

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:97
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010
BONDED LABOURERS
Sivakumar Alias J.K. Ritheesh Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government possesses any estimate of the total number of bonded labourers at present in the country including backward, rural and tribal areas, State-wise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any scheme has been chalked out for their liberation and rehabilitation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated by the Government and Voluntary Organisations during each of the last two years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 97 BY SHRI K. SHIVAKUMAR ALIAS J.K. RITHEESH TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.11.2010 REGARDING BONDED LABOURERS.

(a) & (b): According to the reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and released as on 30.09.2010 is 2,89,225. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are identified for rehabilitation. A statement showing state-wise number of bonded labourers identified and released is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State Governments. In order to assist the State Governments, in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour is in operation since May 1978. Under the scheme, rehabilitation assistance @ Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labour is provided which is equally shared by the Central and State Governments. The detail of financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the State Governments for rehabilitation of bonded labourers during the last two years and the current year is at Annexure-II.