GIST OF DISCUSSIONS WITH JUSTICE RAMASWAMY, HON'BLE MEMBER, NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HELD AT CAMP OFFICE IN HYDERABAD ON 15-4-2000 AT 10.00 AM

Present were

- 1. Justice Ramaswamy, Hon'ble Member
- 2. Sri K.R: Venugopal, IAS (Retd.) Special Rappoteur
- 3. Sri A.K. Tigidi, Commissioner, Social Welfare
- 4. Sri Ch. Devadas, IAS, Dy. Secy. (SW)
- 5. Sri N. Dasaratharami Reddy, Jt. Director (SW)
- 6. Sri Prof. Vittal Rao, Convenor, Bonded labour Liberation Front.
- 7. Sri Mohan Rao, Jt. Registrar (Retd.), Cooperatives Dept.
- 1. Commissioner, Social Welfare briefed the Commission on the action taken on the minutes of the previous meeting on 17.3.2000. Commission felt that in order to give wider publicity and expedite identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers the subject may be included in the ensuing Janma Bhoomi in May, 2000. Hon'ble Member after telephonic discussion with Hon'ble Chief Minister informed that Hon'ble Chief Minister had agreed to include survey identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers in the State as one of the items for Janma Bhoomi -May, 2000.
- 2. Actions should be taken immediately for formation of Cooperative Societies of bonded labourers. To begin with immediate action may be taken for formation of these societies in Mahabubnagar district. Sri Mohan Rao and Prof. Vittal Rao may be associated in forming these societies. A detailed action plan may be formulated. Economic assitance made available under EAS, JRY, CMEY, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, SCP and SCA may be dovetailed to make these schemes economically viable.
- 3. A few incidences where Banks have been reluctant to finance economic rehabilitation schemes for SC's sponsored by A. P.S.C.Coperative Finance Corporation may be brought to the notice of the Commission to take up with the Government of India. This is because most of the bonded labourers belong to SCs, STs and a few to BCs.
- 4. Maps delineating incidence of bonded labourers in the districts may be completed within a fortnight i.e. by the end of April, 2000.
- 5. Collector, Chittor may be requested to take up rehabilitation of 45 bonded labourers who had been sent to Chittoor district from Tamilnadu. The incidence of -these 'bonded labourers is at quarry in Srikalahasti Mandai of Chittoor. A copy of D.O. letter 38042/98/H2 dated 31.01.2000 from Special Officer. Bonded Labour Release & Rehabilitation, Tamilandu together with notes be sent to collector, Chittor for immediate necessary action.

- 6. M.D., A.P. Scheduled Castes Co.op Finance Corpn. may be invited invariably to attend any future meeting of the Commission.
- 7. Prof. Vittal Rao and Sri Mohan Rao, Retd. Jt. Registrar (Cooperatives) may be associated in forming Cooperatives of bonded labourers to begin with in Mahabubnagar district.
- 8. The Commission will visit in April-May 2000 some of the Back to School Centres where child labourers/children of bonded labourers are admitted.

A.K. Tigidi, I.A.S.
Commissioner of Social Welfare.