

(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.

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. Under this Act, the 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.

Reserves of gold and diamonds

† 2030. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of mines/reserves of gold and diamonds in the country as on date;

(b) the State-wise and place-wise details of the quantity and price of gold and diamonds explored in the last three years and in current year in the country including Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether Government has taken cognizance of the fact that some foreign companies engaged in the mining of gold and diamonds are not complying with the guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during the said period and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines the State-wise reserves/resources of Gold and Diamond as on 1.4.2013 are given in Statement-I (A) and I(B) respectively (*See below*).

(b) As per the available information with Indian Bureau of Mines, the quantity and value of Gold and Diamond produced in the country, during last three years and current year State/UT-wise is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.