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;