

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4336
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.01.2019**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME FOR
REHABILITATION OF BONDED LABOURERS 2016 MAHARASHTRA**

4336. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers, 2016 is being implemented in the State of Maharashtra;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the Scheme and its impact on the State of Maharashtra;**
- (c) the number of bonded labourers rehabilitated in Maharashtra since the inception of the scheme, year wise; and**
- (d) the year-wise amount of funds allocated for implementing the said Scheme in Maharashtra, year-wise since its inception?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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. This Scheme is applicable all over India, including in the State of Maharashtra. The salient features of the 'Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016' are as under:

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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.

Under the Central Sector Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, 2016, the District Administration will send the financial demand the State's concerned Ministry/ Department dealing with the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme and the State Ministry/Department will send the proposal to the Central Government. No such proposal has been received from the Govt. of Maharashtra, under the Central Sector Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, 2016. However, since the inception of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, in the State of Maharashtra, a total of 1404 number of bonded labourers were identified and released, out of which 1325 were rehabilitated and a total of Rs.10.10 lakhs was provided as Central Assistance in this respect.
