

Abolition of Bonded Labour System

*269. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bonded labour system has totally been abolished in the country;

(b) if not, the names of States in which bonded labour still exists; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed for banishing this evil from this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The bonded labour system has been statutorily abolished throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976

The implementation of this Act is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, who have so far reported 1,20,292 cases of identified

and freed bonded labour. The process of rehabilitation is continuing in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

The concerned State Governments are being financially assisted by a Centrally sponsored Scheme under which 50 per cent matching Central financial assistance is released to State Governments for the rehabilitation of freed bonded labour. The rehabilitation schemes are either land-based, non-land based or skill/craft based, depending upon local conditions and needs. On an average, the Centrally sponsored Scheme envisages about Rs 4000/- to be spent on each bonded labourer, half of which is the Central share. The allocation for the current year has been stepped upto Rs 3 crores and all efforts are being made for an early solution of this problem.

The State-wise details regarding the identification of bonded labourers and the release of Central financial assistance for the rehabilitation of released bonded labourers are given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

Identification of Bonded Labour (Upto 31-3-1980)

S. No.	State	Estimates of incidence of bonded labour by the Gandhi Peace Foundation	Identified and freed	No. of bonded labourers				Remaining to be rehabilitated (Co's. 4 to 8)
				Under other on-going schemes	Under the Centrally sponsored scheme	During 1978-79	Covered by grants during 1979-80		Total (Co's. 5 to 7)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	. . . . . 3,25,000	12,504	2,662	2,920	1,586	7,168	5,336
2.	Bihar	. . . . . 1,11,000	4,218	952	388	369	1,709	2,509
3.	Gujarat	. . . . . 1,71,000	42	42	—	—	42	—
4.	Karnataka	. . . . . 1,93,000	62,689	39,960*	378	1,521	41,859	20,830
5.	Kerala	. . . . . —	700	138	110	60	308	392
6.	Madhya Pradesh	. . . . . 4,67,000	1,531	—	121	—	121	1,410
7.	Maharashtra	. . . . . 1,05,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Orissa	. . . . . —	311	—	308	100@	408	—
9.	Rajasthan	. . . . . 67,000	6,000	4,256	700	700	5,656	344
10.	Tamil Nadu	. . . . . 2,50,000	27,828	27,311	—	—	27,311	517
11.	Uttar Pradesh	. . . . . 5,55,000	4,469	1,368**	495	2,606	1,469	—
Total	. . . . .	. . . . . 22,44,000	1,20,292	76,689	5,420	6,942	89,051	31,338

*Including 30,557 placed in temporary employment.

@Pending release of bonded labourers.

**Placed in temporary employment.

Note :—Totals in Cols. 7 and 8 do not tally because of @ above.

