

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:416  
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005  
BONDED LABOURERS  
Meghwal Shri Kailash

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

- (a) the total number of bonded labourers in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of bonded labourers freed during the Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith the amount allocated to States and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to implement the programme related to their rehabilitation, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch any concrete and comprehensive new schemes to eradicate this inhuman practice; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

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

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 416 for answer on 25.4.2005.

(a) to (d): Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. However, incidence of Bonded labour is reported by the State Governments from time to time and efforts by the State Government concerned are made to release and rehabilitate them as soon as possible. As such, number of labour engaged as bonded labour in the country, state-wise, at any point of time is not maintainable. Since the enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976, 266,283 bonded labourers have been rehabilitated. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme since May, 1978 under which an amount of Rs.20,000/- is provided to each released bonded labour for his/her rehabilitation to be shared by the Central and State Government concerned on 50 : 50 basis. In the case of north-eastern States, entire amount of Rs.20,000 is provided by the central government. In addition, for survey of bonded labour, an amount of Rs.2.00 lakhs per district (once in three years), Rs.10.00 lakhs per annum for awareness generation and Rs.5.00 lakhs per annum for evaluatory studies are provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs. No grants are provided to Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) directly by the Central Government under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme.

The number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated and Central assistance provided to States for rehabilitation, awareness, survey and evaluatory studies under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during Tenth Five Year Plan are Annexed. At present, there is no proposal to launch any new Scheme in addition to the already existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme for identification and rehabilitation of Bonded Labour.