

am asking the Government a categorical question as to whether instead of these guidelines in cities like Bombay and all other big cities in the country, the reservations of the poor housing for the workers etc. will be strictly made and whether the Central Government is going to enact such legislation that such places or reservations of the land should be strictly done by the State Government and it should be given to the low income-group people. Otherwise, what is happening in all the cities especially in Bombay is that all land is sold to private builders for big hotels and to the vested interests. All my workers and poor people are driven out from the cities. If the Government is having such law for the poor people, then they should reserve this land strictly and let the Central Government enact this Act.

(Translation)

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with what the hon. Member has said because the State Governments are following the guidelines provided by us. So far as the poor are concerned, we are constantly paying attention to them. As it is our Hon. Prime Minister has allocated Rs 100 crores for Bombay. Accordingly, we are paying full attention to the development of the slum areas of Bombay. I will never be prepared to agree that the State Governments are not paying attention to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other economically backward sections. In this connection, we are constantly pay-

ing attention to the proposals which have been sent to us by the Government of Maharashtra.

(English)

Bonded Labour

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*351 SHRI M. RAGHUMA
REDDY :

SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether annual targets have been fixed for all the State Governments for rehabilitation of bonded labour in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details of programme monitored every month;

(c) the funds allocated by the States annually for the purpose; and

(d) the assistance given by Union Government to the States annually, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers During

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State.	Year 1985-86		1986-87		State Plan outlay approved by Planning Commission during III Qtr. (Apr. to June)	Central assistance released for rehabilitation of BLs during					
	Target	Achievement	I Qtr. (July to Sept.)	II Qtr. (Oct. to Dec.)							
Andhra Pradesh	2000	3957	1734	300	600	627	316	40.00	50.00	132.41	—
Bihar	501	535	32	58	117	81	133	2.00	20.00	2.26	47.69
Gujarat	17	19	—	—	—	—	—	2.00	0.50	0.56	—
Haryana	295	295	—	—	—	—	—	0.50	—	—	—
Karnataka	9250	4009	576	741	1920	1209	2850	200.00	200.00	80.92	91.09
Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	2000	779	—	—	300	307	253	20.00	17.00	—	—

1985-86 1986-87 1985-86 1986-87
(as on 28.2.87)

Maharashtra	250	307	9	—	18	22	30	44	5.00	2.00	8.25	—
Orissa	7500	5385	439	661	878	847	1454	2755	100.00	150.00	70.03	66.98
Rajasthan	1032	1079	35	54	70	55	117	143	37.66	8.00	3.16	0.54
Tamil Nadu	1100	1109	54	—	108	157	180	506	20.00	1.00	3.52	—
Uttar Pradesh	4000	4199	360	1299	720	199	1200	284	100.00	80.00	93.79	101.06
Total :	27915	21673	1775	4547	3550	3504	5928	7284	528.16	530.50	394.90	307.38

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the total number of bonded labourers rehabilitated from Jan. 1985 upto 1986, state-wise. Has any survey been conducted by the Government of India? Has any evaluation been taken up for the rehabilitation programme and what are the results?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Regarding the State-wise figures, I have already given them in detail, in the Statement. As far as the survey is concerned, the National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a survey. According to that survey total number of bonded labourers estimated by them is 3.45 lakhs. The various State Governments have identified 2.14 lakhs so far, out of the estimated 3.45 lakhs. Out of the 2.14 lakhs identified, 1.75 lakhs have already been rehabilitated.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : There is an utter confusion in the law, specially when the affected person approaches the Revenue authorities; without going into the merits of the case there arresting the farmers, specially in the rural areas. Some middlemen are exploiting the situation. Are the Government planning to review the whole case & whether they are going to do justice to the farmers as well as the agricultural labourers? On the pretext of the bonded-labour, the middlemen are exploiting the farmers in the rural areas. Even the farmers and labourers who worked for 4-5 years back, they are being arrested on the pretext of bonded labour scheme. That thing is existing, specially in some of the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh. Are you going to review the whole case?

MR. SPEAKER : Is the State Government not doing this?

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What the State Governments say is that this is an Act of the Central Government; the Central Government only is capable of reviewing this. That has to be taken up. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to take up that issue.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The responsibility of identification and rehabilitation of the bonded-labourers squarely lies with the respective State Governments. We only give matching-grant for rehabilitation. We have no problem of giving this matching-grant. We have enough money, if the State Governments want.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I am not asking about the matching grant...

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Therefore, if there is any complaint of that nature which the hon. Member has referred to it is only the State Government which is able to reply. I will not be able to reply.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : On the complaint of poor people now, big persons are caught. That is the complaint to the Andhra Government.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I would like to have some clarification in the Act. What is the clear guideline in the Act? Are you going to change some of the guidelines?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I don't have any idea to change the scheme. We have change it to the extent of enhancing the amount for rehabilitation. We have enhanced the amount. At the moment, the amount enhanced stands at Rs. 1250/-

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Are the Government going to review the case of bonded labourers?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : We have no requests from the State Governments.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the hon. Minister tell us that the problem of bonded labourers in Haryana was taken up to the Supreme Court? They had actually deputed a Commissioner to

visit the places and report back to the Supreme Court. Is it a fact that the judgement of the Supreme Court was strongly in favour of the bonded-labourers and for their liberation? And also, is it a fact that even up to this date, the direction of the Supreme Court has not been implemented in Haryana? Will you use your good offices to see that the judgement of the Supreme Court is respected?

Do not try to disrespect all the Institutions.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The hon. Member had come to my office on a couple of occasions. We had very good discussions on the subject. The hon. Member is right that there is some problem about that case in Haryana...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please do not misunderstand.
(Interruptions)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : On the request and intervention of the hon. Member I had intervened with the Haryana Government, and I am prepared to discuss with him further at any moment.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : From the statement it appears that, in Haryana, contrary to what the Minister is saying, there is no problem of labour at all because in the year 1985-86 the target was 295 and the achievement is 295; there is no target for 1986-87 and, therefore, there is no question of achievement. The implication is that there is no bonded labour in Haryana at all. Obviously this is a question on which one cannot just pass the buck on to the State Government because this is something which is against the fundamental principle of our political life, of our Constitution itself and also of human rights. Therefore, I want to know whether the Government, apart from the survey made by a few organisations, has made a survey of its own and has found out an estimated number of bonded labour and, if so, what is the estimated number of bonded labour. Let us take for example Haryana, and if it is

more than 295 as it appears from the statement itself, what steps have been taken by the Government to take it up with Haryana and also with the other States which are not giving attention to the problem as they should give.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Haryana Government feels that only political parties are bonded labour.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No names.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : As I have submitted in the very beginning itself, the responsibility of identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour lies with the State Governments. It is only when they identify and report to us that we know the figures. The Haryana Government has not reported for 1986-87. That is true. Therefore, we do not have the figure. As regards your question whether the Central Government has done it on its own, I have already said that we have done it; the Planning Commission has done it through the National Sample Survey Organisation and according to their finding, the total number is 3.45 lakhs. The State Governments' figure is a little lower than the Planning Commission's figure. Their figure is 2.14 lakhs and our figure is 3.45 lakhs. Unfortunately, I do not have the detailed State-wise figure of 3.45 lakhs; I can supply that later.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : My question was this. In respect of Haryana the projection in the statement is that there is no bonded labour at all (Interruptions). For 1986-87 there is no projection; no matching grant has been asked. Have you pointed out to the Haryana Government that the figure given by them is totally wrong and it is the duty of the Government, even assuming that it is the duty of the Government, to take up this problem seriously?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I don't think I can. How can I challenge the figure of the State Government?
(Interruptions)

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : There are definite reports that a large number of Bihar workers working in Punjab and Haryana are working as bonded labour. The officers of the States may not be interested in identifying the bonded labour. May I request the hon. Minister to do something positive to identify the bonded labour and see to it that they are properly rehabilitated ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : We have always been trying to do something positive. But, as I said, it depends on the State Governments. The State Governments have to take the initiative. We come into the picture only when there is a question of rehabilitation, and I have made it very clear that, as far as money required for rehabilitation is concerned, there is no problem ; we have enough funds. But the State Governments have to be activated. Our officers have been going around the States and are trying to impress upon them.

International Film Festival

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*352. **DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :**
SHRI DILEEP SINGH
BHURIA :

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 11th International Film Festival of India held in Delhi in January, 1987 evoked poor response and enthusiasm both in the film world and among the cine-viewers ; if so, the reasons thereof ;

(b) the reasons for not making arrangements to screen some of the films in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras ; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on this festival ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir. On the

other hand, the Festival did evoke considerable enthusiasm.

(b) According to the Regulations for International Film Festivals, film entered in the Festivals can be screened only in the city where the festival takes place.

(c) About Rs. 95 lacs, although the final figures have yet to be reconciled.

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : The reply given by the Minister is not satisfactory. It was reported that at the closing ceremony of the 11th film festival the Chairman and the head of the Jury of the festival Mr. Humberto Solas from Cuba had stated that none of the films screened had come up to the standard for award of Golden Peacock medal.

Moreover, the publicity for the festival through all the media was also quite good. In spite of all these efforts it has been reported that the festival had not been very successful.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the poor response is due to non-screening of really good films ; and whether it is due to screening of these films during peak winter month when the public did not venture to go out of their homes.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : It is very difficult to say what should be the criterion of judging the success or the failure of a film festival. It could be judged from the Press Reports that appeared in India and elsewhere ; it could be judged by the number of entries of films ; it could be judged by the number of people who went to see the films or it could be judged from the revenue that it had earned.

If you judge from all these criteria and compare the 11th International Film Festival with the 9th and the 10th which have been held in India earlier, in all these aspects it is very very comparable with the earlier ones.

I will give the figures for the satisfaction of the House. The number of