

- (ii) Awareness campaigns have been undertaken through the electronic as well as print media from time to time to educate the members.
- (iii) The employers' and employees' unions have also been requested to advise the members to file such claims for settlement.
- (iv) Online Transfer Claim Portal (OTCP) has been introduced to facilitate online submission of transfer claim in order to make the transfer process transparent and simple. The adoption of Universal Account Number (UAN) would do away the need for transfer of claims as it will link the previous account of the members.
- (v) The settlement of claims have been simplified and following steps are taken to ensure payments to the rightful claimants:
 - (1) Attestation of claim forms by the authorized signatory has been made mandatory where the establishment is in operation.
 - (2) To identify the members in those cases where employer is not available, the attestation by the bank authorities is insisted upon along with at least one of the documents as required under KYC (Know Your Customer) of the bank.

Bonded labour

1194. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the precautionary measures being put in place to ensure that there is no forced labour in industries and the monitoring and evaluation report of these measures; and

(b) the consolidated results of the surveys that have been carried out as mandated by the Supreme Court Judgment of October, 2012 to identify bonded labour, the number of districts and States which have conducted the survey, the percentage of estimated bonded labourers across India, the number of people rescued out of bondage and all other relevant details revealed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Under Article 23 of the Constitution, beggar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision is an offence punishable in accordance with law.

The bonded labour system has also been abolished under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Under the Act, the States/Union Territories are mandated to implement the provisions of the Act. The District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates

and 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 the Act.

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 @ ₹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.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 15.10.2012 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 3922 of 1985 has *inter-alia*, directed that fresh surveys be conducted periodically once in three years in all the States/UTs in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the revised report, the findings of the survey should be made a part of a computerized data base available on the websites of all concerned. The Court further directed that the responsibility of conducting the surveys is on the District Level Vigilance Committees and Sub Divisional Vigilance Committees of the States/Union Territories and such committees should submit their reports to the NHRC. This should be done in every three years and Committees also should be reconstituted in every three years.

The Central Government has asked the States/Union Territories to issue necessary instructions to the concerned authorities for implementing the directions of the Hon'ble Court contained in the judgment dated 15.10.2012.

The information regarding results of the surveys carried out in response to Supreme Court judgment by the State Governments is not available at Central level.

Committee on illegal mining

1195. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Committee to deal with illegal mining taking place in the States;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the details of the action to be taken by the Central Government to check such illegal mining in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.