

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1446
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2018**

DRAFT ON BONDED LABOUR REHABILITATION SCHEME

1446. SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the latest draft of the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme proposes linking the disbursement of rehabilitation funds for rescued bonded labourers with the conviction of perpetrators of bonded labour;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the rationale for this linkage; and**
- (c) whether this position is adopted in the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme and if so, the details thereof along with the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the interests of the bonded labourers are protected during the long time period that is likely between the bonded labourers being rescued and the perpetrator being convicted?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (c): Reimbursement of rehabilitation assistance to the States under the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016' is linked with conviction of the accused, as proof of bondage is required. However, immediate assistance upto Rs. 20,000/- would be reimbursed to the States irrespective of the status of conviction proceedings. To protect the interest of freed bonded labourers, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 provides for Vigilance Committees at District and Sub-Divisional level headed by the District Magistrate and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, or a person nominated by them, respectively. The Vigilance Committee, inter-alia, is mandated to provide for the economic and social rehabilitation of the freed bonded labourers, defend any suit instituted against the freed bonded labourers and advise the District Magistrate to ensure that the provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder are implemented properly. The District Magistrate has also been conferred with the powers of Judicial Magistrate of first class for convicting the perpetrators of bonded labour system.
