

HC wants officer nominated to monitor bonded labour cases

By Express News Service | Published: 20th December 2016 04:36 AM |

Last Updated: 20th December 2016 04:45 AM | **A+ A A-** |



For representational purpose

CHENNAI: To monitor the release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers as well as prosecution of persons who engaged them, Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu government to nominate the State Level Officer (SLO) within four weeks.

The first bench of Chief Justice SK Kaul and Justice M Sundar, which gave the direction on Monday while disposing of a PIL from advocate Roseann Rajan, also ordered the government to structure and publish within three months, the action plan on the issue.

The PIL prayed for a direction to the authorities concerned to submit, along with the final report, all relevant documents and materials to cases relating to engagement of bonded labourers, including release certificates, enquiry forms, executive release order and initial rehabilitation amount, to the courts.

When the matter came up today, the Government Pleader produced a circular memorandum dated December 17 last, which informed the authorities concerned to take necessary action.

After going through the circular, petitioner submitted that many cases regarding bonded labour are sent to the courts without all the necessary documents from the Magistrates and the law does not permit the prosecution or the victim to file additional documents to the Sessions/Special Courts. The Government Pleader after referring to the judicial pronouncements, said that filing/recalling additional documents and examining of additional witnesses were allowed at any stage before the sessions /special courts.

When petitioner pointed out that no SLO has been appointed and no action plan has been prepared, as per the orders of the Supreme Court, the bench gave the directions and disposed of the PIL.