

[Translation]

so far?

Bonded Labour

[English]

*187 SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA†:
SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labourers released during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number out of them rehabilitated

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALVIYA): (a) and (b). A statement showing the number of bonded labour identified and rehabilitated during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 (till January, 1989), as reported by the State Governments concerned, is given below. The bonded labour rehabilitated during this period include the bonded labour identified even in the earlier years by the concerned State Governments.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers	
		Identified during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 (till January, 1989)	Rehabilitated during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 (Till Jan., 1989)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10,639	7,587
2.	Bihar	4,017*	1,113
3.	Karnataka	NIL	17,792**
4.	Kerala	NIL	NIL
5.	Madhya Pradesh	6,134	2,909
6.	Maharashtra	248	288
7.	Orissa	6,176	12,367
8.	Rajasthan	278	554
9.	Tamilnadu	4,741	1,517

1	2	3	4
10.	Uttar Pradesh	7,778	8,720
11.	Gujarat	NIL	NIL
12.	Haryana	128	NIL***

* Include 2662 bonded labour identified as per directive of the Supreme Court. Rehabilitation Scheme for these bonded labour are required to be approved by the Supreme Court as per its directions.

** They have rehabilitated 17,792 bonded labour during last three years from out of the bonded labour identified prior to 1986-87.

*** All the 128 bonded labour identified were repatriated to their native States for their rehabilitation there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement the number of bonded labourers who have been liberated in different States. He also told that 17,792 bonded labourers have been rehabilitated. This is a very serious problem in our country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know and even the Government intends that the bonded labourers should be benefited at the earliest but actually very little is being done in this direction. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many people have been prosecuted for violation of Bonded Labour Act. Why is this law not implemented? This evil is increasing every day. I would like to know the number of people along with their names against whom action has been taken.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Who is the new Minister Sir? He has resigned from the Cabinet. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Sitaram Kesari has made a statement that all the Ministers in the Union Cabinet from Bihar have resigned. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: you are a Member of Parliament. Why do you talk in this manner? What do you mean to say? It is in bad taste.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: How can one reply when one has resigned or when one's resignation is accepted?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nobody has denied that Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Why would anybody?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Let him deny it.

MR. SPEAKER: Why should he deny it? Don't try to be over-smart.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing about it. When he has resigned, if his resignation is accepted he will not be sitting here. So simple it is. Let us not be pragmatic. The House knows that he is still the Minister in charge and I authorise him to answer the question. When he is not a Minister, I will not allow him to answer.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: The Hon. Members don't know the formality of the resignation. I have tendered a letter to the Party President of my intention to resign. If the Party President has sent the resignation letter and if it is accepted, then the formality is complete. I am still the Minister. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Bindeshwariji, you answer the question. Don't answer any irrelevant questions.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The Minister is fully justified. He has sent his resignation letter to the Party President only, not to the President. He is very intelligent. I admire him.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You also used to give it what difference does it make unless it is accepted. At times it does happen. You know the difference.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: Shri Dandavate knows the difference.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you talking to him? Please make your own point. Answer the question.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: We will like him to continue here *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 2 lakh, 35 thousand and 670 bonded labour have been identified. Out of these 2 lakh 1 thousand 971 people have been rehabilitated and 33 thousand 679 people have not yet been rehabilitated. The target of rehabilitation during the year 1988-89 is 19084. 14 thousand are left about whom there is a controversy. In Andhra Pradesh 7 thousand 400 bonded labour are such who have not been covered under the 1987-88 quarterly report. At that time wide publicity was being given in the newspapers that fake identification is taking place. Therefore, the State Government has been asked to verify it again. The State Government has also been asked to state as to why prosecution has not been made against those who have been identified for exploiting bonded labour. It is true that the prosecution of all those who have been identified has not been done. I have written to all the Chief Ministers and Labour Ministers that besides identifications prosecution of all those who are guilty of keeping bonded labour in all states should be made.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a provision of punishment should also be made besides prosecution. This is an increasing evil in our society. Our Government intends to help the bonded labour. There are number of people who should have been prosecuted. An Act in this regard has been made but still nothing is done. The hon. Minister has said that it is essential to get the approval of the Supreme Court for rehabilitation I would like to know as to which policy is lying pending in the Supreme Court and what efforts has the Government made in this direction? Regard-

ing rehabilitation, the Government should make a policy at the earliest. I would like to know as to what is the proposed scheme for this.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, cases of all the states are not pending in the Supreme Court. Regarding Bihar a voluntary organisation DR 87 had filed a petition that there are bonded labourers in Dumka and Deogarh districts who have not been identified. The Supreme Court ordered the Commissioner of Welfare Department Shri K.V. Saksena to send a team for identification. 2642 people were identified there but the names of the keepers and dealers etc. was not included in it. The state Government contested in the court that the regular procedure viz. through the district magistrate or authorised officers by the magistrate has not been followed and instead a team had been sent which gave the information without giving all the details. Later on the Supreme Court gave the work of rehabilitation to an organisation called "Kapaat". In the mean time the State Government has given Rs. three thousand as interim relief for rehabilitation. The package of the Supreme Court will be announced on 15th March and thereafter it shall be executed.

[*English*]

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: The answer laid on the Table is contradictory in itself. In the answer it has been said that during the period 1986-87 and 1987-88 from Orissa there were bonded labour numbering 6176 whereas rehabilitation has been done for 12367 persons for the same period. How is it possible? There was not that number of bonded labour which has been rehabilitated. Now if you look to the figure in respect of Madhya Pradesh, the number of bonded labour is more and rehabilitation done is for less number.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the foot-

note of the statement that as the total number of rehabilitated bonded labourers includes the number of some bonded labourers who had been identified and rehabilitated earlier, hence this high figure.

[*English*]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, we have got the figures of the number of bonded labour identified in 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 but I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many of them have been rehabilitated during this period.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: I cannot precisely say how many of the bonded labour have been rehabilitated during this period as the figures include some backlog also I can only say at this stage that whatever number is left to be rehabilitated and which has been identified so far in the target which we are preparing for 1989-90 I think we shall be able to rehabilitate almost all the bonded labour.

Amendment to Minimum Wages Act

*188. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY†:**
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in consultation with State Governments;

(b) whether any meeting with the State Labour Ministers was held for the purpose during the past few months; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which legislation to this effect is expected to be brought forward?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.