

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

ABSTRACT

Bonded Labourers – Release and Rehabilitation – constitution of High Level Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Secretary and District Level Committee – Orders issued.

Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare (ADW-8) Department

G.O.(MS) No.79

Dated.17.9.2002.

Read:

G.O.MS.No.122, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department,
Dated.20.6.1997.

ORDER:

For the eradication of bonded labourers system at national level, Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act has been enacted in the year 1976. This Act is being implemented in this State since its inception in 1976. To relieve persons who were held in bondage both in Tamil Nadu and in other States are to provide rehabilitation measures action were taken by this Government.

2. The expenditure for implementation of this scheme is borne both by the Central and State Government on 50:50 ratio basis. Each bonded labourer who have been released from the clutches of Bonded Labour System is provided with Rs.1000/- in cash as immediate relief measures and afterwards they will be provided Rs.19,000 by way of supply milch animals, quarry stone cutting machines etc. (Total Rs.1000+19,000) powers have been delegated to District Collectors for implementing rehabilitation measures in a effective manner.

3. During 1997 the work of conducting survey of number of Bonded Labourers in this State was entrusted to Non-Governmental Organisations. As per their report, the Bonded Labourers in this State is 25,005. Among them now 13,107 have been released.

4. For the speedy action in releasing and rehabilitating bonded labourers this portfolio is coming under the control of Minister (ADW). To speed up this work a senior I.A.S. officer has also been appointed as Special officer for rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

5. To ensure the effective implementation of Bonded Labour system (Abolition) Act in the Districts, Sub-collectors/Revenue Divisional Officers are fixed with personal responsibility. However to speed up the progress of this scheme a new District Level Committee headed by District Collectors with District Revenue Officers, as Member Secretary and Revenue Divisional Officers/Block Development Officers as members is constituted. The Committee has been instructed to convene a meeting every month to review the progress of Bonded Labour Abolition act and send a report to Government. However to monitor and issue of suitable instructions at State Level, this Government cancelled the orders issued in G.O.(MS) No.122, Adi Dravidar Welfare and Tribal Welfare Department dated.20.6.97 and constitute a new High Level Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Secretary with the following members:-

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|-----|---|-----|------------------|
| 1. | Chief Secretary | ... | Chairman |
| 2. | Secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department. | ... | Member |
| 3. | Secretary, Public Department | ... | Member |
| 4. | Secretary, Revenue Department | ... | Member |
| 5. | Secretary, Labour & Employment Department | ... | Member |
| 6. | Secretary, Rural Development Department | ... | Member |
| 7. | Secretary, Social Welfare & Noon-Meal Programme Department | ... | Member |
| 8. | Secretary, School Education Department, | ... | Member |
| 9. | Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department | ... | Member |
| 10. | Secretary, Planning & Development Department | ... | Member |
| 11. | Commissioner, Adi Dravidar Welfare | ... | Member Secretary |
| 12. | Director, Tribal Welfare | ... | Member |
| 13. | Special Officer (Bonded Labour Abolition) | ... | Member |
| 14. | Collectors (2 District Collectors on rotation basis) | ... | Member |
| 15. | K.R. Venugopal Special Rapporteur, National Human Rights Commission | ... | Special invitee |

The above committee will meet once in three months and discuss and decide about the various rehabilitation measures implemented in various departments for the released bonded labourers especially Housing facilities (Group housing scheme, Rural Development Department) issue of pattas (Revenue/Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, milch animals/plough

bull). Further this Committee will review on the progress of the following issues:-

- 1) Release of persons from bondage
- 2) To constitute Committees of released bonded labourers.
- 3) To provide rehabilitation assistance to the released persons and to provide Jobs for coming regular income.
- 4) To provide education to the children of released persons.
- 5) To provide ways and means for creation of small savings among the released to meet out expenditures incurred in their families for marriage, ceremonies and medical expenses.
- 6) To provide necessary medical facilities.
- 7) To impart necessary awareness through propogandas for release from Bondage.
- 8) To provide legal assistance and services in legal matters to those released.
- 9) To initiate legal action against those kept them under bondage.
- 10) To review progress on the implementation of rehabilitation measures.
- 11) To take concrete steps to prevent released to go back to bondage.
- 12) Hearing the complaints and grievances received from Public and to review the progress of action taken on all levels.
- 13) To re-examine the dropped cases and release them and to provide rehabilitation assistance to them.

5. The member-Secretary is directed to make necessary arrangements to convene the above meeting once in three months and to prepare the Agenda for the meeting.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

P. SELVAM,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To
The Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to Government, Chennai-9.
The Secretary, Public Department, Chennai-9.

The Secretary, Revenue Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary, Labour & Employment Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary, Rural Development Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary, Social Welfare & Noo-Meal Programme Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary, School Education Department. Chennai-9.
The Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary, Planning & Development Department, Chennai-9.
The Commissioner, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Chennai-5.
The Director, Tribal Welfare, Chennai-5.
The Special Officer, (Bonded Labour Abolition), Chennai-85.
All Collectors,
✓ K.R. Venugopal, Special Rapporteur, National Human Rights Commission .

/Forwarded by Order/

S. B. Srinivasan
Section Officer *S. B. Srinivasan*
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