

TODAY'S PAPER

17 child labourers rescued in Ballari

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE  HINDU

In a joint operation, 17 children, who were allegedly working as child labourers, were rescued in Ballari on Thursday.

Based on a complaint to Child Helpline, officials raided a house in Sonta Linganna colony, belonging to Lingareddy, and found the children allegedly kept there by one Mohan Reddy.

Mounesh of NCLP told *The Hindu* that preliminary enquiries revealed that the children – 11 below 14 years and 6 below 18 years – were from Ballari district and were sent to work in bars and liquor shops in the city.

There were 40 others, above the age of 18, in the same building, working as labourers in bars and liquor shops.

Mohan Reddy, the labour contractor, had arranged for their board and lodging at the rented house.

The children informed the officials that they were being paid around Rs. 2,000 per month.

The officials, who found a seal of Mohan Reddy, which read as Ballari Wines Labour Supplier, suspect that he was into the business for the past couple of years, while the children are said to have claimed that they were here since six months to a year.

Mounesh said that all the children were given shelter in certified schools for boys.

A notice has also been served on Mohan Reddy besides initiating to prosecute him under the provisions of the Child Labour Act.

The Labour Department has also booked a case under Minimum Wages Act.



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