

(b) Under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1998, adequate provisions of safety and health for building and other construction workers have been made. To enforce these provisions, the officers of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Organisation conducts regular and vigorous inspections in the construction establishments of Central Sphere and take action against the defaulting employers by filing complaints in the courts. Under Section 47 and 48 of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, penal provisions of fine and imprisonment have been made for defaulting employers.

#### **Enforcement of bonded labour laws**

1048. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the law prohibiting all forms of bonded labour and providing criminal prosecution for the guilty, thousands of families are still in its grip in sectors such as mining, quarries and brick-kilns;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 86.6 per cent of bonded labourers in India belong to SC and ST which makes up for 24.4 per cent of the country's population; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to increase enforcement of bonded labour laws and ensure welfare for the victims?

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. Most of the bonded labourers identified and released belong to SC and ST. Under the Act, 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.

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.

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 Governments 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.

#### **Condition of labourers/workers in unorganised sectors**

†1049. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment regarding health and deteriorating condition of labourers/workers in unorganised sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the scheme formulated by Government to provide pension, social security, insurance, medical treatment, health and other welfare facilities to the workers in unorganised sectors and also to improve their condition;

(c) the State-wise and scheme-wise number of labourers/workers benefited/to be benefited from these schemes; and

(d) the details of programmes/drives undertaken by Government to create awareness among labourers/workers in unorganised sectors about such types of schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (d) The unorganized sector

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.