

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:44

ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004

REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

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

- (a) whether the Government have received the report of National Commission on Agricultural Labourers;
- (b) if so, the date on which the report was received and the main recommendations of the commission;
- (c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and
- (d) the proposed mechanism to regulate the working conditions of the agricultural labourers to ensure proper treatment to them?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) to (d): The Government has not constituted National Commission on Agricultural Labourers. However, a National Commission on Rural Labour was constituted in 1987, which submitted its report in July, 1991. The Commission had made wide-ranging recommendations for the betterment of rural labour. The recommendations, inter-alia, include central legislation for construction workers and agricultural workers. The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (RECS), Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. In regard to some of their other recommendations like issue of identity cards to all Beedi workers either at their homes or elsewhere, these are being issued on a continuous basis with the cooperation of State Governments. Similarly, for effective enforcement of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, State Governments are continuously being asked to rejuvenate the Vigilance Committees at all levels.

A proposal regarding enactment of a central legislation for the welfare of agricultural labourers had been under consideration of the Government. Due to lack of consensus amongst the State Governments on various components on the draft Bill, the matter could not be processed further.