

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1202
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021**

BONDED LABOURERS

1202. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented a 7 year strategy (2017-18 to 2023-24) to reduce the number of bonded labourers to 50 per cent of the 2016 estimate;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the progress made till date, and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has implemented a 3 year action plan (2017-18 to 2019-20) to survey bonded labour across states;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the progress made till date, and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) the year-wise budgetary allocations and funds released toward addressing the issue of bonded labour, from 2014 till date?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government of India is fully committed for complete eradication of bonded labour. There exists a robust mechanism to address the issue of bonded labour. The Bonded labour system was abolished throughout the country by an Ordinance in 1975 which was later replaced by Bonded labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Act provides for the abolition of Bonded labour System with a view to prevent the economic and physical exploitation of the weaker sections of the people. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. Till date, 3,15,136 bonded labourers have been identified and released in the country.

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Standard operating procedure for identification and rescue of bonded labourers and prosecution of offender has been framed and issued to all the State Governments for strengthening the prosecution machinery. Regular sensitization programmes and coordination with the field level functionaries such as District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police/Labour Department officials at the district and state level are held under the aegis of National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commissions.

(c) & (d): As per provisions of Central Sector Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour 2016 fund is released to State Governments for conducting survey of bonded labourers. Details of fund released during 2017-18 to 2019-20 is as under:

Year	State/UT	Fund Released (Rs. in lakh)
2017-18	Rajasthan	74.25
	Madhya Pradesh	18.00
	Sikkim	09.00
2018-19	Chhattisgarh	60.75
2019-20	Tamil Nadu	24.75

(e): The year-wise budgetary allocation and fund released is as under:

Year	B.E (Rs. in lakhs)	R.E (Rs. in lakhs)	Fund Utilized(Rs. in lakhs)
2014-15	500	500	95.30
2015-16	500	500	221.60
2016-17	500	300	260.7
2017-18	1000	812	668.1
2018-19	1000	750	319.25
2019-20	800	100	34.75
2020-21	1000	100	99.85
2021-22	1000	-	280.43