

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

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 79
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2022**

BONDED LABOUR

***79. SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has been tracking the incidences of bonded labour in the country;**
- (b) whether there has been an increase in the incidences of bonded labour since the onset of Covid-19;**
- (c) the State-wise break-up of identified cases of bonded labour from 2015 to 2021;**
- (d) the State-wise break-up of total number of bonded labourers rehabilitated during the said period;**
- (e) the amount spent for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers from 2015 to 2021; and**
- (f) the mechanism that the Government has in place to combat this issue?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (f) THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER *79 FOR 07.02.2022 REGARDING BONDED LABOUR BY SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI.

(a) & (b): Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 by promulgation of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance on 25th October, 1975. This was later replaced by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are identified for rehabilitation. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned States/Union Territories. However, in order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labour, a Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer-2016 is in operation since 17.05.2016.

From the reports available from the State Governments, no discernible change in the prevalence of bonded labour due to Covid-19 pandemic is observed. However, keeping in view the challenges posed by the successive waves of the pandemic, all State/UT Governments have been directed to prepare a State Action Plan for preventing and rehabilitating victims of bonded labour and labour trafficking.

(c) & (d): The State-wise break-up of identified cases of bonded labour from 2015 to 2021 is as under:

Year	State/UT	Bonded Labour identified and rehabilitated
2015-16	Uttar Pradesh	2216
2016-17	Bihar	1792
	Jharkhand	118
	Odisha	258
	Uttar Pradesh	258
	Karnataka	181
2017-18	Bihar	461
	Karnataka	1500

	Uttar Pradesh	3492
	Rajasthan	159
	Madhya Pradesh	02
	Chhattisgarh	57
	Odisha	742
2018-19	Uttar Pradesh	741
	Bihar	238
	Assam	12
	Puducherry	9
	Chhattisgarh	1276
2019-20	-	-
2020-21	Assam	1
	Bihar	220
	Madhya Pradesh	34
	Rajasthan	49
	West Bengal	16
2021-22	Bihar	154
	Tamilnadu	876
	Chhattisgarh	250
	Rajasthan	50

(e): The amount spent for the rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers from 2015 to 2021 is given below:

Year	(Rs. in lakh) Amount spent for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers from 2015 to 2021
2015-16	221.60
2016-17	260.70
2017-18	664.50
2018-19	319.25
2019-20	34.75
2020-21	99.85
2021-22	296.00

(f): There exists an institutional mechanism to address the issue of bonded labour. 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 and State Human Rights Commissions.
