

Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 by the Union Secretary (Labour and Employment) on 27.09.2010. Union Minister of Labour and Employment has also written to the Chief Ministers of the States/UTs in April, 2010 and recently on 5th June, 2012 requesting them to take steps for collecting and utilizing cess and implementing the Acts. Union Secretary (Labour and Employment) has also written to Chief Secretaries of the States/UTs on 29th June, 2012 suggesting, *inter-alia*, to take steps for accelerating registration of workers, drawing out strategies for implementing model schemes of the Central Government and utilizing welfare funds for vocational training and skill development of the construction workers and their children. Union Government in association with ILo organized a National workshop on welfare of building and construction workers on 21st September, 2012 at Hyderabad, which was attended by Labour Secretaries of most of the States/UTs and Secretaries/CEOs of State Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards.

Identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour

2126. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 36 years of enactment of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the inhuman practice of bonded labour is still prevalent in the country;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the National Human Rights Commission report in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what measures are proposed to be taken for proper identification of bonded labour and rehabilitation of the released bonded labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (c) 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. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State Governments. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are identified for rehabilitation.

The Central Government takes appropriate action on National Human Rights Commission reports or references on the issues regarding bonded labourers.

The responsibility for 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, a 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. The scheme also provides for financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for conducting surveys, awareness generation activities and evaluatory studies.

Safety of mine workers from occupational Hazards

2127. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government does not has a policy or legislation for ensuring safety of mine workers from occupational hazards;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has prescribed directives in ensuring the safety of workers in an event of an accident;
- (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) to (e) Adequate statutory provisions exist under the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder to ensure occupational safety and health of mine workers. The Government has declared National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at Work place in 2009 which includes mine workers. Besides, directives in the form of guidelines and instructions are being issued by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) from time to time.

Child Labour in the country

2128. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the approximate number of child labour in the country at present;