GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021

PROGRAMMES/SCHEMES FOR BONDED LABOURERS

1867. # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise estimated number of bonded labourers at present in the country;
(b) the details of programmes/schemes being run to abolish bonded labourers in the country and State/UT-wise consequent decrease in the number of bonded labours;
(c) whether Government has established the rehabilitation centres for the emancipated bonded labourers, if so, the details thereof and the number of rehabilitation centres in each State; and
(d) the details of the total funds allocated and utilised for this purpose during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a): The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by Law throughout the Country w.e.f. 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 immediately released by the District Administration and provided financial assistance for rehabilitation.

Contd..2/-

(b) & (c): Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, identification, release and rehabilitation of freed boned labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government. In order to assist the State/UT Goverment a revised Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer-2016 is in operation since 17.05.2016. As per the Scheme, the Central Government bears 100% expenditure and the State/UT Goverments are not required to pay any matching contribution for the purpose of cash rehabilitation assistance, evaluatory studies, surveys and awareness campaigns against bonded labour. As per the Scheme, a Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund is created at the District level by each State/UT Government with a permanent corpus of at least Rs. 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate. This fund is utilized for extending immediate financial help to the released bonded labourer. Immediate financial assistance up to Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labourer is provided by the concerned District Magistrate from the corpus fund. This amount is fully reimbursed by the Central Government to State/UT Government. Further, under the Scheme financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1.00 lakh, Rs. 2.00 lakh and Rs. 3.00 lakh is provided to released bonded labourers for their rehabilitation based on their category i.e. male, female or children. Further, the above benefits are in addition to other land and housing elements etc. as mentioned below:

1) **Allotment of House-site & agricultural land;**
2) **Land development;**
3) **Provision of low cost dwelling units;**
4) **Animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, piggery etc.;**
5) **Wage employment, enforcement of minimum wages etc.;**
6) **Collection and processing of minor forest products;**
7) **Supply of essential commodities under targeted public distribution system;**
8) **Education for children; and**
9) **Any other Welfare Scheme of State/Central Government.**

State/UT-wise number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated during the last 5 years is at Annexure – I.

Contd..3/-

(d): The details of the fund allocated & utilized is as under:

			(In Lakh)
Year	**Fund Allocation**		**Fund Utilized**
	BE	**RE**	
2018-19	**1000**	**812**	**319.25**
2019-20	**800**	**750**	**34.75**
2020-21	**1000**	**100**	**99.85**
2021-22	**1000**		**234.73 (till July,2021)**

The State/UT-wise detail is at Annexure – II.

** *****

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) & (c) of Rajya Sabha Un-starred Question No. 1867 by Shri Neeraj Dangi regarding Programmes/Schemes for bonded labourers.

NUMBER OF BONDED LABOURERS RELEASED AND REHABILITED												
YEAR	Assam	Bihar	Karnataka	MP	Odisha	Poddu-cherry	Rajasthan	TN	UP	Chhattisgarh	West Bengal	**Total**
2017-2018	**-**	**461**	**1500**	**2**	**742**	**-**	**159**	**-**	**3492**	**57**	**-**	**6413**
2018-2019	**12**	**238**	-	**-**	**-**	**9**	**-**	**-**	**741**	**1276**	**-**	**2276**
2019-2020	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
2020-2021	**1**	**220**	**-**	**34**	**--**	**-**	**49**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**16**	**320**
2021-2022	**-**	**48**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**876**	**-**	**-250**	**-**	**1174**
Total												**10183**

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of Rajya Sabha Un-starred Question No. 1867 by Shri Neeraj Dangi regarding Programmes/schemes for bonded labourers.

The details of State/UT-wise fund utilization during last three years and the current year till July, 2021

(In Lakh)

Name of the State/UT	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (till July,2021)
Assam	02.40	--	02.00	--
Bihar	47.60	--	43.65	9.60
Karnataka	--	05.00	--	--
MP	--	--	6.20	--
Pudducherry	01.80	--	--	--
Rajasthan	--	--	9.80	--
Tamil Nadu	--	29.75	--	175.13
Uttar Pradesh	74.10	--	--	--
Chhattisgarh	193.35	--	--	50.00
West Bengal	--	--	11.20	--
Gujarat	--	--	12	--
Kerala	--	--	15	--
Total	319.25	34.75	99.85	234.73

*****