

F. No. S-11011/01/2019-BL
Government of India
Ministry of Labour & Employment

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi, dated 18th August, 2026

To,
**The Chief Secretaries,
[All States/UTs as per list enclosed]**

Subject: Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer Scheme-2026-reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to convey the approval of the Competent Authority for implementation of Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer Scheme-2026, a sub-component of the Labour Welfare Scheme of the Ministry of Labour & Employment. The Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer Scheme-2026 is to be implemented by the State Governments/ UT Administration through their District Magistrates/Collectors/Sub-Divisional Magistrates.

2. The revamped scheme has been approved for the financial year 2026-27 to 2027-28. A Copy of the revamped scheme is enclosed at Annexure.

Encl: As Above

Yours faithfully,

(Bikram Nath)
Joint Director

Contact no. 011-23710222

Email: bikram.87@gov.in

Copy to:

1. **The Principal Secretary(Labour)/Secretary(Labour)/Labour Commissioners of all States Governments/Union Territory with a request to circulate the scheme to all stakeholders at District level.**
2. **The Secretary, Department of Expenditure,**
3. **The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,**
4. **The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs,**
5. **The Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission**
6. **AS&FA, Ministry of Labour and Employment**
7. **NIC, Ministry of Labour and Employment for uploading the scheme on the website of the Ministry.**

REHABILITATION OF BONDED LABOURER SCHEME- 2026

1. REVISED SCHEME AND GUIDELINES:

- i. The revised Scheme shall be a sub-component of the Labour Welfare Scheme of the Ministry of Labour & Employment and shall continue for two years i.e financial year 2026-27 to financial year 2027-28. The State/UT Governments shall not be required to pay any matching contribution for the purpose of rehabilitation assistance.
- ii. A Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund shall be created at the District level by each State/UT with a permanent corpus of at least ₹10 lakhs (Rupees ten lakh) at the disposal of the District Magistrate which would be renewable. This fund will be utilised for extending immediate financial assistance to the released bonded labourer(s). The entire penalties recovered from the perpetrators of the bonded labour upon conviction, may be deposited in the corpus.
- iii. Immediate Financial Assistance (IFA) up to ₹40,000/- (Rupees forty thousand) shall be provided by the District Administration to the rescued/released bonded labourer(s) out of the District Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at the disposal of the District Magistrate through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The amount of immediate financial assistance/any such advance amount shall be deducted from the Final Rehabilitation Assistance (FRA).
- iv. The amount of Final Rehabilitation Assistance (FRA) shall be as follows:
 - a. ₹ 1 lakh (Rupees one lakh) per adult male beneficiary.
 - b. ₹ 2 lakh (Rupees two lakh) for special category beneficiaries such as children including orphans or those rescued from organized and forced begging rings or other forms of forced child labour, and women.
 - c. ₹ 3 lakhs (Rupees three lakh) in cases of bonded or forced labour involving extreme deprivation or marginalization—such as transgender persons, women and children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation (such as brothels, massage parlours, placement agencies etc.), victims of trafficking, differently-abled persons, or in situations where the District Magistrate deems fit.
- v. The rescued bonded labourer shall be fully informed of the details of the amount to be released as Immediate Financial Assistance (IFA) and Final Rehabilitation Assistance (FRA). The Release of FRA shall be made upon

- proof of bondage and other judicial processes and to be deposited in the same bank account through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in which IFA was provided. The DM/SDM shall necessarily ensure that the active bank account of the concerned bonded labourer shall be linked with his/her valid Aadhaar details.
- vi. In cases where, the DM/SDM find that immediate assistance is necessary for care and protection of the rescued bonded labourers, such assistance includes food, lodging, medical assistance, legal aid, provisions for victim's or witness' protection, etc., shall be provided under any other law or scheme forthwith, notwithstanding the entitlements prescribed under this scheme.
 - vii. During the pendency of the summary trial, the DM/SDM may take efforts to extend support to the rescued/released bonded labourer by facilitating access to benefits under the relevant Central and State Government schemes, including Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (VB-G RAM G), Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), entitlements under the National Food Security Act, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan & Mission Vatsalya (in cases of child bonded labourers), National Career Service Centers for Differently Abled or any other applicable law or welfare scheme, as deemed appropriate by the DM/SDM, with a view to ensuring subsistence, social security, and continuity of rehabilitation during the trial period.
 - viii. In cases where the Summary Trial under Section 21 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 has not been concluded as per Rules, but the DM/SDM has arrived at *prima facie* finding and proof of bondage, then the proposal for the release of Final Rehabilitation Assistance shall not be stopped for want of details of conviction. In such cases, the DM/SDM must make a prima-facie finding/report concluding that the case is one of bonded labourers and involves the violation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, for facilitating the release of FRA.
 - ix. In cases where, on the conclusion of the summary trial, the District Magistrate (DM)/Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) concludes that the alleged bonded labourer is, in fact, not in a condition of bondage, but requires socio-economic assistance, the DM/SDM, may facilitate to provide assistance as mentioned in Para (vii) of the scheme.

- x. The responsibility for both IFA and FRA shall remain with the State/UT/District from where the bonded labourer was rescued. If the rescued bonded labourer desires to be repatriated to his/her home State/District, the DM/SDM of the concerned State/UT from where the bonded labourer(s) is/are rescued shall forward the Release Certificate and other relevant documents/IDs along with a statement detailing the disbursement of IFA, to the DM/SDM of the concerned home State/District for his information and to enable him to provide benefits as per para (vii) of the scheme.
- xi. In cases involving child bonded labourers, the DM/SDM shall engage Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to oversee and facilitate the rehabilitation process in accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and other relevant laws. The CWC, through the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and other child protection service delivery structures under Mission Vatsalya, may prepare plan for care, protection, restoration & rehabilitation of the child, convergence with education, health, counselling and periodic follow-up of rehabilitation outcomes.
- xii. In case of an orphan child bonded labourer, the DM/SDM in consultation with CWC, shall facilitate the release of the FRA in an annuity scheme, after deducting the immediate financial assistance. The amount and duration of annuity shall be determined by the DM/SDM as deemed fit.
- xiii. In case of the death of a bonded labourer, the rehabilitation assistance, which includes immediate financial assistance and final rehabilitation assistance, shall be disbursed to the legal heir/dependant of the deceased bonded labourer, as deemed fit by the DM/SDM.

Note: The term 'dependant' shall have the same meaning as defined under the Code on Social Security, 2020, as amended from time to time.

- xiv. State Governments/UTs shall be required to concentrate their efforts on the following activities:
 - a. The District Administration in a convergence approach shall undertake measures for providing safe and secure environment for the capacity building of child bonded labourers in coordination with all relevant Government departments. Accordingly, facilities for, ensuring their proper education, psycho social counselling, short stay home till education up to class 12th, skill development shall be an integral component of the rehabilitation plan.

- b. For addressing the special needs of female freed bonded labourers, State Government shall also provide financial and other assistance for marriage, apart from other capacity building and skill development/skill up-gradation measures mentioned at sub para (a) and benefits to be provided as per Para (vii) of the scheme.
- c. For addressing the needs of the disabled persons, special care should be made available by the State as per national policy for disabled people apart from other capacity building and skill development/skill up-gradation measures mentioned at sub para (a) and (b).
- d. For adult bonded labourer who does not come under any of the above categories, employable skill development training shall be a compulsory element of rehabilitation.
- xv. Each State/UT Government shall establish a database of rescued/migrated bonded labourers to track their records and ensure effective rehabilitation, monitoring & policy implementation.
- xvi. State/UT Governments shall make efforts to conduct awareness campaigns to root out this social evil of Bonded Labour System as per local requirements, using their own resources. Such awareness campaigns may be undertaken through printed/electronic/digital & social media—including pamphlets, posters, advertisements, etc, disseminated in local and regional languages across the concerned districts. No additional financial assistance shall be provided by the Central Government to State/UT Governments for dissemination or broadcast activities under this provision.

2. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

2.1 The District Magistrate/Administration will send the proposal for the financial demand to the State's concerned Department dealing with the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme. Upon receipt of proposal the concerned State's Department will scrutinize all documents and submit proposal to the Central Government i.e. Ministry of Labour and Employment.

2.2 Each proposal for the Immediate Financial Assistance and Final Rehabilitation Assistance will be sent by the State/UT Government with the following details: -

- i. For the Immediate Financial Assistance (i.e. up to ₹40,000/-) duly filled release Certificate of each rescued bonded labour (Annexure-A) along with receipt of transaction made through DBT.
- ii. For Final Rehabilitation Assistance (i.e. ₹ 1 lakh, ₹ 2 lakh, ₹ 3 lakh as the case may be):-
 - a. Duly filled Release Certificate of the each rescued Bonded Labour as per Annexure-A.
 - b. Details of each rescued Bonded Labour in prescribed proforma as per Annexure-B.
 - c. Consolidated details of bonded labourer(s) for release of Rehabilitation Assistance as per Annexure-C.
 - d. Order of Summary Trial.

2.3 In the event of the demise of a rescued bonded labourer, the eligible dependant(s), as certified by the District Magistrate, shall be entitled to receive rehabilitation assistance under the Scheme, in accordance with the extant guidelines. The proposal for release of rehabilitation assistance in such cases shall be accompanied by the following documents:

- i. Death Certificate of the deceased bonded labourer issued by the competent authority;
- ii. Release Certificate of the bonded labourer, duly issued as per the prescribed format;
- iii. Dependency Certificate issued by the competent authority (District Magistrate/SDM or as per State Government norms);
- iv. Aadhaar details of the eligible dependent(s), wherever applicable;
- v. Bank account details of the eligible dependent(s), duly seeded with Aadhaar for DBT; and
- vi. Any other document as may be required by the State Government for verification.

3. **RELEASE OF FUNDS**

3.1 As per modalities of release of funds approved by the Ministry of Finance, admissible reimbursement under the revised scheme, fund will be released by the Ministry of Labour and Employment directly to the State/UT Government. The fund will be transferred by the State/UT Government to the concerned District Magistrate/Collector for the purpose of the Bonded Labourer Rehabilitation Scheme.

4. MONITORING

4.1 At the State level, monitoring of the revised Scheme shall be carried out by the State Monitoring Committee headed by the Principal Secretary of the Department responsible for matters related to bonded labour on quarterly basis. The Labour Commissioner of concerned State/UT shall serve as the Member-Convenor for the Bonded labour Rehabilitation (BLR) Scheme. The committee shall also include as members the Principal Secretary, Department of Education, the Principal Secretary, Department of Skill Development and the Principal Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development. The records of the meetings of the Committee shall be furnished to the Ministry on half-yearly basis.

4.2 At Central level, the Secretary (L&E) shall conduct an annual review of the implementation of the scheme with State/UT levels.

Annexure-A

Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer-2026

Proforma for Release Certificate

BL Case No. _____

{Order of the JMFC/JMSC under Section 12 of the Bonded Labour System
(Abolition) Act, 1976}

A Colour
passport size
photograph of
the bonded
labour
released

1. Name :
2. Caste (SC/ST/OBC) :
3. Father's/Mother's Name :
4. Age :
5. Male/Female/Trans-gender :
6. Address of Bonded Labour :
7. Aadhar Card No. of Bonded Labour
(If available) :
8. Contact details of Bonded Labour
(Mobile No. if available) :
9. Address where bonded labour
is identified/rescued :
10. Name of the Captor/Bonder :
11. Aadhar Card no. of Captor/Bonder :
12. Address of Captor/Bonder :

I hereby declare that the individual named above has been identified as a bonded labourer under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. After due verification and inquiry, it is confirmed that the said individual has been released from the bonded labour system on _____.

Signature
Name of the District Magistrate/Officer
authorized by District Authority
District:
State:
Seal

Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer-2026**Details of Bonded Labour for Release of Rehabilitation Assistance****I. IDENTIFICATION PARTICULARS**

- a. Name :
- b. Father/Mother/Husband Name :
- c. Gender :
- d. Caste Category (SC/ST/OBC) :
- e. Qualification :
- f. Whether physically disabled :
- g. Address :
- h. Aadhaar Card Number :
- i. Contract details (Mobile No., if available) :
- j. Whether special/other category
(as specified at para 1(iv) of this Scheme) :

II. PARTICULARS OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

Sl. No.	Name	Relation to Respondent	Age	Gender	Qualification	Occupation	Remarks
1							
2							
3							
4							

III. PARTICULARS OF PRESENT OCCUPATION (After rescued)

- a. Occupation :
- b. Duration of the occupation (month/year) :
- c. Wages (per day/week/month) :

IV. PARTICULARS OF ASSETS [of the Bonded Labour]

- a. Land owned :
- b. Milch animals/bullocks/sheep/goat/poultry :
- c. Does he/she live in own House or rented :

V. Quantum of punishment to the convict/accused :

VI. THE DETAILS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/UT UNDER ANY OTHER LAW/SCHEME

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme under which benefits are provided (as per para (vii) of this scheme)	Remarks
1		
2		
3		
4..		

VERIFICATION

It is certified that the facts state in the above questionnaire are true to the information provided by the rescued labourer which has been read over and explained to him in his mother tongue.

Date:

Place:

Signature
Name of the District Magistrate/
Officer authorized by District Authority
District:
State:
Seal:

Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer-2026**Consolidated details of Bonded Labourer(s) for Release of Final Rehabilitation Assistance**

- I. Number of the labourers required to be rehabilitated:
(Release certificate to be attached for every rescued labour)
- II. Category Wise break-up:-

Sl. No.	Gender	Special Category	Number
1.	Male	Adult	
		Minor	
		Total	
2.	Female	Adult	
		Minor	
		Total	
3.	Special/Other Category as specified in para 1(iv) of this scheme	Male	
		Female	
		Minor Boy(s)/Girls	
		Person with disability*	
		Trans-gender	
	Total		

**"Person with disability" means a person suffering from not less than forty per cent of any disability as certified by a medical authority, medical authority is Hospital funded by Central or State Government. The medical certificate issued by medical authority should be provided with the proposal.*

- III. Total amount of Central Assistance Required:

Sl. No.	Category	Total Number	Prescribed limit as per the bonded labour scheme (Rs. in Lakh)	Total Amount
1	Adult Male Member		One	
2	Adult Female/Minor boys and Girls		Two	
3	Special/Other category as specified at para 1(iv) of this Scheme		Three	
	Total			

IV. Name of the District (s) where these bonded labourers (category wise) have been identified:

Sl. No.	Name of the District(s)	Name of the State	Number of bonded Labour		
			Identified	Released	Rehabilitated
1					
2					
3, 4....					
Total					

V. Whether any utilization certificate for Central Assistance released in the preceding years are pending: Yes/No

If yes indicate the details or pending utilization certificates:

Name of the State/UT						
Sl. No.	Component of Central Assistance received	Name of the District (s)	Year in which Funds Released	Amount of Central Assistance (Rs.)	Amount for which Utilization certificates is submitted (Rs.)	Reasons for non-submission of utilization certificates
1						
2, 3...						
Total						

Signature
Name of the District Magistrate/
Officer authorized by District Authority
District:
State:
Seal