

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1220
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011
BONDED LABOURERS SYSTEM ABOLITION ACT
Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) the total number of male and female bonded labourers in the country, State-wise and UT-wise including Jharkhand;
- (b) whether some States are not complying with the directives of the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) and if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether any sector and service is excluded from the purview of the Bonded Labourers System (Abolition) Act, 1976;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the nurses working in the health sector come under the said Act;
- (f) if not, whether the Government is contemplating to bring nurses under the purview of this Act; and
- (g) whether checks have been imposed on the funds sanctioned for the utilization of identifying bonded and child labour in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): The data relating to bonded labourers is not maintained sex-wise. According to the reports received from the State Governments, the number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme is as under:-

Name of the State Number of Bonded Labourers

Identified and Released Rehabilitated

Andhra Pradesh 37,988 31,534

Arunachal Pradesh 3,526 2,992

Bihar 14,615 13,797

Chhattisgarh 812 812

Gujarat 64 64

Haryana 591 89

Jharkhand 196 196

Karnataka 63,437 57,185

Kerala 823 710

Madhya Pradesh 13,317 12,392

Maharashtra 1,404 1325

Orissa 50,029 46,901

Punjab 69 69

Rajasthan 7,488 6,331

Tamil Nadu 65,573 65,573

Uttar Pradesh 29,046 29,046

Uttaranchal 5 5

West Bengal 344 344

Total 2,89,327 2,69,365

(b): 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 also conducts familiarization-cum-sensitization workshops on the elimination of bonded labour and child labour at the state level.

(c) to (f): The Constitution of India under Article 23(1) prohibits 'begar' and other similar forms of forced labour. The bonded labour system was abolished by law throughout the country w.e.f. from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. It extends to the whole of India.

As per the Act, no person is allowed to make an advance under or in pursuance of the bonded labour system and no one can compel any person to render any bonded labour or other form of forced labour.

(g): No checks have been imposed on the funds sanctioned for utilization of identifying bonded and child labour.