

Rehabilitation of bonded labourers

1074. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many bonded labourers have been rehabilitated till 2018 under the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour Scheme of 2016;
- (b) the details thereof, district-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the details of the industries in which they have been rehabilitated, new employment opportunities and transaction cost incurred; and
- (d) what steps has the Ministry undertaken to put in place a standard labour-contract for these rehabilitated labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The number of bonded labourers rehabilitated so far under the revamped Central Sector Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, 2016 is as under:—

State/UT	Number of Bonded Labourers Rehabilitated
Assam	12
Bihar	322
Chhattisgarh	57
Madhya Pradesh	02
Puducherry	09
Uttar Pradesh	89
TOTAL	491

(c) As per the revamped Central Sector Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, 2016, a rescued bonded labour, in addition to cash assistance, can be rehabilitated through following provisions:—

- (i) Allotment of house-site and agricultural land.
- (ii) Land development.
- (iii) Provision of low cost dwelling units.

- (iv) Animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, piggery etc.
- (v) Wage employment, enforcement of minimum wages etc.
- (vi) Collection and processing of minor forest products.
- (vii) Supply of essential commodities under targeted public distribution system.
- (viii) Education for children.

It would depend upon a rescued bonded Labour that which sector he wanted to opt for his rehabilitation. However, it has mostly been observed that rescued bonded labourers are choosing agriculture sector, animal husbandry and self-employment as part of their rehabilitation.

(d) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory. For these functions, District Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been entrusted with certain duties/responsibilities.

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 has been in operation since May, 1978. The Government has revamped the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers with effect from 17th May, 2016. The salient features of the 'Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016' are as under:—

- (1) Financial assistance is provided for rehabilitation of a rescued bonded labourer at the rate of rupees one lakh for adult male beneficiary, ₹ 2 lakh for special category beneficiaries such as children including orphans or those rescued from organized and forced begging rings or other forms of forced child labour, and women and ₹ 3 lakh in cases of bonded or forced labour involving extreme cases of deprivation or marginalization such as trans-genders, or women or children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation such as brothels, massage parlours, placement agencies etc., or trafficking, or in cases of differently abled persons, or in situations where the District Magistrate deems fit.
- (2) The financial assistance for rehabilitation is 100% funded by the Central Government.

- (3) The scheme also provides for financial assistance of ₹ 4.50 lakh per district to the States for conducting survey of bonded labourers, ₹ 1.00 lakh for evaluatory studies and ₹ 10 lakhs per State per annum for awareness generation. Central Government will give 50% of the amount required for conducting survey, awareness generation and evaluatory studies in advance. A State may conduct survey once in every three years per sensitive district. A State may conduct five evaluatory studies per year.
- (4) The release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused. However, immediate assistance upto ₹ 20,000/- may be provided to the rescued bonded labour by the District Administration irrespective of the status of conviction proceedings.
- (5) The scheme provides for creation of a Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at District level by each State with a permanent corpus of at least ₹ 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.
- (6) The benefits prescribed above shall be, in addition to, other cash or non-cash benefits which a beneficiary under this scheme is entitled to, by or under any other scheme or law applicable for the time being in force.

Social security of labourers in the textile industry

1075. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the report by International Labour Organisation (ILO) that over half the garment sector in India pays less than legal minimum wage;
- (b) whether there is any policy by Government to ensure that statutory minimum wages in the textile sector is reviewed regularly in line with the cost of living, provide adequate income for a decent living standard for workers without the need for excessive overtime hours, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government controls the attempt of manufacturers to devalue the female labour by paying them lesser wages in garment sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.