

Government of Karnataka

No.RDP. 8. RBL. 2002

Karnataka Government Secretariat,
Vidhana Soudha,
Bangalore, Dated:11-11-2002

CIRCULAR

Sub: Regarding measures to be followed to eradicate bonded labour system.

Ref: Ministry of Labour,GOI letter no.H 11016/14/
2001-BL Dtd:30-7-2002.

It is a very disguised fact that even now 55 years after Independence came to our Country and 25 years after the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 came into force, instances of bonded labour are still found in some parts of the State. It is the duty of the Deputy Commissioners/Assistant Commissioners to take all important measures to eradicate bonded labour system as per the 1976 Act. Eradication of bonded labour includes identifying the bonded labourers, after due verification under the act releasing them from debt bondage and issuing the release certificate, after released from bondage look after that the identified bonded labourer is not evicted from his homestead, releasing such property if any mortgaged by the released bonded labourers immediately, providing on priority basis suitable economic and social rehabilitation facilities (food, housing, employment, primary education, health care, protection etc.,) to the released bonded labourers; filing cases against the masters or the keepers of bonded labour; and taking legal action through conduct of a summary trial according to the Act, etc. Further under the Act, the Deputy Commissioners/Assistant Commissioners, who are the Chairmen of the Vigilance Committees respectively at the Districts/Sub-Divisions, should conduct the meetings of the Vigilance Committees and make priority arrangements to provide appropriate loans at low rates of interest from the local Rural Banks and Co-operative Societies to the released bonded labourers and to sanction the Government land if available. In addition to the subordinate Government officers/officials, it is very essential to involve those non-governmental organizations and social action groups who are having interest to work in this field. Therefore, in view of eradicating the bonded labour system in the State it is directed to consider the following points very seriously and to follow up without fail.

1. As soon as any information/ report on existence of bonded labour in any daily news paper/ local news paper/ magazine or in any other form come to notice, enquire immediately on priority and if the instance falls under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act take appropriate action and submit a report to the Government.
2. Duly consider the Complaints/Memoranda being submitted by the local associations/non-governmental organizations/social action groups and get investigated by the senior officials immediately and

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submit a report as to whether they come under the purview of the bonded labour system.

3. In every instance, detail investigation to be made without fail in order to verify the actual facts to conclude about under which provision of the Act it comes under the purview of bonded labour system and should take appropriate action only after confirmed it as a bonded labour.
4. Conduct the meeting of Vigilance Committees at least once in two months and in those meetings should review to take care that the rehabilitated bonded labourers should not relapse into further bondage and submit a copy of proceedings to the Government.
5. Encourage the non-governmental organization /social action groups to get actively involved in every stage of work in eradication of bonded labour system by formation of task force at village level and taluk level.
6. Submit monthly and quarterly progress reports in the prescribed formats to the Government by the 10th every month without fail.

Sd/-

(A. Ravindra)

Chief Secretary to Government

To,
All the Deputy Commissioners of the State for appropriate action.