

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government have been continuously urging up on the State governments to enforce and implement provisions contained in Bonded Labour and Child Labour laws strictly in their respective jurisdictions.

**Statement**

*Number of Bonded Labourers Identified and Released bonded so far*

Name of the State	No. of bonded labourers Identified and Released
Andhra Pradesh	36,289
Bihar	13,112
Karnataka	63,373
Madhya Pradesh	12,822
Orissa	49,971
Rajasthan	7,478
Tamil Nadu	65,573
Maharashtra	1,398
Uttar Pradesh	27,797
Kerala	823
Haryana	551
Gujarat	64
Arunachal Pradesh	3,526
Chhattisgarh	124
Punjab	69
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,82,970</b>

**Compulsory insurance scheme**

3035. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any compulsory insurance scheme and welfare fund for the Indian workers migrating to Gulf countries;

[10 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the status of its implementation; and

(b) whether there is any Bill relating to this scheme pending before the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Government has not formulated any compulsory insurance scheme for the Indian workers migrating to the Gulf countries. However, the Government proposes to constitute an Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund.

(b) and (c) The Government has introduced the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 which has provisions for constitution of an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

### **House building loan/assistance to beedi workers**

3036. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(b) whether there is any provision in the new housing policy to provide house building loan to beedi workers from the Employees Provident Fund:

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the eligibility criteria and the rate of interest on house building loan;

(d) whether Government are running or propose to start any scheme to provide assistance to the beedi workers in house building;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of beedi workers benefited by the scheme, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(a) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) There is no separate provision in the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for Beedi Workers. As per the existing Scheme the members of the employees' provident fund including beedi workers-with five years membership are entitled to avail benefits of withdrawal for the purchase or construction of dwelling house/flat including the acquisition of a suitable site for the purpose.