

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:188  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000  
BONDED LABOURERS  
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

**Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total number of bonded labourers in each State at present;
- (b) the reasons for large scale prevalence of the bonded labour;
- (c) the number of bonded labourers rehabilitated during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to eradicate bonded labour from the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 188 FC 08.03.2000.

(a): As per the latest survey conducted by all the State Government/Uts. during October-December, 1996 as many as 28,916 bonded labourers were identified. The State-wise position of the bonded labourers identified during the survey is given below:-

S.No. Name of the State Number of Bonded Labour identified  
during October-December, 1996

|    |                   |       |
|----|-------------------|-------|
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 3526  |
| 2. | Bihar             | 106   |
| 3. | Karnataka         | 19    |
| 4. | Madhya Pradesh    | 18    |
| 5. | Maharashtra       | 02    |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu        | 25008 |
| 7. | Uttar Pradesh     | 237   |
|    | Total             | 28916 |

(b): The bonded labour system is primarily linked with poverty, unemployment and economic deprivation arising out of landlessness and assetlessness.

(c): State-wise number of bonded labourers rehabilitated during last 3 years are given below:-

| State            | Year    |         |         |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                  | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
| 1. Bihar         | -       | 98      |         |
| 2. Orissa        |         | 48      | 35      |
| 3. Tamil Nadu    | 175     | 6000    | 5578    |
| 4. Uttar Pradesh |         | 249     |         |

(d): The bonded labour system stands abolished throughout the country w.e.f. 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (abolition) Act, 1976. Under the Act, District Magistrates are empowered to take punitive action against the offenders/employers who are found either guilty of keeping labour under bondage or indulge in propagating the system of bonded labour.

Financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is provided by the Central Government of the State Government to the extent of Rs. 5000/- per bonded labour on matching contribution (50:50) basis for rehabilitation of freed bonded labourers. With a view to ensuring that the bonded labourers are rehabilitated on a permanent basis, the State Governments have been advised to suitably integrate/dovetail the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with other anti-poverty programmes viz., Swaranajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan of the State Governments etc. so as to pool and integrate the resources available under different schemes in an imaginative manner for the purpose of effective rehabilitation of bonded labourers.