

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2991

ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014

BONDED LABOUR

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

(a)whether bonded labour system continues to persist despite its abolition in the country;

(b)if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c)whether the International Labour Organisation in its recent report has revealed the prevalence of bonded labour system in India and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d)the details of the scheme(s) being implemented by the Government for rehabilitation of bonded labour and the number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated along with the funds provided to the States under the scheme during the last three years and the current year; and

(e)the corrective steps taken by the Government to completely abolish bonded labour in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): 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 as under:

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers		
	Identified and Released		Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	38,141	31,687	
Arunachal Pradesh		3,526	2992
Bihar	15,395	14,577	
Chhattisgarh	1362	1362	
Gujarat	64	64	
Haryana	594	92	
Jharkhand		196	196
Karnataka		64,600	58,348
Kerala	823	710	
Madhya Pradesh	13,317	12,392	
Maharashtra	1,404	1,325	
Odisha	50,441	47,313	
Punjab	252	252	
Rajasthan		7563	6406
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573	
Uttar Pradesh	33,772	33,772	
Uttarakhand	5	5	
West Bengal	344	344	
TOTAL	2,97,372#	2,77,410	

19962 Bonded Labourers are not available for rehabilitation either they have died or left the place without leaving their addresses.

(c): International Labour Organization released a global estimate report on forced labour in 2013. The report estimates the number of forced labour/bonded labour in South Asia region and does not bifurcate into country specific information/numbers.

(d): 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.

The number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated along with the funds provided to the States under the scheme during the last three years and the current year is as under:

Year	No. of bonded labour identified, released and rehabilitated	Amount (in lakhs)
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2010-11	865	89.95
2011-12	4828	472.99
2012-13	3189	318.90
2013-14	178	17.80
(upto 31.01.2014)		

(e): The Government has taken a series of initiatives to identify, release and rehabilitate bonded labourers in the country. A Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour has been under implementation since 1978 for their rehabilitation.

An integrated convergence-based approach is adopted in a number of States to prevent and reduce vulnerability to bondage by converging schemes like National Employment Guarantee Programme, Primary Healthcare, Food rations, etc. at the District/Block level. Vigilance Committees at District and Sub-divisional levels have been activated to identify and rehabilitate bonded labourers.