

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3663
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
BONDED LABOURERS
Chaure Shri Bapu Hari

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the practice of bonded labour is prevalent in large scale in the Red Hill area of Tiruwallur district of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the follow up action taken by the Government to rescue and rehabilitate the bonded labourers and punish the guilty persons involved in such activities?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Complaints of alleged incidence of bonded labour have been reported in the Red Hills area of Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu.

(c): As per information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, inspections were carried out in various rice mills and rice processing units and as a result 316 labourers were released from bondage from the district of Tiruvallur which includes the Redhills area of Ponneri Division during 2004-05. Prosecutions have been launched against the employers, FIR registered in six cases and a fine of Rs. 8,000 have been collected from them during the above period. The State Government has been supervising the functioning of all the ricemills in Redhills area by enforcing the Factories Act, etc. to ensure payment of minimum wages to the workers as well as ensuring that the factory owners do not use debt as bondage.