

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:368

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003

BONDED LABOUR

IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

**Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:**

(a) whether in view of National Human Rights Commission's dismay over non-filing of status reports on bonded labour to help their rehabilitation, the Hon'ble Supreme Court on July 15, 2003 has directed 11 States to file such reports within four weeks before the Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States;

(c) whether the Government have urged these States to comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's orders;

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto; and

(e) the present position of rehabilitation of bonded labour in these States?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 368 FOR 18.08.2003 REGARDING BONDED LABOUR.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 15th July, 2003 in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 3922/85, Public Union for Civil Liberties Vs. State of Tamil Nadu and others, directed 11 State Governments namely Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and Kerala to furnish regular status reports as requested by the National Human Rights Commission with effect from 1st January, 2002. It has also directed that such status reports should be filed within a period of four weeks.

(c) & (d): After the above mentioned order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, request has been made by the Ministry of Labour to the State Governments for compliance of the said order. In the same Writ Petition, through order dated 13th May, 1994 also the Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued similar directions for prompt compliance of the State Governments. The Ministry of Labour requested the State Governments for compliance of these directions and to send a status report.

The State Governments have been reporting that the important provisions contained in the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, like constitution of the Vigilance Committees at the District and Sub-divisional levels and conferring of the powers of a Judicial Magistrate on Executive Magistrates have been complied.

(e) Number of Bonded Labourers rehabilitated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme so far in the above-mentioned eleven States are given below:

S.No. State No. of bonded labourers rehabilitated.

1. Andhra Pradesh 29552

2. Haryana 49

3. Rajasthan 6321

4. Karnataka 57121

5. Bihar including Jharkhand 12521

6. Tamil Naldu 65573

7 Chattisgarh 124

8. Madhya Pradesh 11897

9. Gujarat 64

10. Uttar Pradesh including Uttaranchal 27797

11. Kerala 710