

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	224292	38665	11017	2548
4.	Chhattisgarh	3669	7321	636	0
5.	Delhi	-	-	18576	0
6.	Gujarat	150487	207973	15945	16282
7.	Haryana	22664	17471	28073	3988
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2300	2942	2156	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	11274	16872	1139	0
10.	Jharkhand	63684	14661	4123	0
11.	Karnataka	89796	113429	20793	2479
12.	Kerala	1182	0	0	1583
13.	Madhya Pradesh	91454	32812	57688	9063
14.	Maharashtra	66370	127996	54230	12077
15.	Odisha	54390	38288	36522	5363
16.	Punjab	16802	6433	15664	9937
17.	Rajasthan	93055	261871	43184	7826
18.	Tamil Nadu	0	13880	3471	0
19.	Uttarakhand	14810	7239	3219	2103
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1012294	546320	147820	68899
21.	West Bengal	357265	134657	31946	27716
ALL INDIA		2511101	1727271	546897	198602

Bonded Labour

2129. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that bonded labour is rampant in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the number of cases registered so far;

(c) whether National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed its concern over registering of large number of cases on bonded labour across the country;

(d) the details of the problems being faced by Government in resolving the cases; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) 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. According to the reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and released is 2,94,155 as on 31.3.2012.

Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, States/Union Territories are mandated to implement the provisions of the Act. The District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates and the Vigilance Committees constituted under the Act have been entrusted with certain duties/responsibilities for implementation of the Act. The Act provides for penalties for enforcement of bonded labour. The information regarding the number of cases registered and action initiated against those engaged in bonded labour is not maintained at central level.

(c) to (e) National Human Rights Commission has been monitoring the implementation of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act as per the directives of Supreme Court. The Central Government takes appropriate action on National Human Rights Commission reports or references on the issues regarding bonded labourers.

Special Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Labour and Employment has been constituted to review and monitor the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act. The Group holds region wise meetings from time to time to impress upon the State Government to effectively implement the Act.

Central Government and State Government of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with ILO launched a pilot project in the State for the purpose of reducing vulnerability to bondage through promotion of decent work. Attempt is now being made to replicate this approach in some other states of the country.

Mandatory registration of Job-seekers in employment exchange

2130.. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to make it mandatory for all the job-seekers across the country to register themselves in the concerned employment exchange; and

(b) if so, the details of the modalities Government has adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does, not arise.

Investment by EPFO in Equities

2131. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is considering investment in equities as funds earning 12 per cent annually in the National Pension System do;

(b) how much EPFO has invested in private sector, blue chip manufacturing companies; and

(c) how Government would ensure that 5 crore subscribers are not punished with low returns for no fault of theirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As on 31.10.2012, the total of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) corpus invested in private sector is Rs. 26,896.54 Crore including Rs. 4.05 Crore investments in blue chip manufacturing companies.