

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING CONVENED BY SRI JANNAT HUSAIN, IAS,  
SECRETARY TO GOVT., SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ON 09.02.2001 AT  
4.00 P.M. IN HIS CHAMBERS TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE WORK  
RELATING TO BONDED LABOUR.**

Present were:

1. Sri Jannat Husain, IAS,  
Secretary to Govt., Social Welfare Department ...Chairman
2. Sri K.R. Venugopal, IAS (Retd), Special Rapporteur
3. Sri Dinesh Kumar, IAS., Commissioner of Social Welfare
4. Dr. C. Umamalleswara Rao, IAS., Managing Director, APSCCFC

1. At the request of the secretary, to initiate the discussions, the Special Rapporteur Sri K.R. Venugopal started the meeting giving the background information as to how the Supreme Court had referred the responsibility of implementing the decisions relating to the bonded labourer to the National Human Rights Commission to report back to Supreme Court from time to time about the progress achieved in this regard.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting was reviewed. It was noted that in four districts i.e. Krishna, Prakasam, Karimnagar and Hyderabad, the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at District level and Sub-divisional levels have not yet been constituted. The Special Rapporteur requested the Commissioner, Social Welfare to speak to the Collectors concerned and ensure that these committees are constituted immediately. He also requested that a periodical may be prescribed for submission of minutes of the meetings of these Committees at the districts and Revenue Divisional levels held

prescribed in the Act so that the quality of the work done in the districts can be evaluated.

3. The Special Rapporteur pointed out that though the subject of identification of the bonded labour was included in the 13th round of Janma Bhoomi, information with regard to the bonded labourers identified in that round of Janma Bhoomi has not been received and compiled at the State Level. The survey for the identification of the bonded labour has to be carried out expeditiously and completed without delay and at the earliest possible. Reviewing the report submitted in October, 2000 it was pointed by the Special Rapporteur that 2595 bonded labour have shown having migrated to other district. After migration itself was on account of bondage and the Special Rapporteur was of the opinion that even when they have moved to other districts, they have to be rehabilitated. The migration of bonded labour in such a large number needs to be looked into in greater detail and the position of their bondage determined through a special study.

4. A large number of bonded labourers (5431) have been shown as "ineligible". The Special Rapporteur thought this to be improbable and wanted to know how they were first identified as bonded labourers and later on termed as ineligible it was strange that more than 5,000 bonded labourers had been declared as ineligible in Ranga Reddy district alone. This issue require investigation and the Commissioner, Social Welfare was requested to look into this personally at his level.

5. The Special Rapporteur acknowledged the Constitution of the formation of Cooperative Societies in Mahabubnagar and Medak and felt that no further progress was achieved in the intervening period between last meeting and this meeting. He requested a descriptive note on the strategies adopted for rehabilitation in the Cooperative Societies and the progress achieved in rehabilitation after registration of the Cooperative Societies so far. He also requested a separate updated statement on the released bonded labourer Cooperative Societies in a appropriate format.

6. The Special Rapporteur also wanted the computerization of information relating to all bonded labour identified, released, rehabilitated and yet to be rehabilitated village-wise for all Mandals and Districts in the State, as requested already several times before during reviews. He wanted instructions to be issued to Collectors to have this work completed immediately as this is one of the requirement to comply with the Supreme Court Judgement. End of May, 2001 was indicated as the outer limit for this oft-shifting target date as the Supreme Court was unlikely to look upon with tolerance any further delay in this work.

7. The special Rapporteur also reminded the officers of the need to complete the preparation of the map district wise indicating the incidents of the bonded labourers in various parts of the districts in the State and also a similar large State wide map.

8. The Special Rapporteur in the end requested the Secretary, Social Welfare Department and Commissioner, S. W. to take up follow up action to implement the decisions in full made at the October, 2000 review meeting and in regard to identification; release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers, involving the association of genuine Voluntary Organisations in the process. He requested the Secretary and Commissioner to impress upon the Collectors, the necessity of taking up the issue of bonded labour in their districts seriously in the light of the importance of eradication of poverty amongst the poorest of the poor as well as the obligations of the State Government to comply with the directions of the Supreme Court as progress reports from the Special Rapporteur were due to the NHRC and the Supreme Court. He

pointed out that any delay in the completion of the survey, identification, selective prosecution and initiation of comprehensive rehabilitation measures and computerisation these details backed up by credible socio economic strategies duly documented, as emphasized repeatedly by him during the last two years, could cause embarrassment to all concerned.

9. It was agreed to hold the next meeting easily in April in 2001.

The meeting ended with Sri K.R. Venugopal thanking Sri Jannat Husain, Secretary, Social Welfare and the Commissioner, Social Welfare and Managing Director, APSCSCFC for their continuing cooperation to the NHRC and consideration. The meeting ended with Sri Venugopal proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

**JANNAT HUSAIN, IAS**  
Principal Secretary to Govt. S.W. Dept.