

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2861
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023**

SURVEY OF BONDED LABOURERS

†2861. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey of bonded labours in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent bonded labourers;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to fix working hours for domestic labourers; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) & (b): Ministry of Labour and Employment has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme viz. Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour for identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Under the Scheme, State Government/UT Administration may conduct Survey of bonded labourers once in every three years per sensitive districts and the amount of Survey is Rs. 4.50 lakhs. During last three years, 26 Surveys have been conducted by various State/UT Governments.

(c): The Government has adopted a multi- pronged strategy to prevent bonded labourers which is as follows:

(i) Central Government has enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 which empowers Executive Magistrates to exercise powers of Judicial Magistrate of first or second class for trial of offences; Vigilance Committees at District and Sub-divisional levels have been prescribed to identify and rehabilitate bonded labourers.

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(ii) Implementation of Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers-2021:

- **Under the Scheme, the Government of India provides immediate financial assistance amounting to Rs.30,000/- for each case of rehabilitation.**
- **Rehabilitation assistance to the tune of Rs.1.00 lakh, Rs.2.00 lakh and Rs.3.00 lakh is provided to rescued bonded labourers based on their category and level of exploitation upon proof of bondage.**
- **The Scheme also provides for financial assistance of Rs. 4.50 lakh per district to the States for conducting Survey once in every three years per sensitive district, Rs. 1.50 lakh for Evaluatory studies (maximum of five Evaluatory Studies per year) and Rs. 10 lakhs per State per annum for Awareness Generation.**

(d) & (e): The Labour Codes, viz. Code on Wages, 2019, Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2019 and Social Security Code, 2020 provide for, inter-alia, decent working conditions, wages, safety, grievance redressal mechanisms and other social security benefits to all categories of workers.
