

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	13.3	28.0	9.2	17.1	10.5	25.2
Uttarakhand	1.3	5.4	1.6	2.9	2.5	5.3
Uttar Pradesh	0.6	3.3	1.0	2.9	0.9	4.1
West Bengal	2.5	6.2	1.9	4.0	2.7	4.8
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6.2	8.8	8.0	8.4	5.4	8.6
Chandigarh	2.6	4.0	24.7	3.4	0.0	6.4
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.3	3.0	4.8	5.3	0.0	0.0
Daman and Diu	0.3	3.0	4.0	2.4	0.0	0.5
Lakshadweep	7.5	25.0	9.7	5.7	16.0	11.5
Puducherry	7.0	8.1	3.0	3.1	0.8	2.9
All-India	1.7	4.5	1.6	3.4	1.7	3.4

Source: NSSO Reports, 2004-05, 2009-10 and 2011-12

Survey to determine bonded labourers

2028. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry intends to undertake a survey to determine the number of bonded labourers in the informal sector in the country at present, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken steps towards sensitizing the officials regarding the problem of bonded labour, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Ministry has considered working with NGOs in order to investigate this issue and for rehabilitation of released bonded labourers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) A Centrally sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour is in operation since May, 1978. The scheme, *inter-alia*, provides for financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs @ ₹ 2 Lakhs per district for conducting survey of bonded labourers once in 3 years. An amount of ₹ 618.00 lakh has been released so far for conducting survey of bonded labour.

(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. Under the Act, identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned States/Union Territories. District Magistrate has been conferred with the powers of Judicial Magistrate first class for convicting the perpetrators of bonded labour system upto 3 years of imprisonment.

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 borne by the Central and State Governments. In the case of the North Eastern States, 100% central assistance is provided, if they express their inability to provide their share. The scheme also provides financial assistance to the State Governments for conducting surveys, awareness generation activities and evaluatory studies.

(c) No, Sir. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned States/Union Territories.

Strengthening laws/rules against Bonded Labour

2029. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has undertaken any steps to strengthen the Rules under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition), Act, 1976, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Ministry plans to take any other steps towards strengthening the laws against bonded labour in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (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. Instances of prevalence of bonded labour system are noticed now and then even after its abolition. The reasons are spelt out exhaustively at Section 2(g) of The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The root of the problem lies in the social customs and economic compulsions.