve voluntary agencies in the process of identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. A sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been earmarked for the purpose during 1985-86.

Abolition of Contract and Casual Labour

1020. SHRI V. TULSIRAM :
SHRI LALIT MAKEN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided at the recently held meeting of the State Labour Ministers with the Union Labour Minister for the abolition of contract and casual labour system in the country;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines sent to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) the details of providing alternate employment to the casual and contract labour in the country; and

(d) approximate number of contract and casual labour affected thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. The recommendations on 'Contract and Casual Labour' of the Labour Ministers' Conference held on 11-5-1985 are as follows :

Contract Labour :

- (i) State Governments and Central Government are empowered to identify cases where engagement of workers on perennial jobs on contract basis is prohibited. This responsibility should be discharged effectively by the concerned Governments.

(ii) The Central and State Public Sector Undertakings should set examples in not engaging contract labour on perennial jobs.

(iii) Wherever the public sector undertakings or the government are the principal employer, the contract should have a provision that the contractors will pay atleast minimum wages to the contract labour. All bills of the contractor should be passed for payment only after the principal employer has certified that minimum wages have been paid.

(iv) In the event of prohibition of employment of contract labour, the contract labour thrown out of employment should be given preference in employment with the principal employer, other things being equal.

Casual Labour :

(i) Greater efforts should be made to proceed steadily towards a state of rational decasualisation.

(ii) The Tamilnadu Conferment of Regular Status Act, 1981 should be examined to confer regular status on casual workers.

The recommendations *inter-alia* on 'Contract and Casual Labour' have been forwarded to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India for information and necessary action.

ESI Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh

1021. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) total number of ESI hospitals in Andhra Pradesh and location thereof;

(b) bed-capacity of each of the hospitals, and number of beneficiaries at each of the hospitals;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more ESI hospitals in the State during the first half of Seventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?