

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3620

ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012

REHABILITATION OF RELEASED BONDED LABOURERS

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

- (a) the total number of bonded labourers identified, rescued and rehabilitated by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the schemes/programmes/projects being run for the rehabilitation of rescued bonded labourers;
- (c) the details of funds sanctioned and released under these schemes/ programmes/projects being run for the rehabilitation of rescued bonded labourers; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to eradicate bonded labourers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) to (c): The responsibility of identifying and 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, the 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 information and proposals received from the State Governments, 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 released and rehabilitated	Fund Released (Rs. In Lakh)
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2009-10	Bihar	264	Rs. 22.10
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2010-11	Uttar Pradesh	100	Rs. 12.23
	Chhattisgarh	688	Rs. 68.80
	Uttar Pradesh	100	Rs. 10.00
	West Bengal	77	Rs. 6.85
	Bihar	-	Rs. 4,30#
2011-12	Andhra Pradesh	153	Rs. 15.30
	Bihar	780	Rs. 68.20
	Haryana	3	Rs. 0.30
	Karnataka	73	Rs. 7.30
	Odisha	384	Rs. 38.39
	Punjab	19	Rs. 1.90
	Rajasthan	25	Rs. 2.50
	Uttar Pradesh	3391	Rs. 339.10

This was the balance amount in respect of 264 bonded labourers released and rehabilitated during 2009-2010.

(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. 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 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 replicated in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Haryana.