

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23-11-2002 ON BONDED AND CHILD LABOUR WITH SRI K.R. VENUGOPAL, I.A.S. RETD., FORMER SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER AND SPECIAL RAPPOREUR TO NHRC, NEW DELHI IN THE CHAMBERS OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, SOCIAL WELFARE, A.P., HYDERABAD.

The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Sri K.R. Venugopal, Special Rapporteur, NHRC and the Principal Secretary to Government, Social Welfare convened the meeting. The Special Rapporteur, NHRC welcomed the members. The following members attended the meeting.

1. Sri K.R. Venugopal, I.A.S. (Retd.),
Former Secretary to Prime Minister and
Special Rapporteur to NHRC.,
2. Sri Jannat Husain, I.A.S.,
Pri. Secretary, Social Welfare Department
3. Sri J.C.Sarma, I.A.S.,
M.D.S.C.C.F.C. Ltd., Hyderabad.
4. Sri Ajoyendra Pyal, I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Labour
5. Sri P. Ramesh Chandra
Joint Director, Social Welfare
6. Sri Vidya Sagar
Deputy Secretary, Education
7. Sri Chary,
Asst. Secretary, S.W. Dept.,
8. Smt. K. Hymavathi,
Professor, DPAP.,
Educationa Dept.,
9. Smt. T. Subhashini,
ECE Coordinator, DPAP.,
Education Dept.,

1. The Special Rapporteur briefed the Supreme Court orders and the affidavit filed by the Chief Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh before the Supreme Court on bonded labour abolition. He has informed that an expert group has been constituted at National level with the chairmanship of Sri S.R. Sankaran and five top level advocates who are experts on Bonded Labour issue have attended the meeting.

2. The Special Rapporteur pointed out about the issue of Child Bonded Labour migrated from Tamilnadu and working at Santhapeta, Chittoor. The attitude of the M.R.O., in sending the bonded labour to Tamilnadu without taking action against the masters and launching prosecution needs a relook. He has advised to address the Collector to take stringent action in the matter and to launch prosecution.
3. The Principal Secretary advised the Joint Director (S.J.) to visit Santhapet, Chittoor and to report the factual position and also to meet RDO and MRO., concerned.
4. The Special Rapporteur pointed out about Kurnool case and also Sitapadu (V) of Dubbak (Mandai) of Medak district and advised to take up follow up action and the matter is to be reviewed with the District Collector, Medak district.
5. The Special Rapporteur has advised to keep a constant watch and vigil on the bonded labour issue and advised monitoring with District Collectors regarding identification, release and rehabilitation on line. He has reviewed the report submitted by the commissioner, Labour regarding Child Labour in respect of Chittoor.
6. The Special Rapporteur has also insisted the Collectors should be addressed with a request to give top priority on bonded labour subject. A rehabilitation plan on bonded labour in Andhra Pradesh must be worked out to give comprehensive information on the subject and Prosecutions must be launched against the Masters. He has also stressed that the Grama Panchayats should be made responsible in identification of bonded labour as in Karnataka.
7. The Special Rapporteur was unhappy on the information submitted and instructed to furnish information in statement III and it must be modified in accordance with the affidavit filed by the Chief Secretary in November 1996.
8. He has advised a comprehensive note from the Commissioner of Social Welfare on rehabilitation with all details. A comprehensive rehabilitation plan has to be finalised on the basis of figures, outlays action plan etc., The enhancement of relief and other suggestions made, the Special Rapporteur said will be looked after by NHRC.
9. He has suggested that the information must be furnished on Email since he is leaving the country to the address that he will give, so that he will monitor and submit the information to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India from abroad.
10. The Principal Secretary, Social Welfare has promised to submit detailed action taken information within a months time and also informed that on 28th the Chief Secretary is conducting a video conference with the District Collectors on bonded labour subject and he has suggested to include the cases of Chittoor and Kurnool in the agenda for the review by the Chief Secretary. The Principal Secretary, Social Welfare has instructed to address the Collector, Chittoor by a D.O., letter and a note on this subject should be submitted to Chief Secretary.

The Special Rapporteur congratulated Commissioner, Labour and Principal Secretary, Social Welfare on the excellent work done and desired that AP should become a bonded labour free state.

JANNAT HUSAIN, I.A.S.
Principal Secretary to Govt. S. W. Dept.