

17 brick kiln workers rescued



- [Rajulapudi Srinivas](#)



Relief at last: Labourers of Odisha, who were liberated from a brick kiln unit at Seetarampuram in Krishna district. —Photo: By Arrangement

A majority of them hail from Odisha; owner accused of being indifferent to their plight. A labourer, Anjunal, complained that the brick kiln owner had not provided proper shelter, drinking water, and food.

In a swift operation, officials of the Revenue, Panchayati Raj, and Labour departments conducted raids on a brick kiln in Krishna district and released 17 labourers, including some child labourers and women.

About 30 labourers are working in a brick kiln at Seetharampuram of Reddygudem mandal owned by Ch. Venkateswara Rao, of which many of them are natives of Baripada in Naupada district of Odisha.

Differences cropped up between the owner and the workers over the poor facilities and they refused to work. However, Mr. Rao insisted that the labourers continue the work in the kiln.

A few days ago, three workmen went to their native place and complained about the hazardous conditions prevailing in the unit to the Labour Department in Naupada, which in turn contacted Reddygudem Special Officer D. Anjaneya Reddy.

The Labour Department officials communicated the matter to Krishna District Commissioner of Labour N. Suryanarayana in writing, who instructed the Labour Department officials to respond immediately.

A labourer, Anjunal, complained that the brick kiln owner had not provided proper shelter, drinking water, and food. The families were in constant fear due to presence of snakes and other poisonous creatures, he said, and sought immediate relief.

“Tiruvuru Assistant Labour Officer S.N.V. Sivaram Prasad was directed to inquire into the illegal employment and the conditions prevailing in the brick kiln unit. Following the report, the team led by Mr. Anjaneya Reddy and Reddygudem tehsildar G. Siva Kumar and MDO B.V. Ramakrishna Naik raided the unit,” the Special Officer told *The Hindu* .

“We found about 30 labourers employed in the brick kiln. A few child labour and women were also engaged for work in the unit, and there was no attendance register and salary details. The officials summoned the unit owner and liberated all the workers, most of whom re from Naupada,” Mr. Anjaneya Reddy said.

A report would be sent to Krishna District Collector Babu. A on the raid and the liberation of the labourers.

Notice would be served on the unit owner on the poor facilities and the rules to be followed to engage labourers of other States under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979, the Labour Department officials said.

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