

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2392**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02ND JANUARY, 2018/ PAUSHA 12, 1939 (SAKA)

MODERN SLAVERY

2392. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the findings of the report, Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage 2017, released recently by International Labour Organisation indicating that a large number of people are living as modern slaves around the world including in India;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof in the Indian context;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (d) whether the Government has questioned the credibility of the report; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Labour and Employment has informed that International Labour Organisation's (ILO) report titled 'Global Estimates on Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage' was issued by ILO recently. The report mentions that an estimated 40.3 million people were victims of modern slavery which was most prevalent in Africa followed by Asia and Pacific. The report indicates figures for modern slavery, forced labour and forced marriages region wise.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has informed that India recognizes 'International Labour Standards' established by ILO, which recognizes the term 'Forced Labour'. In India, engaging bonded labour is a criminal offence and the Government of India has strict punitive provisions incorporated in national legislations.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has questioned the credibility of the report and have informed ILO that the Report had used data primarily from independent surveys conducted by Walk Free Foundation which is a private foundation and the data/report has neither been verified with any official data source in India nor was the Government consulted or informed regarding the survey's methodology. The sample size of 17000 reflected in the report was not a correct representation for India with a population of over 1.25 billion. It has been reiterated that 'Modern Slavery' was not a term defined in the context of International Labour Standards and that this term should not be used interchangeably with the accepted term 'forced labour'.
