

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1959

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015

BONDED LABOUR

Chautala Shri Dushyant;Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram;Jadhav Shri Sanjay Haribhau;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Patle Smt. Kamla Devi;Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

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

- (a) whether forced and bonded labour system continues to persist despite its abolition in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of cases reported under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 during each of the last three years and the current year along with the action taken by the Government against the guilty during the said period;
- (c) the number of bonded labourers including child 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, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of missing bonded labourers and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the details of various sectors and regions where bonded labour is prevalent; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government to completely abolish bonded labour in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Yes Madam, instances of prevalence of forced and bonded labour system are noticed now and then even after its abolition by law with effect from 25th October, 1975. The reasons are spelt out exhaustively at Section 2(g) of The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The root of the problem lies in the social customs and economic compulsions and they are yet to change in the desired direction.

(b): Actions under the Bonded Labour Act are taken by the State Governments. Central Government does not maintain records on the number of cases and action taken against the guilty. This is not mandated under the Act.

(c): The number of bonded labourers including child bonded labourer 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 given at Annexure-I.

(d): No, Madam.

Tracking of missing bonded labourers is responsibility of the State Governments and Central Government does not seek or maintain information about the missing bonded labourers.

(e): Government of India has adopted a three-pronged strategy for abolition of bonded labour system: (i) The Constitution of India vide Art.23 prohibits forced labour; (ii) Central Government enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; The Act empowers Executive Magistrates to exercise powers of Judicial Magistrate of first or second class for trial of offences; Vigilance Committees at District and Sub-divisional levels have been prescribed to identify and rehabilitate bonded labourers and (iii) a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour is under implementation since 1978 by which Central Government contributes Rs. 10000 for each case of rehabilitation.