

**Government of Karnataka**

V.P.Baligar, IAS  
Secretary to Government  
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Dept.



Karnataka Government Secretariat,  
M.S.Building,  
Bangalore-560 001

D.O.No.RDP: 13. RBL: 2003

dated:18.08.2004

Dear,

Sub: Regarding taking up the release and rehabilitation task of bonded labourers without causing delay.

Ref: The minutes of the meeting held on 28-7-2004, under the Chairmanship of Sri. K.R. Venugopal, Special rapporteur, NHRC.

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As per Section 13 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the District Magistrate himself is the Chairman of the District Level Vigilance Committee and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate himself is the Chairman of the Sub-Divisional Level Vigilance Committee. As per Section 14 (1) (b) of the above Act, providing economic and social rehabilitation to the released bonded labourers is one of the primary duty of the Vigilance Committees. Further under the Centrally sponsored plan Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers also, the District Magistrate has to identify and provide land based or other skill/craft based rehabilitation facilities to these released bonded labourers.

It has come to the notice of the Government that after releasing the bonded labourers from bonded labour system there is a delay in carrying out the task of providing rehabilitation facilities to them by awaiting for the grants under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme. Sri. K.R.Venugopal, Special Rapporteur, NHRC during the meeting held on 28-7-2004, expressed his displeasure in this regard. If rehabilitation facilities are not given to the released bonded labourers on time there would be a likelihood of their relapsing into further bondage.

Therefore, you are requested to take up the rehabilitation task in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat to provide facilities for the freed bonded labourers on priority basis under the different poverty alleviation programmes of both the Central and State Governments that are currently under implementation in your district. Further the grants to be given to the freed bonded labourers should be released immediately from the available funds in the districts and thereafter this amount could be readjusted with the grants being released from the Government on the basis of proposal to be submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme along with the meeting proceedings of the District Level Screening Committee.

I desire that you may consider the above matter very seriously and immediately act in this regard.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,  
Sd/-

(V.P. Baligar)

To: All the Deputy Commissioners and District Magistrates of the State.



### **Proceedings of the Government of Karnataka**

Sub: Constituting a Three Member Committee at the district level to implement the rehabilitation programmes for the freed bonded labourers by pooling together resources.

- Read .1. Recommendations of the two day workshop on eradication of bonded labour and child labour held on 9-10 October 2003 at the National law School of India University, Bangalore.
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 28-7-2004, under the Chairmanship of Sri. K.R.Venugopal, Special Rapporteur, NHRC.

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#### **Introduction:**

...During the workshop, the opinion emerged as a recommendation was that "with a view to pooling together grants available under different programmes for the purpose of working out on time rehabilitation facilities to freed bonded labourers and child bonded labourers, a committee could be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner comprising the President of Zilla Panchayat and Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat as members."

In order to implement the above recommendation, it was decided in the meeting held on 28-7-2004 under the Chairmanship of Sri. K.R. Venugopal, Special Rapporteur, NHRC, that "though there are Vigilance / Screening Committees at the District level, in order to takeup immediately the task of rehabilitation of released bonded labourers on priority basis, a three member committee should be constituted under the chairmanship of the President of Zilla Panchayat comprising Deputy Commissioner as a member and Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat as a member Secretary."

...If the freed bonded labourers are not provided with rehabilitation facilities on time, there is a likelihood that they may getting into further bondage. In order to prevent that, it is essential to provide rehabilitation facilities to the freed bonded labourers on a war footing. There will be a requirement of huge time in claiming the grants from the Central Government under Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme and then transferring them to the Zill Panchayats. But the freed bonded labourers could be provided with the rehabilitation facilities under different programmes available at the district level. Therefore, in order to pooling together the grants available under different programmes that are being currently implemented and to undertake immediate measures to provide rehabilitation facilities for the freed bonded labourers, the Government has decided to constitute a committee at the district level. Hence this order.

**Government Order No.RDP.13.RBL.2003, Bangalore Dated:6-9-2004.**

In order to take up suitable measures for rehabilitation of released bonded labourers on priority as per the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme



for rehabilitation of bonded labourers and for eradication of the Bonded Labour System as per the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and the rules thereunder, a three member Committee has been constituted at each District Level as given below:

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|---|---|------------------|
| 1. President of the Zilla Panchayat               | : | Chairman         |
| 2. Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate      | : | Member           |
| 3. Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat | : | Member Secretary |

1. This committee should come into existence with immediate effect.
2. The main intention of this committee is to provide appropriate rehabilitation facilities to the freed bonded labourers immediately after releasing them from the bonded labour system by pooling together the grants available under the different schemes at the district level.
3. This Committee should meet at least once in three months and review the progress on rehabilitation facilities provided to the freed bonded labourers.
4. This committee should review the proceedings of the district level vigilance committee and the district level screening committee meant respectively for the eradication of bonded labour system and the rehabilitation of freed bonded labourers and provide necessary guidance to those committees.
5. This order is issued with the concurrence of the Internal Economic Adviser of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department vide Note No.RDP.265.PBS.2004 dated:3-9-2004.

By Order and in the name of  
the Governor of Karnataka,

Sd/-  
(T.Shyam Bhat)  
Director (S.E.P.) and  
E/o.Joint Secretary to Govt.,  
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department



3. The representatives of the non-governmental organizations/social action groups who are nominated as members of the Vigilance Committees should be actively involved in all the activities of eradication of bonded labour/rehabilitation of liberated bonded labourers.

4. Every released bonded labourer and an elderly member in the family of a child labourer released from child labour system should be immediately provided with suitable housing and employment facilities out of the funds available at the filed level under different schemes of the Government without causing any delay. There after supplementary rehabilitation benefits should be provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

5. In order to bring awareness among the local representatives of people/ organizations/Government officials and the general public about bonded labour system/ bonded labour cases should be discussed as a regular subject in all the meetings being held at the Gram Panchayat/hobli level.

6. In addition to filing criminal case against the owners in every confirmed case of bonded labour, by seriously considering the investigation under other statutes so that maximum punishment get imposed.

7. In order to verify whether the child labour found at the time of inspection is coming under the purview the bonded labour system, notice should also be issued under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 to the owners who appoints the child labour either for domestic or for industrious work.

Since, bonded labour system is a stain on human society and in order to completely eradicating it, you are directed to strictly implement the above instructions.

Sd/-

(V.P. Baligar)

Secretary to Government,  
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Dept.

To,

All the Deputy Commissioners of the State

All the Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Panchayats

} for appropriate action.