

GIST OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE MEETING ON REHABILITATION OF BONDED LABOURERS WITH NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT THE RESIDENCE OF HON'BLE JUSTICE RAMASWAMY, MEMBER OF NHRC AT 4.00 P.M. ON 16.6.2000

Present were

1. Justice Ramaswamy, Member NHRC
2. Sri K.R. Venugopal, IAS (Retd.), Special Rapporteur, NHRC
3. Secretary, Social Welfare
4. Commissioner, Social Welfare
5. M.D., APSC Corporation
6. Joint Director (Zone-IV), Social Welfare
7. Sri Mohan Rao, Jt. Registrar of Cooperatives (Retd).

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Member, NHRC had welcomed all the participants, Action taken report on the decision of the last meeting held on 15-4-2000 was discussed in detail. As per the decision wide publicity was given to identification, rehabilitation and 77 reliefs to bonded labourers through pamphlets in telugu during the XII Round Janma Bhoomi from 1 st to 7th of May, 2000. Collector, Chittoor had released 17 bonded labourers from 27 bonded labourers and sent them to Tamil Nadu, 3 of them had already left on their own and 7 continues in the quarry voluntarily. As was decided at the last meeting, actions have been taken for formation of Cooperative Societies of Bonded Labourers in Mahabubnagar District. Collector had already formed two Societies and got them registered. Another 34 Societies are also ready for formation and registration. In all Collector had assured to form 60 Societies in the district. During discussion with Collector at Mahabubnagar on 12.6.2000, Collector also promised that contract work will be provided to the Societies to ensure wage employment.

3. The Commission observed that at the last meeting of Collectors held in October, 1999 it was decided to complete constitution of District and Divisional Level Committees. However, in 6 districts viz., Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Karimnagar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, the Committees are yet to be formed. The Commission requested that these Committees may be formed immediately. GIS maps have been sent only by Mahabubnagar and Nizamabad districts. In all other districts also GIS maps may be got completed immediately. Since incidence of bonded labour is extensive in Ananthappur, all efforts should be made for identification and release of bonded labourers in the district. Re-survey of existence of bonded labourers in other districts also should be taken up immediately. For identification and fast eradication of bonded labourers in the State the subject of rehabilitation of bonded labourers may be repeated in subsequent Janma Bhoomi also. A standard format could be developed for identification of bonded labourers.

A.K. Tigidi, IAS
Commissioner of Social Welfare