

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 80
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021**

RESCUING BONDED LABOURERS

80. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:

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

- (a) the details of progress made towards the target of rescuing 1.84 crore bonded labourers by 2030, including the number of bonded labourers rescued annually from 2016 till date;**
- (b) the details of all initiatives implemented to achieve this goal, including strengthening the prosecution machinery; and**
- (c) the details of progress made towards reaching 100% conviction rate in bonded labour cases, including the conviction rate for such cases from 2014 till date?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): There is a robust mechanism to address the issue of Bonded labour. The Bonded labour system was abolished throughout the country by an Ordinance with effect from 24.10.1975 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.

Contd..2/-

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 for improving the conviction rate in such cases.

The number of bonded labourers rescued and rehabilitated year wise from 2016 is as under:-

Year	No. of bonded labourers rescued and rehabilitated
2016-17	2607
2017-18	6413
2018-19	2246
2019-20	0
2020-21	320
2021-22	1174
Total	12,760
