

V. CHANDRAMOWLI, I.A.S.,
Secretary to Government.

Hyderabad,
Dated 4th January, 1984.

SOCIAL WELFARE (H) DEPARTMENT
D. O. LETTER NO.2864/H2/83—J

Dear

Sub :—Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976—Continuing
Survey on Bonded Labour.

The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976 is a continuing one. The surveys, etc., only in some areas in the State were done once in the Districts like Medak, Rangareddy and Warangal. Even in these Districts the surveys were not in all the Taluks. The information is that there is still this nefarious system prevalent in all the backward places in the State and in some indirect form even in the developed areas.

In fact, the system of indebtedness is of the type that quite a lot of number of families particularly belonging to the socially backward groups are still victims of that. There is no credit system that is taking care of the consumption needs, etc. of these dependent groups. And, still some of the assets like small extents of land given, the richer sections are managing to make the dependent sections part with also.

The only way to protect these groups from losing their assets, borrowing money from the landlord money lender groups, is on the one hand to strictly implement the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act provisions and the other to provide the essential credit even on consumption requirements from the side of the Government. Strictly implementing the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and thus helping some bonded labour who have been deprived of the assets, etc. would stop these traditional landlord money lender groups from continuing their undesirable practices. This would make the dependent, and poor sections realise that they should avoid unnecessarily borrowing, particularly staking their assets, besides making them give up some of the bad habits and practices that force them to waste precious money.

The estimates of bonded labour in Andhra Pradesh are rather conservative. There are reported to be more than three lakh persons in bondage or other. Continuously systematically surveying, identifying them, releasing and rehabilitating them to the extent necessary would really confer on them some sort of a respectable status. Without preventing the richer and more selfish groups in the society from exploiting these innocent and poor sections by continuous surveys, vigil, possible action wherever necessary, etc., there by inculcating in these poor sections a sense of self-respect and self-help, it would really be difficult to develop them also.

I request you to take up the surveys for identifying the bonded labour in the areas which were not earlier surveyed to Stast with. Even in the earlier surveyed areas up it would be advisable to start the surveys to see that the earlier surveys were pucca and that even those identified and released had not gone back to the old Tituation.

The questionnaire adopted earlier for surveying and identifying bonded labour families in enclosed for guidance.

Yours Sincenely,
(V. CHANDRAMOWLI)