

protecting the interests of agricultural workers has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). The question whether a Central Legislation on the lines of the Kerala Agricultural Workers Act, 1974 should be enacted is under consideration.

#### Bonded Labour in Rural Areas

673. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made by the Centre or State Governments to find out the extent of bonded labour in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what are the results of the survey;

(c) how many of these bonded labourers have been freed in each State and Union Territories since the law abolishing bonded labour came into force; and

(d) how many of the freed labourers have been rehabilitated and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). No comprehensive all India survey has been conducted. State Governments were requested to carry out surveys. State Governments and Union Territories were also requested to constitute vigilance Committees in every district as well as at every sub-division level for the same purpose.

The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Mizoram have reported the existence of bonded labour.

(c) and (d). The number of bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated as on 31-5-1977 is as follows:

	-Freed	Rehabilitated
1. Andhra Pradesh	826	698
2. Bihar	2,038	613
3. Gujarat	37	36
4. Karnataka	62,923	4,668
5. Kerala	702	186
6. Madhya Pradesh	1,500	33
7. Orissa	307	296
8. Rajasthan	5,533	2,381
9. Tamil Nadu	2,882	1,975
10. Uttar Pradesh	19,242	12,805
11. Mizoram	3	..
TOTAL	95,993	23,691

Freed bonded labourers have been rehabilitated by providing them with employment in Government Departments, allotment of agricultural lands, house sites, loans for purchase of milch animals, sheep, carpentry implements; provision of education and free hostel facilities to the children of the free bonded labourers. Collectors have been authorised to issue loans for agricultural purposes; loans have also been given by Nationalised Banks at preferential rate of interest to such labourers. Collectors have also been directed to rehabilitate freed bonded labourers in on-going Plan Schemes and programmes including those of soil conservation, irrigation works, social welfare measures, tribal and harijan welfare programmes.