

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4291
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.01.2019**

DATA ON BONDED LABOUR

†4291. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

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

- (a) whether the Government is not having any information in regard to the presence of bonded labourers in the country as well as extent of action taken under the Child Labour laws and the outcome of such action thereof;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and**
- (c) the strategy being adopted by the Government for the welfare of the Bonded labourers in absence of the above data?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Instances of prevalence of bonded labour system are noticed now and then even after its abolition. The root of the problem lies in the social customs and economic compulsions.

Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned state government/union territory. For these functions, District Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been entrusted with certain duties/responsibilities. To assist the District/Sub-Divisional Magistrates in discharge of their statutory duties, vigilance committees are required to be constituted at district and sub-divisional level. Under the Act, it is the duty of every District Magistrate or every officer specified by him to inquire whether bonded labour system is prevalent within the local limits of his jurisdiction. Further one of the functions of the vigilance committees is to make a survey as to whether there is any offence for which cognizance ought to be taken under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

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In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour has been in operation since May, 1978. The Government has revamped the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers with effect from 17th May, 2016. The salient features of the 'Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016' are as under:

Financial assistance is provided for rehabilitation of a rescued bonded labourer at the rate of rupees one lakh for adult male beneficiary, Rs. 2 lakh for special category beneficiaries such as children including orphans or those rescued from organized & forced begging rings or other forms of forced child labour, and women and Rs. 3 lakh in cases of bonded or forced labour involving extreme cases of deprivation or marginalization such as trans-genders, or women or children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation such as brothels, massage parlours, placement agencies etc., or trafficking, or in cases of differently abled persons, or in situations where the District Magistrate deems fit.

The financial assistance for rehabilitation is 100% funded by the Central Government.

The Scheme also provides for financial assistance of Rs. 4.50 lakh per district to the States for conducting survey of bonded labourers, Rs. 1.00 Lakh for evaluatory studies and Rs. 10 Lakhs per State per annum for awareness generation. Central Government will give 50% of the amount required for conducting Survey, Awareness Generation and Evaluatory Studies in advance. A State may conduct survey once in every three years per sensitive district. A State may conduct five Evaluatory Studies per year.

The release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused. However, immediate assistance upto Rs. 20,000/- may be provided to the rescued bonded labour by the District Administration irrespective of the status of conviction proceedings.

The Scheme provides for creation of a Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at District level by each State with a permanent corpus of at least Rs. 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.

The benefits prescribed above shall be, in addition to, other cash or non-cash benefits which a beneficiary under this scheme is entitled to, by or under any other scheme or law applicable for the time being in force.

The State/UT-wise details of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated since 2016, is as under:

Year	State/UT	Bonded Labourers released and rehabilitated
2015-16	Uttar Pradesh	2216
2016-17	Bihar	1792
	Jharkhand	118
	Odisha	258
	Uttar Pradesh	258
	Karnataka	181
2017-18	Bihar	461
	Karnataka	1500
	Uttar Pradesh	3492
	Rajasthan	159
	Madhya Pradesh	02
	Chhattisgarh	57
	Odisha	742
2018-19 (till 12/18)	Uttar Pradesh	741
	Bihar	251
	Assam	12
	Puducherry	9
	Chhattisgarh	1276
