

**Cases relating to bonded labour**

1073. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases where FIR has been registered under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) what is the rate of conviction in cases filed under the Act;

(c) whether there are increasing number of inter-State cases of bonded labour;

(d) whether there are any provisions for repatriation of bonded labourers to their home State; and

(e) if so, the designated authority who has the responsibility to conduct the repatriation, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Action against the guilty under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 is taken by the respective State/UT Governments. Under the Act, the District Magistrate has been conferred with the powers of Judicial Magistrate of first class for convicting the perpetrators of bonded labour system. The Act provides for punishment of imprisonment for a term upto three years and fine upto Rupees Two thousand for extracting bonded labour. The Central Government does not maintain records in respect of the number of cases where FIR has been registered under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Under the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016, the release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused. However, immediate assistance upto ₹ 20,000/- is provided to the rescued bonded labour by the District Administration irrespective of the status of conviction proceedings. The Central Government has not received any such proposal from the States for release of full amount of rehabilitation assistance.

(c) No such data is Centrally maintained.

(d) and (e) The rescuing District Magistrate or Sub Divisional Magistrate concerned is responsible for repatriation.