

increased the diameter of pipes flowing money into the market through banks. The Government had announced three stimulus packages on 07.12.2008, 02.01.2009 and 24.02.2009, in the form of developmental assistance, tax concession, etc. to counter economic slowdown and promote growth which was beneficial to the entire economy including the labour force. Active labour market policies were pursued more vigorously. These measures have helped economic growth to pick up. Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & Employment is carrying out Quarterly Quick Employment Surveys on "Effect of Economic Slowdown on Employment in India". As per eighth quarterly survey for June-September, 2010, the employment at overall level has increased by 12.96 lakh in September, 2010 over September, 2009.

Bonded labour in the country

287. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bonded labour still exist in parts of the country;
- (b) whether Government is aware of cases of bonded labourers reported from brick kilns in U.P. recently; and
- (c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to curb this practice?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are identified for rehabilitation. According to the reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and released is 2,89,225 as on 31.12.2010.

(b) and (c) Two cases of bonded labourers in brick kilns in Uttar Pradesh were reported recently. These have been sent to the State Government for necessary action. The responsibility for implementing the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 lies with the State Governments. The Central Government provides financial assistance for rehabilitation of bonded labour on receipt of proposals from the State Government.

India's Position regarding new jobs in 2011

288. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: