

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:197

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014

BONDED LABOUR

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

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

(a)the estimated number of bonded labourers in the country at present State/UT-wise;

(b)the initiatives made by the Government for complete eradication of bonded labour system in the country and success achieved as a result thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c)whether the Government has set up any rehabilitation centres for rescued bonded labourers and if so, the details thereof along with the number of rehabilitation centres that have been set up in each State; and

(d)the funds released and utilised by the Government for the said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 197 FOR 21.07.2014 BY SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

(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. The responsibility for identifying and rehabilitating the bonded labourers lies with the respective State Governments. According to the information received from State Governments, the total number of bonded labour identified and released is 2,99,322 as on 31.03.2014. The State-wise details are given below:

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers Identified and Rehabilitated	Released
Andhra Pradesh	38,141	31,687
Arunachal Pradesh	3,526	2992
Bihar	15,395	14,577
Chhattisgarh	1,362	1,362
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	7,713	6,556
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573
Uttar Pradesh	35,572	35,572
Uttarakhand	5	5
West Bengal	344	344
TOTAL	2,99,322#	2,79,360

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

(c) & (d): Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned States/Union Territories. The Central Government has not set up any rehabilitation centre for rescued bonded labourers. However, in order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labour, 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 borne by the Central and State

Government. Under the Scheme, Central assistance provided to the State Governments for rehabilitation of bonded labour during the last three years is as under:

Year State Amount (Rs. in lakhs)

2011-12	Odisha	38.39
	Karnataka	7.30
	Andhra Pradesh	15.30
	Bihar	68.20
	Rajasthan	2.50
	Haryana	0.30
	Uttar Pradesh	339.10
	Punjab	1.90
2012-13	Chhattisgarh	55.00
	Rajasthan	5.00
	Uttar Pradesh	133.50
	Karnataka	109.00
	Punjab	16.40
2013-14	Odisha	2.80
	Rajasthan	15.00
	Uttar Pradesh	180.00