

RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS HELD IN CHAMBERS OF PRL SECRETARY TO GOVT,
(SW) BY SRI K.R.VENUGOPAL, IAS (RETD), SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, NHRC
ON 7.12.2004, AT 12.00 NOON

- Present:
- 1) Sri K.R.Venugopal, IAS (Retd)
Special Rapporteur, NHRC.
 - 2) Sri Ajoyendra Pyal, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary, S.W Department.
 - 3) Sri K.Raju, I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Rural Development.
 - 4) Sri P.Sundara Kumar, I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Social Welfare
 - 5) Sri J.C.Shrama, I.A.S.,
Vice Chairman & Managing Director,
AP Scheduled Caste Finance Corporation, Ltd.

The Identification of Bonded Labour so far, during the year 2004-05, is very low. It would appear that adequate measures are not taken at the field level to detect the Bonded Labour cases in the Districts. Definitely, it can be presumed that there are no more Bonded Labour cases in the State. The Vigilance Committees at the District level need to work effectively for identification of fresh Bonded Labour, and the District Collector need to monitor this aspect personally.

2. As there is correlations in many cases between the Child Labour and the Child Bonded Labour, it is necessary to examine critically all Child Labour cases whether they fall within the purview of Bonded Labour. The identification of Child Bonded Labour needs to be examined critically by the Agencies involved in identification of Child Labour, namely the Labour Department and the School Education Department.

3. Sri K.R.Venugopal has emphasized the need for permanent infrastructure for total rehabilitation of Child Labour. The infrastructural facilities need to be worked out in detail by the School Education Department who are dealing with issues concerning rehabilitation of Child Labour, like NCLP Project.

4. There are only 91 prosecution cases under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Commissioner of Social Welfare is requested to obtain detailed particulars of each of the cases from the concerned District Collectors and furnish the details immediately to Government. The details of the prosecution cases will be furnished to Sri K.R.Venugopal, Spl.Rapporteur, NHRC.

5. Sri K.R.Venugopal observed that competent NGOs should be involved closely in the identification of Bonded Labour in the Districts. It is necessary to identify reputed NGOs who can be involved in the identification of Bonded Labour in the Districts. It was suggested that NGOs like M.V.Foundation, Deccan Development Society etc., who have done considerable work in the field of Child Labour can also be involved in the identification of Bonded Labour cases.

6. Sri K.R.Venugopal also observed that there could be more incidence of Bonded Labour in the coming years because of certain economic developments in rural areas, as a result of drought and lack of

employment opportunities. The Vigilance Committees in the Districts need to examine the developments and if there is any increase in the number of Bonded Labour that may likely arise because of changed economic conditions in rural areas.

7. It is also suggested that all rehabilitated cases of Bonded Labour needs to be re-verified once again by a team of officers, i.e. by Vigilance Committees at field level, to verify the present status, and if any further assistance that may be required. In earlier meetings, Sri K.R.Venugopal has already emphasized the importance of a total package of rehabilitation measures under various schemes for the freed Bonded Labour, so that the Bonded Labour families including their children are fully rehabilitated. The District Collectors also need to review at the District Level Committee all cases of rehabilitated freed Bonded Labour and get a specific report on their present status. If any further assistance is required for the rehabilitated Bonded Labour, immediate necessary action may be taken by the District Collectors and specific report in the matter should be obtained from the District Collectors periodically.

8. Sri K.Raju, Commissioner (RD), informed that necessary action will be taken for identification of Bonded Labour cases during the BPL survey undertaken under Velugu Projects.

9. The Database on all Bonded Labour cases should be stored in CD by the Commissioner (SW), who is requested to coordinate and compile all the required data particulars from the District Collectors and all related Departments in the Government like Labour, School Education and Rural Development Departments.

Principal Secretary (SW)