

The 5th December 1931

S. O. 450, dated the 18th March 1982.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 of the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976 (no. 19 of 1976), and in supersession of Labour and Employment Department's notification no. AC-9054/76 L. & E. -2565, dated the 18th June 1978, the Governor of Bihar is pleased to confer upon every District Magistrate the following powers and impose the following duties to ensure that the provisions of the Act are properly carried out, namely :—

1. The District Magistrate whether on a complaint made to him or otherwise shall make continuous efforts to identify bonded labour in his jurisdiction through such enquiries as he might consider necessary for the purpose either by himself and/or by any officer subordinate to him or any public servant working in his jurisdiction.
2. If after enquiry or otherwise, he is satisfied the bonded labour exists in his jurisdiction he shall take steps forthwith to set him/her free at once, arrange for his/her return to the place of his/her choice, redeem the debt incurred by him, return to the bonded labour any property mortgaged by him/her with the employer, ensure that he/she is not disturbed from the land/house, get his/her wage-claims settled expeditiously and shall take such other action as he deems necessary to achieve the objective laid down in the Act.
3. The District Magistrate shall take immediate cognizance of the offence/offences under the Act and shall either try it himself or send it to any Executive Magistrate empowered for this purpose for trial. Every District Magistrate shall have the powers of taking cognizance of the offence under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.
4. The District Magistrate shall arrange for immediate and effective rehabilitation of the bonded labours so freed as per the guidelines issued by the Government from time to time, and shall ensure through such actions as he considers necessary that the freed bonded labour does not relapse into bondage.
5. The District Magistrate shall keep an eye on the freed bonded labour and shall take such steps as he deems necessary to ensure his security and protection and that of his family.
6. The District Magistrate shall also take such action as is necessary against any person/ persons who attempt to obstruct, subvert or frustrate efforts to rehabilitate the freed bonded labourer.
7. The District Magistrate may delegate aforesaid powers conferred upon him by the State Government to the Subdivisional Magistrate subordinate to him.

Source:

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