

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2164
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026**

ABOLISHING CHILD AND BONDED LABOUR

2164. #DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) the definitions of child labour and bonded labour in the country along with the State-wise number of both the child and bonded labourers in the country; and**
- (b) the action being taken by the Government to abolish the same?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) & (b): The Government has enacted the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which defines the "child" as a person who has not completed his or her fourteenth year of age and completely prohibits his engagement in any occupation or process. The act also prohibits employment of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes.

The central government has issued State Action Plan and the Standard Operating Procedures enumerating actions to be taken by respective State/UT Governments for eradication of child labour.

The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 describes the "bonded labour system" as the system of forced, or partly forced labour under which a debtor, in consideration of an advance, economic consideration, obligation taken by him or by his lineal ascendants or descendants, or in pursuance of any customary or social obligation or by reason of his birth in any particular caste or community, renders himself or through a member of his family; labour or service to the creditor for a specified or an unspecified period, with or without wages and; as a result, forfeits the right to freedom of employment, to move freely or to sell or appropriate his property or product of his labour or the labour of his family member, at market value. The act abolished the bonded labour system in the country. State/UT Governments are responsible for implementing the provisions of the act.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer-2021. The scheme provides for financial assistance of Rs.1.00 lakh, Rs.2.00 lakh and Rs.3.00 lakh to the rescued bonded labourer based on their category and level of exploitation. An SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for identification and rescue of bonded labourers and prosecution of offenders has also been framed and issued to all the State Governments and Union Territories.

The details of cases registered under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 as per National Crime Records Bureau data, are at Annexure-I.

The State/UT- wise details of bonded labourers rehabilitated under the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, during last three financial years and the current financial year are at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2164 FOR 06.08.2026 RAISED BY DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL REGARDING ABOLISHING CHILD AND BONDED LABOUR.

Number of cases registered under Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, State / Union Territories –wise during 2020 to 2024:

Sl. No.	State/UT	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	37	12	15	25	9
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	3	0	1
3	Assam	40	78	86	132	109
4	Bihar	3	14	98	522	551
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	1	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	39	40	42	85	74
8	Haryana	1	12	4	8	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0
10	Jharkhand	27	5	6	41	17
11	Karnataka	54	58	62	128	106
12	Kerala	0	3	0	1	1
13	Madhya Pradesh	1	5	0	4	2
14	Maharashtra	29	57	87	44	52
15	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	3	1
17	Mizoram	0	0	1	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	0	6	0	0	0
20	Punjab	11	8	13	12	2
21	Rajasthan	30	19	28	38	79
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	2	26	29	56	34
24	Telangana	147	224	175	168	86
25	Tripura	1	0	0	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	10	5	3
27	Uttarakhand	41	25	54	57	53
28	West Bengal	3	2	0	2	1
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	1	7	2	3	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	2	0
32	Delhi	6	11	36	52	49
33	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0
34	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	1	4
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	476	613	751	1390	1235

Source: Crime in India, National Crime Records Bureau

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2164 FOR 06.08.2026 RAISED BY DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL REGARDING ABOLISHING CHILD AND BONDED LABOUR.

Sl. No.	Year	Name of State/UT	No. of Bonded Labourer rehabilitated under the Scheme
1.	2023-24	Rajasthan	56
		Tamil Nadu	176
		Chhattisgarh	76
		Pondicherry	5
		Odisha	155
2.	2024-25	Rajasthan	50
		Tamil Nadu	196
3.	2025-26	Uttar Pradesh	77
		Tamil Nadu	140
4.	2026-27*	Bihar	48
		Tamil Nadu	117
		Uttar Pradesh	25

**As on 31.07.2026*
