

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4139
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009
BONDED LABOURS
Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) the details of the report recently released by International Labour Organisation (ILO) relating to bonded labour in India; and
- (b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Report of International Labour Organisation released in May, 2009 under the heading 'The cost of coercion' mentions about the existence of bonded labourers in India. The report mentions existence of forced labour in brick kilns of Tamil Nadu. It also mentions about the concern of Government of India to identify, release and rehabilitate bonded labour on priority.

In collaboration with ILO, the Central Government and the State Government of Tamil Nadu have launched a pilot project in the State to prevent bondage. It may also be noted that in India the Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by 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 was introduced in May, 1978. Under the Scheme, rehabilitation assistance is provided @ Rs.20, 000/- per bonded labourer which is equally shared by Central and State Government. With the concerted efforts of the Government number of bonded labourers has come down from 8195 in the year 1999-2000 to 543 in the year 2008-09.