

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2594
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
BONDED LABOURERS
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) the estimated number of bonded labourers especially in backward and rural areas in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether any scheme has been formulated or proposed to be formulated for the rehabilitation of such bonded labourers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the State-wise number of freed/rehabilitated bonded labourers at present, State-wise;
- (d) whether any assistance has been provided for this purpose especially for backward and rural areas;
- (e) if so, the State-wise details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government for the speedy identification/ rehabilitation and eradication of bonded labourers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a): 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. According to the reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and released is 2,97,372 as on 31.03.2013. The State-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(b): 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. The scheme also provides for financial assistance to the State Governments for conducting surveys, awareness generation activities and evaluatory studies.

(c): A statement is annexed at Annexure-I.

(d) & (e): A statement is annexed at Annexure-II.

(f): The responsibility for identifying and rehabilitating the bonded labourers lies with the respective State Governments. The Central Government has been operating a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour since May, 1978.

Special Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Labour & Employment has been constituted to review and monitor the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act. The Group holds region wise meetings from time to time to impress upon the State Governments to effectively implement the Act by setting up vigilance committees at the district/ sub-divisional level wherever they do not exist and monitoring the functions of these committees already in existence.