

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1238  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2019**

**BONDED LABOURERS IN BACKWARD AND RURAL AREAS**

**†1238. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:**

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

- (a) the estimated number of bonded labourers in backward and rural areas of the country as on date, State/UT-wise;**
- (b) whether any plan has been formulated/proposed to be formulated for their release and rehabilitation and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the State-wise number of bonded labourers released/rehabilitated during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;**
- (d) whether any assistance has been provided for this purpose especially in backward and rural zones of the country during the said period; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a): No such data is maintained.**

**(b): The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Contd..2/-**

**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.**

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**(c) to (e): The number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated and central assistance provided during the last three years and current year (Till 12/2018)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>No of Bonded Labourers released</b>	<b>Central assistance provided (Rs. in lakhs)</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>2216</b>	<b>221.60</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>1792</b>	<b>179.20</b>
	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>25.80</b>
	<b>Jharkhand</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>11.80</b>
	<b>Odisha</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>25.80</b>
	<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>18.10</b>
<b>2017-18</b>	<b>Odisha</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>74.2</b>
	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>3492</b>	<b>358.10</b>
	<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>150.00</b>
	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>54.50</b>
	<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>15.90</b>
	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>11.40</b>
	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.40</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>127.6</b>
	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>74.10</b>
	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>47.60</b>
	<b>Assam</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2.40</b>
	<b>Puducherry</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.80</b>