

Abandoned parents provided succour under Senior Citizens Act

Staff Reporter

Tenali sub divisional tribunal awards judgment in eight cases.

Life seems to ebbing out at a leisurely pace for this respectable farmer belonging to Chavipodu village in Vatticherukuru mandal, Gandla Subba Rao, until he was confronted with dire poverty. His three sons, including two of them settled in Government jobs, started harassing their parents the moment they shared the property among themselves. But the worst barb came from the youngest son, who sold away the only piece of land left with his parents and forced them on the streets. Help came in an unexpected way. The elderly couple contacted a member of Tenali Sub-Divisional tribunal, R. Anji Raju. The tribunal constituted under Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 took up the case and served notices on the sons demanding an explanation.

Despite facing stiff resistance from the sons and braving a risk to his life, Mr. Anji Raju persuaded the sons to give back the money earned from selling the land. The parents are now residing with their daughter at Athota village in Tenali mandal. "We have awarded judgment in eight cases in just a year. This shows the act is a very effective and potent in safe guarding the interests of parents deserted by their sons and daughters," Mr. Anju Raju said here on Sunday. Under the act, any parent can file an appeal at the maintenance tribunals which have been constituted at sub-divisional level by the district administration in October 2010. The sub-divisional tribunals have been constituted at Guntur, Tenali and Narsaraopet. The Revenue Divisional Officers of the respective sub-divisions will act as chairmen of tribunals, which have assistant directors of disabled welfare and a representative of senior citizens as members. The District Collector will act as district appellate tribunal authority and hear appeals against the orders of the tribunals. The Act empowers the tribunals to receive applications from anguished senior citizens for maintenance against one or more children, not minor, seeking maintenance to live a normal life. The maximum monthly allowance ordered by the tribunal shall not exceed Rs.10,000. After receiving the applications, the tribunal gives notices of applications to children/relatives and hold inquiry for determining the amount of maintenance. The application filed for monthly allowance should be disposed of within 90 days from the date of serving the notice. In exceptional circumstances, the tribunal could extend the proceedings to 30 days. According to Chapter 1, clause 2, the tribunal may also during the pendency of the proceedings regarding monthly allowances, pass interim orders on such children/ relative to make monthly allowances to the grieving parents. Noted senior citizen welfare activists, T. Mohan Rao, president of Bapatla Senior Citizens Welfare Association Rudraraju Anji Raju and Chalamayya have been nominated as members of sub-divisional tribunals of Guntur, Tenali and Narsaraopet respectively.

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