

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3671
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
BONDED CHILD LABOUR IN CIRCUS
Ahmad Shri Ateeq;Chouhan Shri Shivraj Singh

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

- (a) whether a large number of children are working as bonded labour in circus industry;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to abolish the practice of bonded labour in circus and provide rehabilitation and education to such children; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a): No, Sir. The Government has enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 under which engaging persons including children as bonded labour for any industry/job including circus industry is prohibited throughout the country.

(b) & (c): In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of bonded labourers, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme since 1978. Under the Scheme, economic assets equivalent to Rs.20,000/- per freed bonded labour is provided for his/her rehabilitation. The State Governments have also been advised to integrate/dovetail the centrally sponsored scheme with other ongoing poverty alleviation schemes such as Swarn Jayanti Gram Swa Rojgar Yojana etc. so as to pool the resources for meaningful rehabilitation of freed bonded labourers.