

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

NREGS-AP – Bonded labour on migration – Special strategy to rehabilitate
the freed bonded labour – Orders - Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.173

Dated: 01.06.2009

Read the following:-

- Read:
1. Minimum Wages Act – 1948
 2. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970
 3. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976.
 4. NREGS Act - 2005

ORDER:

It has come to the notice of the Government that, in Mahabubnagar district, large number of labour are being engaged to work on worksites across the country on contract basis. Quite often the labour are lured into the contract by advancing huge amounts to the labour, who have to work to repay the loans. There are instances where such labour are forced to work at wages less than the minimum wages. Understandably, the system is perpetuated by a network of middle men locally called "gumpu mestris"

2) A number of poverty alleviation programmes are being implemented by the Government which can effectively rescue labourers from the vicious cycle of poverty and indebtedness. But yet large No. of labour are still becoming victims of the exploitative practice. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has immense potential to address this challenge.

3) In order to ensure that poor labour of Mahabubnagar are not forced into bonded labour by the "gumpu mestris", Government here by direct the District Collector, Mahabubnagar to take up certain urgent measures as detailed below.

- i. An intensive campaign shall be launched in the district to bring on record all instances of labour inducted into the exploitative distress migration by the "gumpu mestris", in 2-3 weeks from now.
- ii. Steps as per the law shall be taken to free the labour from the bondage, immediately. Since group mestries and forced labour is within the definition of bonded labour, District Collector is requested to enforce Law and take stringent and deterrent criminal action against the perpetrators and release bonded labour.
- iii. The freed labour shall be given work in their own villages under NREGS, without limiting to 100 days per family. The labour shall be facilitated to earn wages from NREGS on continuous basis, so that they are not vulnerable to become bonded labour once again.

Contd..

- iv. The women of the freed labour families who are still outside the fold of SHGs shall be organized into SHGs and given access to credit under Pavalavaddi program.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

K.RAJU

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (RD)

To
The Commissioner, Rural Development, AP, Hyderabad.
The Commissioner, Social Welfare, AP, Hyderabad.
The Chief Executive Officer, SERP, AP, Hyderabad.
The District Collector and District Programme Coordinator,
Mahabubnagar district.
The Project Director, DWMA and Additional District Programme
Coordinators of Mahabubnagar District.
The Commissioner, Panchayat Raj, AP., Hyderabad.
The Director, Tribal Welfare, AP, Hyderabad.
The Commissioner, AMR-APARD, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The P.S. to Minister (Rural Development),
The P.S. to Prl.Secy. to Government (RD),
The P.S to Secy. to Government (Panchayat Raj),
The PR & RD (Genl.) Department (2 copies),
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.II) DEPARTMENT

Memo.No.9240/RD.II/A1/2010-1.

Dated:03.05.2010

Sub: PR & RD - providing employment for the freed bonded labour freed - Reg.

Ref: G.O.Ms.No.173 of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (RD.II) Department, dated 01.6.2009.

In the orders cited above, Government have given a special dispensation to the freed Bonded Labour in Mahboobnagar district so as to provide them continuous work under MGNREGA.

2. The International Justice Mission (IJM) a NGO, working on the issues of Identification, release and rehabilitation of the bonded labour in Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur and Nellore Districts, requested that a greater coordination with the district administration and provision of the benefits provided through MGNREGA as has been done in Mahboobnagar would go a long way in improving compliance of the legal provisions of the Bonded Labour abolition Act.

3. After careful consideration, it has been decided to:

- a) AP NGO Alliance (APNA) working in MGNREGA may be requested to undertake the above work in their respective areas of operation.
 - b) Request the District Collectors to have an immediate meeting with the organizations like IJM working on the issue of bonded labour and workout modalities for identification, release and rehabilitation of the bonded labour. PD DRDA should assist the District Collectors in this.
 - c) To extend the benefits given under the G.O. cited above to all the districts for the freed bonded labour.
4. Action taken for the pursuance of these instructions may be intimated on a monthly basis by the PDs DRDA.

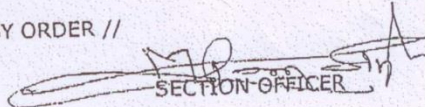
R.SUBRAHMANYAM
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (RD)

To
All the District Collectors in the State.
The Project Directors DRDA in the State.
The Project Directors DWMA in the State.

Copy to:

The OSD to M(RD)
The PS to Prl. Secretary to Government (RD)
SF/SC

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SECTION OFFICER