

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:56
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010
NHRC DIRECTIVES ON BONDED LABOURERS
Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) the total number of male and female bonded labourers at present in the country, separately, State-wise;
- (b) whether States are not complying with the directives of the National Human Right Commission (NHRC); and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): A statement is annexed.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 56 for 26.07.2010 raised by Shri Anjan Kumar M. Yadav regarding NHRC Directives on Bonded Labourers.

(a) to (c). The Constitution of India under Article 23(1) prohibits "begar" and other similar forms of forced labour and it provides that any contravention of the said prohibition shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. The bonded labour system was abolished by law throughout the country w.e.f. 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility of implementing the Act lies with the State Governments.

2. The data relating to bonded labour is not maintained sex-wise. Number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme up to 31.03.2010 is as under:

Name of the State Number of Bonded Labourers Identified and Released and Rehabilitated

Andhra Pradesh 37988 31534

Arunachal Pradesh 3,526 2992

Bihar 14,615 13797

Chattisgarh 124 124

Gujarat 64 64

Haryana 591 89

Jharkhand 196 196

Karnataka 63,437 57185

Kerala	823	710
Madhya Pradesh	13,317	12,392
Maharashtra	1,404	1,325
Orissa	50,029	46901
Punjab	69	69
Rajasthan	7488	6331
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573
Uttar Pradesh	28,946	28,946
Uttaranchal	5	5
West Bengal	267	267
TOTAL	2,88,462	2,68,500

3. The Supreme Court has directed that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) should be involved in dealing with the issue of bonded labour. The court has also issued directions from time to time for compliance by the state governments regarding identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. In pursuance of the direction of the Supreme Court, NHRC is monitoring and reviewing the efforts made by the state governments towards implementing the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 through regular interaction with the concerned authorities. NHRC has organized 28 sensitization workshops in association with Ministry of Labour & Employment with the concerned state governments, including one National Level Workshop at Delhi in June, 2007.