

(iv) promotion of joint venture programmes with foreign fishery industry; and

(v) training of fishery operatives for creating a cadre of trained manpower for manning the deep sea fishing vessels.

Abolition of bonded labour

659. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated bonded labour in the country at present; and

(b) whether any time bound programme has been adopted by the Central Government to abolish this evil from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers rests with the State Governments. As per the latest reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and freed as on 31-12-84 was 1,73,814 out of which 1,31,407 have been rehabilitated.

The identification of bonded labourers and their subsequent release and rehabilitation is a continuous process, and the State Governments have been requested to conduct periodic surveys to identify bonded labourers in their respective States and take necessary steps for their quick release and rehabilitation.

With a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Labour in 1978-79 under which the State Governments are provided central financial assistance on matching grant (50:50) basis for rehabilitation of bonded labourers. The scheme envisages provision of rehabilitation grant upto a ceiling limit of Rs. 4,000/- per bonded labourer, half of which is given as Central share. In order to complete the process of

rehabilitation of bonded labourers as a time-bound programme, annual targets are fixed for different States and they are required to rehabilitate the targeted number of bonded labourers.

Cost structure of crops as proposed by the A.C.P.C.

660. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission proposes to undertake the structure of cultivation/production of various principal crops;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by which department the cost structure is being dealt with at present and whether it is proposed to transfer the subject to the Commission; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Agricultural Prices Commission, now renamed as the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices, had been examining the cost structure of different agricultural commodities for which price recommendations are made. The redesignated Commission will continue to analyse the cost of production estimates in the coming years also.

The estimates of cost of cultivation/production are generated through field studies conducted by Agricultural and General Universities under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India. The Scheme is in operation in 16 States. The scheme is being implemented by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics in the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to transfer the scheme to the Commission.