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NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

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**LABOUR, FACTORIES, BOILERS & INSURANCE
MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
(LAB.I)**

THE BONDED LABOUR SYSTEM (ABOLITION) ACT 1976 & RULES - IDENTIFICATION,
RELEASE AND REHABILITATION OF BONDED LABOURERS - RE-CONSTITUTION
OF DISTRICT LEVEL AND SUB - DIVISIONAL LEVEL VIGILANCE COMMITTEES.

**[G.O.Rt.No.131, Labour Factories Boilers & Insurance Medical Services (Lab.I),
10th July, 2026.]**

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred under sub-sections (1), (2) & (3) of
Section 13 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, Government
hereby re-constitutes the District Level Vigilance Committees and Sub-
Divisional Vigilance Committees with the following Members:

DISTRICT LEVEL VIGILANCE COMMITTEES:

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|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Collector & District Magistrate | ... Chairperson |
| 2. Dy. Commissioner of Labour / DIO (District
In-charge Officer) | ... Member Convener |
| 3. Superintendent of Police | ... Member |
| 4. Deputy Director (SW) | ... Member |
| — One person representing Financial and credit | |

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|----|--|-----|---------------|
| 5. | Institutions (Banks) in the District
(to be nominated by the District Magistrate) | ... | Member |
| 6. | Three persons belonging to SCs or STs
residing in the District
(to be nominated by the District Magistrate) | ... | Member |
| 7. | Two social workers
(to be nominated by the District Magistrate) | ... | Member |
| 8. | Three persons representing official or
non-official agencies (Voluntary) in the
district connected with rural development
(to be nominated by the State Government) | ... | Member |

Note:

- **Among the three Officers, one Officer as member may be from Women Development and Child Welfare Department (WD&CW Dept.) preferably a woman officer of the district.**
 - **Another Officer as member may be from Samagra Siksha / Education Dept., of the district to look after the Bonded Labourer, in case of released bonded labourer is Child / Adolescent/Adult (Man, Woman) for accessing admission into necessary school / Children's Home / women's Hostel / Adult Education / Skill Training Institutions.**
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|----|--|-----|---------------|
| 9. | Representative of District Legal Services
Authority, (District level) (to be nominated
by the – District Magistrate) | ... | Member |
|----|--|-----|---------------|

SUB – DIVISIONAL VIGILANCE COMMITTEES:

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|----|--|-----|------------------------|
| 1. | Sub Divisional Magistrate / Revenue
Divisional Officer | ... | Chairperson |
| 2. | Dy.Superintendent of Police | ... | Member |
| 3. | Asst. Social Welfare Officer | ... | Member |
| 4. | Asst. Commissioner of Labour (SSPO) | ... | Member Convener |
| 5. | Three persons belonging to SCs or STs.
residing in the District
(to be nominated by the Chairperson) | ... | Member |
| 6. | Two Social Workers
(to be nominated by the Chairperson) | ... | Member |
| 7. | Three representatives of official or non-
official agencies connected with rural
development in the Sub-Division
(to be nominated by the District Magistrate) | ... | Member |

Note:

- Among the three officers, one officer as member may be from Women Development & Child Welfare Department (WD&CW Dept.), preferably a woman officer of the district.
- Another officer as member may be from Samagra Siksha / Education Dept., of the district to look after the bonded labourers in case of released bonded labourer is Child / Adolescent / Adult (Man, Woman) for accessing admission into necessary school / Children's Home / women's Hostel / Adult Education / Skill Training Institutions.

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|-----|--|-----|---------------|
| 8. | One person to represent financial & credit institutions (Banks) in the Sub-Division
(to be nominated by the Chairman) | ... | Member |
| 9. | One officer in the Sub-division specified by the District Magistrate | ... | Member |
| 10. | Representatives of District Legal Services Authority (sub-divisional, to be nominated by the Chairman) | ... | Member |

2. Hitherto the District Level and Sub Divisional Vigilance Committees were assigned the following functions (Sec.14):-

- a) To advise the District Magistrate or any officer authorized by him as to the efforts made and action taken, to ensure that the provisions of this Act or of any rule made there under are properly implemented.
- b) To provide for the economic and social rehabilitation of the freed bonded labourers in time, by implementation of Revised Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer-2021 (CSSRBL-2021).
 - Rs. One lakh per adult male bonded labourer.
 - For Special Category beneficiaries such as Children/ Orphan / Woman Rs.2 lakhs for each one those rescued.
 - For any other persons rescued from vulnerable categories of extreme cases Rs. 3 lakhs for each one.

As Chairman of Vigilance Committees DM/SDM, may also provide State assistance under any other scheme administered by them according to poor conditions of the released bonded labourers.

- c) Co-ordinate with the functions of rural banks and co-operative societies with a view to Canalising adequate credit to the freed bonded labourer;

- d) To Keep an eye on the number of offences of which cognizance has been taken under this Act;
- e) To Make a survey whether there are any offences of which cognizance ought to be taken under this Act;
- f) To defend any suit instituted against a freed bonded labourer or a member of his family or any other person dependent on him for the recovery of the whole or part of any bonded debt or any other debt which is claimed by such person to be bonded debt.

The Vigilance Committee may authorize one of its members to defend a suit against a freed bonded labourer and the member so authorized shall be deemed, for the purpose of such suits, to be the authorised agent of the freed bonded labourer. (Section 14(2))

3. The following additional functions are assigned to the Committees constituted above (as per the Social Welfare Department Circular Memo)

- i) Identify bonded labourers and examine their conditions;

Whenever any debt is claimed by a bonded labourer, or a Vigilance Committee, to be bonded debt, such debt is not a bonded debt, the burden of proof shall lie on the creditor. (Section 15)

- ii) Negotiations wherever possible may be done with the employers to clear the dues of Wages to be paid to the released bonded labourer for the worked period and also talks may be done in clear abolition of any bonded debts of the released bonded labourer to be paid to the employer.
- iii) If receives information about locals who are held in bondage in other states, immediately report details to the Government for action.
- iv) To facilitate rescue efforts to labourers that are in bondage conditions and belong to any place both within the local area or from other States, VMC shall involve the Police of the district and labour department officials, legal-aid members, or lawyers and NGOs for their proper release, rescue and rehabilitation.

In cases where, the DM/ SDM as Chairman of the VMC find that immediate assistance is necessary for care and protection of the rescued persons during the pendency of the summary trial, such assistance including fooding, lodging, medical assistance, legal aid, provisions for victim's or witness' protection, etc., shall be provided. Also shall take necessary action under any other law or scheme forthwith. Notwithstanding the entitlements prescribed under the Scheme of Central Sector Scheme for rehabilitation Bonded Labourer -2021.

- v) Assist the released bonded labourers in registering an FIR and obtaining the "Release Certificate" and where necessary follow up on the same;

- vi) Serve as reception and rehabilitation committee in respect of released bonded labourers originating from the area;
- vii) Ensuring that the immediate needs of food, health, clothing, transportation and interim housing arrangements are taken care of;
- viii) Provide counseling and psychological support in trauma conditions through trained psychology oriented medical personnel and also assist the family unit to re-integrate into society;
- ix) Ensure that immediate financial assistance upto Rs 30,000/- (Rs. Thirty Thousand) is provided by the District Administration to the rescued person from the District Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund that is at the disposal of the District Magistrate. Where the DM is satisfied that a particular rescued person requires more than Rs. 30,000/- (Rs. Thirty Thousand) he/she may disburse such higher amount as deemed fit, but limited to the maximum entitlement prescribed under Central rehabilitation scheme. The benefits may be given cash or non-cash for which the rescued bonded labourer is entitled in the CSSRBL-2021 scheme.
- x) Ensure that the provisions of the Bonded labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 relating to extinguishment of bonded debt, non-ouster from homestead, restoration of property or release of property from mortgage, recovery of dues and compensation where applicable, are implemented; (Sec 7).
- xi) Ensure that the release rehabilitation be a single composite step with long-term, sustainable arrangements finalized within three months, as far as possible;
- xii) Consult the freed labourer on the method of his rehabilitation, considering his or her background, and specific needs and talents;
- xiii) Provide consumption loan or monthly sustenance, being a reasonable amount, in the interregnum between release and rehabilitation or until suitable employment is found;
- xiv) Arrange alternative wage-employment through preferential treatment to the released individual.
- xv) Arrange or extend skill training or other Adult Education schemes utilizing the help of Govt/private sector or voluntary organization.
- xvi) Assist the freed labourer in obtaining financial assistance, subsidies through state funds or from nationalized banks.
- xvii) Endeavour to rehabilitate the individual in the same occupation. Co-operatives or collectives, wherever feasible, be encouraged for groups of released bonded labourers, on a preferential basis and all the complementary assistance such as training and managerial and marketing support be provided;

- xviii) Be vigilant against abuse or misappropriation of rehabilitation benefits by recommending stringent action against offenders;
- xix) For addressing the special needs of female freed bonded labourers, the VMC shall bring notice to the State Government also to provide financial and other assistance for marriage, apart from other capacity building measures like ensuring proper education, psycho social counseling short stay home till education upto class 12th including provision of skill development programmes in the rehabilitation package.
- xx) Recommend long-term measures through convergence of anti-poverty schemes, specific development programs and welfare measures including housing, cultivable land where bonded labourers receive preferential treatment;
- xxi) Assign rehabilitation package, in the name of the woman of the household;
- xxii) Take all steps to prevent and prompt entrapment into bondage, through enforcement of the Bonded labour system (Abolition) Act, 1976;
- xxiii) Critically assess the socio-economic condition creating bondage and devise means of curbing them;
- xxiv) Study sensitive occupations known to be employed as bonded labour and ensure specific measures to curb;
- xxv) Review the functioning of Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 (ISM Act - 1979) and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, to prevent misuse of laws and forcing unfair labour practices on employed labour by the employer /contractor;
- xxvi) Maintain a list of employers of bonded labour, recruiters and agents(Takedar) and initiate criminal action against them and prefer with prosecutions:
- xxvii) The principal employer will be liable for offences under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976;
- xxviii) Step up enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act by calculating Back Wages for the working period with the employer and follow-up until M.W claims settled in the Authority Court under M.W Act.

4. The Collectors are directed to make re-survey on bonded labourers in each district by using a methodology best suited to local conditions and sensitivity of the problem, focusing on occupations, areas and high risk groups. The support of members of Vigilance Committees, the Panchayatraj Institutions, voluntary groups and field experts may be utilized for this survey. The survey may be also used to conduct an awareness of provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and other legal rights.

5. All District Collectors to constitute the Vigilance Committees at District and Sub-Divisional level as above and submit proposals to the Government for notifying these committees.

6. The District Collectors are directed to ensure that meetings of the Sub-Divisional Level Committees are conducted every month. The District Level Committee meetings shall be conducted for every quarter and proceedings of these meetings should be sent regularly to the Commissioner of Labour. The Commissioner of Labour, shall review these reports and sent quarterly progress to the Government, in view of Labour Department declared as Nodal Department in the G.O.Ms.No.14, dt:26.06.2025.

7. The District and Sub-Divisional Level Vigilance Committees shall maintain all the registers as prescribed in Rule 7 of the Bonded labour System (Abolition) Rules 1976. (An extract of the Rule 7 is enclosed).

8. The nominated members of District Vigilance Committee and Sub-Divisional Vigilance Committee shall hold office for a period of two years from the date on which his nomination is notified in the official Gazette and norms abide by Rule 3 and Rule 4 of BLSA Rules, 1976 and Sub section 2 of Sec. 13 in clauses (b), (c), (d), (e) (f) of BLSA Act, 1976.

M.V. SESHAGIRI BABU,
Secretary to Government .

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