

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STATE LEVEL SCREENING COMMITTEE FOR REHABILITATION OF FREED BONDED LABOUR HELD IN THE CHAMBERS OF CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVT.ON 30-11-04, AT 11.30 A.M

Present:

1. Dr.Mohan Kanda, IAS.,
Chief Secretary to Govt.,
2. Sri Swaranjit Sen, IAS.,
Principal Secretary to Govt.,
Home Department
3. Smt.Asha Murthy, IAS.,
Principal Secretary to Govt.,
Labour, Employment &
Training and Factories Dept.,
4. Smt.M.Chaya Ratan, IAS.,
Principal Secretary to Govt.,
Tribal Welfare Dept.,
5. Dr.S.Chellappa, IAS.,
Principal Secretary to Govt.,
School Education Dept.,
6. Sri Ajoyendra pyal, IAS.,
Principal Secretary to Govt.,
Social Welfare Department.
7. Sri P.Sundara Kumar, IAS.,
Commissioner of Social Welfare
8. Sri J.C.Sharma, IAS.,
VC & MD, APSCCFC Ltd.
9. Sri D.Murali Mohan, IAS.,
Joint Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare Dept.,

Chief Secretary to Government chaired the meeting of the State Level Screening Committee for Rehabilitation of Freed Bonded Labour. The list of Officers who have attended the meeting is given in the annexure.

2. Principal Secretary (SW) informed that as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and further follow-up action taken by the National Human Rights Commission, a special drive has been launched for identification and rehabilitation of Bonded Labour since the year 1996-97. So far 4725 Bonded Labour have been identified and rehabilitated, with financial assistance of Rs.724.95 lakhs. However, it is noticed that the prosecution of employers under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, has been very poor, and only 91 prosecutions have been launched against the employers in the Districts of Mahabubnagar, East Godavari, Ananthapur, Karimnagar and Nizamabad. It is noticed that, under above Act, the rehabilitation of freed Bonded Labour and prosecution of the employers are entrusted fully with the District Collectors.

3. Chief Secretary observed that it is necessary to tackle the root cause of the system of Bonded Labour, and adopt an analytical and holistic approach in tackling the problem of Bonded Labour. A simple generic approach on this subject will not help in tackling this problem permanently.

4. During discussion, the following decisions were taken on identification and rehabilitation of Bonded Labour.

- (1) It is necessary to prepare specific road maps by the District Collectors on identification of Bonded Labour. The Collectors should identify the areas which are more prone to Bonded Labour system and take up the task of identification of Bonded Labour system and take up the task of identification of Bonded Labour on a mission mode.
- (2) In the process of identification of Bonded Labour, it is necessary to involve dedicated NGOs who are working at the field level. The District Collector should identify the NGOs who are working at the District level and involve them fully in the identification and rehabilitation of Bonded Labour. The Collector should include the NGOs in the committees, consisting of officials from Revenue, Social Welfare, Labour and School Education Departments, both at Mandal and District level.
- (3) The District Collector should prepare advance Action Plan for total rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, by adopting a holistic approach.
- (4) Chief Secretary directed that a committee be constituted immediately for Hyderabad and Rangareddy Districts by involving NGO's who are working in the areas of Bonded Labour and take up a total survey for identification of

Bonded Labour along with Child Labour in these two Districts. The Principal Secretary (SW) was requested to constitute the Committee in constitution with the School Education and Labour Departments, along with the District Collectors of Hyderabad and Rangareddy, for identification of Child Labour and Bonded Labour. It has been generally observed in the past some cases of Child Labour also involved Child Bonded Labour.