

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1939

ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012

REHABILITATION OF BONDED LABOURS

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Patle Kamla Devi ;Shantha J.;Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

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

- (a) the details and number of labourers in the country particularly in the brick and kiln sector;
- (b) whether the Government is giving/granting financial assistance to rehabilitate bonded labour throughout the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of bonded labours rehabilitated during the last three years alongwith the financial help given to them, State-wise including Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate bonded labour in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): As per National Sample Survey (2004-2005), total employment in unorganized sector including the Brick and Kiln sector, is 433.10 million.

(b)to(d): The responsibility for rehabilitating the freed bonded labourers lies with the respective 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 Government. On the basis of the information and proposals received from the State Government, the number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated and central assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise is as under:

Year Name of the State/UTs No. of bonded labourers Fund Released
released and rehabilitated (Rs. In Lakh)

2008-09	Bihar	409	Rs. 36.00
	Uttar Pradesh	80	Rs. 7.98
	West Bengal	54	Rs. 5.40

2009-10	Bihar	264	Rs. 22.10
	Uttar Pradesh	100	Rs. 12.23

2010-11	Chhattisgarh	688	Rs. 68.80
	Uttar Pradesh	100	Rs. 10.00
	West Bengal	77	Rs. 6.85
	Bihar	-	Rs. 4.30#

This was the balance amount in respect of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated during 2009-10.

(e): 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. As and when

existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are identified for rehabilitation.

A Special Group has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) to review and monitor the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Group is holding region-wise meetings from time to time to impress upon the State Governments to effectively implement the Act.

In collaboration with the ILO, the Central Government and State Government of Tamil Nadu have launched a pilot project in the State for the purpose of reducing vulnerability to bondage through promotion of decent work. The project is being considered for replication in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Haryana.