

1986 (Supplementary) Supreme Court cases 558
Before P.N. Bhagwati, C. J. and S. Natarajan, J.
(Record of Proceedings)

Upendra and others _____ Petitioners
Versus
State of M.P. and another _____ Respondents

(1986) & SCC 66:1986 SCC (Tax) 781
Writ Petition (Civil/criminal) No. 1071 of 1986

Date of judgement - 25.09.1986

1. The apex Court in this judgement has reiterated its earlier emphasis that it is no use identifying and releasing bonded labourers unless provisions are simultaneously made for their rehabilitation as otherwise we would be driving them to starvation. The apex Court has also strongly felt that there is no reason as to why the State Government should not be in a position to do so particularly with regard to the various schemes sponsored by the Central Government as also the subsidies given by the Central Government for this purpose. The apex Court accordingly directs rehabilitation of the 5 persons (whose cases have been subjudice before the Court) by the State Government and report compliance by 13.10.86.
2. The apex Court also directs that bonded labourers identified and released elsewhere and in respect of whom writ petitions have been filed before the apex Court should be rehabilitated immediately and compliance reported by 13.10.86.
3. In line with the already existing practice of appointing socio-legal investigators for in-depth investigation into existence of bonded labour system; the apex Court appoints Mr. P.V. Rajgopal, Prayog Samaj, Sewa Sansthan, P.O. Tilda Neora, 493114 Raipur district, MP as a sociolegal investigating Commissioner to visit the villages Bagaijore, Paisada Durgapalli, Bhanwarpur, Icchhapur and Sighnapur in Raipur district and ascertain whether there are any more bonded labourers in these villages and if so to identify them and bring their names and particulars immediately to the notice of the Collector, Raipur for the purpose of releasing and rehabilitating them.