

1987 (Supplementary) Supreme Court Cases 141
(Before P.N. Bhagwati, C. J. and K.N. Singh, J.)

Santhal Pargana Antyodaya Ashram _____ Petitioners
Versus
State of Bihar and others _____ Respondents

Writ Petition No. 13450 of 1983

Date of judgement - 19.12.1986

The apex Court in this case had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Sri K.B. Saxena, a senior official of the Government of Bihar to investigate into existence of bonded labourers in Mohaupur and Deogarh Blocks of Deogarh district and Saraiyahat Block of Dumka district. The Committee after investigation submitted a detailed and comprehensive report to the Court. The Committee had been able to identify 2515 out of 3143 bonded labourers and had stated that large number of persons are working still in the status of bonded labourers. The Court while accepting the report of the Committee with a deep sense of appreciation for the tremendous effort made by the Committee issued the directions as under:

- All persons who have been found to be bonded by the Saxena Committee may be directed to be released within 2 weeks from the date of the order.
- A release certificate to each of the persons so released would be issued forthwith by the concerned Collector. The certificates would be handed over to the persons so released simultaneously.
- Each of the released bonded labourers on making an application to the State government through the concerned Collector shall be paid a sum of Rs. 3,000 by way of interim relief.
- Such payment shall be made in the following manner:
 - Rs. 500 simultaneously with the release

~~Balance amount (Rs. 2,500) within 2 weeks from the date of release~~

- The released bonded labourers (2515) must be rehabilitated by the State government on a permanent basis.
- Implementation of the rehabilitation programme should not wait on account of the pendency of the present proceeding in the apex Court.
- The State government will submit within 2 weeks from the date of receipt of the order, a report setting out the permanent rehabilitation programme formulated by them for scrutiny and approval by the Court with or without modifications.
- The other recommendations contained in Saxena Committee report shall be implemented as far as possible within one month from the date of receipt of the order of the Court.
- The State Government and the concerned Collector will carry out all the obligations under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and submit a report to the Court within 2 months from the date of the judgement.