

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1050
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2021**

BONDED LABOURERS

1050. # DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of bonded labour are increasing day by day in the country;**
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereto;**
- (c) whether it is a fact that serious concern is needed to eradicate bonded labour;**
- (d) if so, whether Government efforts are being faced with various challenges in order to eradicate bonded labour, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether Government has reviewed the implementation of centrally sponsored bonded labour scheme in a few states, if so, the details and findings thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (c): The Government of India is fully committed for complete eradication of bonded labour and identify, rescue, release and rehabilitate them. The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by Law throughout the country by an Ordinance with effect from 24.10.1975 and this Law was replaced by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Act provides for the abolition of Bonded

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Labour System with a view to prevent the economic and physical exploitation of the weaker section of the people. 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.

(d): Government's efforts for eliminating bonded labour are facing some challenges which are mainly attributable to general social bias, absentism of labourers as witness due to their migratory nature and consequent delay in trial of the bonded labour cases.

(e): In Order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labour, Central Plan Scheme was started in 1978 and the Scheme has been revised from time to time. The Scheme was last modified in May, 2016. As per the new Scheme, the Central Government bears 100% expenditure and the State Governments are not required to pay any matching contribution for the purpose of cash rehabilitation assistance, evaluatory studies, surveys and awareness campaigns for bonded labour. Under the Scheme, a bonded labour rehabilitation fund is created at the District level by each State with a permanent corpus of at least Rs 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate. This fund is utilized for extending immediate financial help to the released bonded labour. Immediate financial assistance up to Rs.20,000/- per bonded labour is provided by the concerned District Magistrate from the corpus fund. This amount is fully reimbursed by the Central Government to the State Government. Further, under the Scheme financial assistance to the tune of Rs.1.00 lakh, Rs.2.00 lakh and Rs.3.00 lakh are provided to released bonded labourers based on their category and level of exploitation as against an amount of Rs.20,000/- only in the earlier scheme. In addition to the financial assistance, the beneficiaries are also entitled for the following non-cash assistance from the respective State Government:

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- 1. Allotment of House/site & agricultural land**
- 2. Land development**
- 3. Provision of low cost dwelling Units.**
- 4. Animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, piggery etc.**
- 5. Wage employment, enforcement of minimum wages etc.**
- 6. Collection and processing of minor forest products.**
- 7. Supply of essential commodities under targeted public distribution system.**
- 8. Education for children.**
- 9. Any other Welfare Scheme of State/Central Govt.**

As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are rescued, released and rehabilitated by District Administration. The total number of bonded labour identified and released is 3, 13,962 till date.
