

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5529
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
PREVALENCE OF SLAVERY
Antony Shri Anto ;Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the findings of the Global Slavery Index released recently indicating that a large number of people are living as slaves in one form or the other, in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether data on different kinds of slavery including forced labour prevalent in the country, is being maintained;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and
- (e) the reasons for the prevalence of forced labour along with the measures taken by the Government to put an end to all forms of slavery in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Home Affairs has not received any official communication in this regard.

(c) & (d): The specific information is not maintained in National Crime Records Bureau separately. However, as per data made available, a total of 67 cases, 34 cases and 50 cases under kidnapping and abduction with the purpose of slavery were reported during 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively.

(e): One of the reasons of prevalence of forced labour is India's socio-economic and cultural structure.

Article 23 of the Constitution of India prohibits traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labour.

Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 has come into force wherein Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code has been substituted with Section 370 and 370A IPC which provide for comprehensive measures to counter the menace of human trafficking including trafficking of children for exploitation in any form including physical exploitation or any form of sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude, or the forced removal of organs.

The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Under the Act, identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned States/Union Territories and the District Magistrate has been conferred with the powers of Judicial Magistrate first class for convicting the perpetrators of bonded labour system upto 3 years of imprisonment.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment in order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, has set up a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour which 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 Governments. The scheme also provides for financial assistance to the State Governments for conducting surveys, awareness generation activities and evaluator studies.