

Labour Court in West Bengal

9256. SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH :
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of labour courts in West Bengal; and

(b) the number of cases pending in the labour courts as on the 31st January, 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). As per available information, there were two Labour Courts and nine Industrial Tribunals in the State of West Bengal, as on 1.4.1987; 99 and 2137 cases, were pending as on that date in the Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals respectively.

Bonded Labour

9257. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of the best efforts of Government there are still a large number of bonded labourers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, their number, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the law to give severe punishment to the persons keeping bonded labourers in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). As per the information received from the States 2,24,562 bonded labourers have been identified upto 29.2.88 out of which 1,98,508 bonded labourers have been rehabilitated leaving a balance of 26,054 released bonded labourers to be rehabilitated. The State-wise details are given below :

Name of the State	Number of bonded Labourers	
	Identified and Released	Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	26,817	25,000
Bihar	12,102	10,422
Karnataka	62,689	50,622
Madhya Pradesh	6,793	5,422
Maharashtra	964	880
Orissa	47,465	39,905
Rajasthan	6,957	6,817
Tamilnadu	33,581	34,640
Uttar Pradesh	25,928	23,298
Kerala	823	823
Gujarat	64	64
Haryana	*379	*295
Total :	2,24,562	1,98,508

*(Under classification)

(c) and (d). No Sir, The bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 already provides for adequate punishment.

Crop Insurance Scheme in Gujarat

9258. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount for which the crops were insured under the crops Insurance Scheme during the year 1987-88 in Surendranagar and Rajkot district of Gujarat State, Taluka-wise;

(b) the crops insured; and

(c) the total amount of crop insurance claims paid and the amount that remains to be paid as yet ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). Taluka-wise information is not maintained at the Central Government level and is, therefore, not available. However, the requisite information in respect of Surendranagar and Rajkot districts in Kharif 1987 is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

District	Crops Covered	Sum Insured	Amount of claims paid	Amount of claims remarks to be paid
Surendra-nagar	Ground-nut and Bajra	70.19	—	55.03*
Rajkot	-do-	4682.34	—	4606.17*

Note : *These are estimated claims and are subject to further scrutiny.

The information in respect of Rabi 1987-88 season will be known only after 30th April, 1988.

Foodgrains for Drought Relief Works

9259. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 28 March, 1988 to Starred Question No. 474 regarding payment of wages in the form of foodgrains at subsidised rate and state :

(a) whether due to non-availability of foodgrains stocks from the Central Pool, State Governments find it difficult to give a portion of the labour wages in wheat for famine relief works;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken;

(c) whether Union Government propose to enhance wheat stock for Gujarat and Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The allocation of wheat and rice under Public Distribution System are made to various States on a month to month basis taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central pool, relative needs of the various States, market availability and other related factors. This allotments are only supplemental to open market availability. In addition, foodgrains are allocated to the State Governments at their request upto a value equal 50 to per cent of ceilings of expenditure approved for employment generation works under drought relief. The State Governments are required to distribute the wages to the workers engaged in relief works subject to a ceiling of 3 kgs per man day in Severely Drought Affected Areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan