

Rehabilitation of migrant labourers from Odisha

1360. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of migrant labourers from Odisha's Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) Districts confined in brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are released under the Abolition of Bonded Labour Act by the respective Governments;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any measures to facilitate their proper rehabilitation as provided under the Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the Bonded Labour System has been abolished throughout the country. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are identified for rehabilitation.

As per the information received from the State Governments the total number of bonded labourers including brick-kiln workers, identified and released under the Act till 31.03.2012 by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Odisha is as under:

Name of the State	No. of Bonded Labourers identified and released
Andhra Pradesh	38141
Tamil Nadu	65573
Karnataka	63510
Odisha	50413

(c) to (e) The responsibility of identifying and rehabilitating the freed bonded labourers lies with the respective State Governments. In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour is in operation since May, 1978. Under the Scheme, rehabilitation assistance @ Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labour is provided which is equally shared by the Central and State Government.

A Special Group under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (L&E) had been constituted to review and monitor the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Group is holding region-wise meetings to impress upon the State Governments to effectively implement the Act. Till now the Group has held 21 meetings in different regions.

In collaboration with ILO, the Central Government and State Government of Tamil Nadu launched a pilot project in the State for the purpose of reducing vulnerability to bondage through promotion of decent work. The project is being replicated in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and other States.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha have signed an MoU in June, 2012 to facilitate strengthening of inter-state coordination mechanism for smooth implementation of the activities in source and destination areas of migrant workers. The project approach includes: (a) Social protection to brick kiln workers by converging government schemes at source and destination States (b) Improving workplace facilities (c) Promoting collective bargaining by imparting rights based education to workers (d) Social dialogue for improving labour recruitment and working conditions and (d) Focused approach towards elimination of child labour in brick kilns.

Similar MoU is being proposed among the State governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Funds to NGOs engaged in prevention of misuse of liquor

†1361. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.