



Social Security Now

**Minutes of National Working Committee Meeting
Indian Social Institute, New Delhi January 17, 2009**

Following participants attended the meeting.

<u>Name of the Participants</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
1. Vijay Kant Sinha	Urban Unorganised workers union bihar Nidan, Patna
2. Soumen Ray	NCL
3. Kovivi Vinaya Kumar	NFDLRM/ DBF
4. Martin	CBCI-Labour Commission
5. Uttam Kannake	NIWCYD, Nagpur
6. Satyam Pandey	NIWCYD, M.P.
7. Mecanky Dabre	YUVA
8. Shashi B.Pandit	AIICMM
9. Tularam Sharma	UPGMS
10. Balibhu	AIKMM
11. Pravin Mishra	Jan Sangharsh Manch
12. Udaya Roy	BMM
13. Punita Shaw	PWESCR
14. Subhash Bhatnagar	NCC-USW
15. Vijayan M.J.	Delhi Forum
16. Anita	Delhi Sharmik Sangathan
17. Bipin Kr. Ravi	Delhi Solidarity Group
18. Kailash	Delhi Shramik Sangthan
19. J.John	Centre For Education and Communication
20. Ramnath Nayak	Centre For Education and Communication
21. Dr. R.S.Tiwari	Centre For Education and Communication

The meeting began with welcoming of members by J John of National Secretariat of SSN. Thereafter R S Tiwari reported activities of SSN since last meeting held at Allahabad on August 9, 2008. The activities of SSN during last five months focused on i. Lobbying with the government, MPs, Political parties and others. ii. The Production of campaign song 'Ye Kaisi Azadi Hai' and iii. National Campaign Activities. These include meetings with Congress General Secretary Rahul Gandhi, MPs, trade unions, submitting concerns of SSN on the diluted government bill and proposing amendments in the government bill; production and distribution of campaign song and video with the support of various organisations, production and distribution of other campaign material; supporting various groups to hold regional conventions/workshops and Yatras etc at Chennai, Jabalpur, Pune, Bhubaneswar and Yatras in Maharashtra. Working group members and other organisations conducted many other activities including rallies etc and SSN participated and supported them.

The participants presented their perceptions and analysis on the activities of SSN and there was general consensus that despite many gaps we were successful in generating awareness of need of comprehensive social security for unorganised informal workers

and made it a national issue. The process which started from October 2006 at National Convention in Nagpur has activated a vary large number of CSOs and organisations of workers to demand comprehensive social security protection. The inadequate and diluted government Bill was opposed vehemently. Participants said that because of SSN they could involve many grass root level organisations and trade unions and thus raising social security issue at wider horizons. However now we need to focus on grass root level campaign and involvement of masses. The communication gap should be looked into. The SSN partners and Working group members need to take more interest on this issue. Besides, sharing responsibility and accountability of the campaign is necessary. It was pointed out that parliamentarians were contacted vary late, many MPs stated that we should have contacted them much earlier.

STRETEGY

Deficiencies in the Act

While analysing the new legislation participants listed out deficiencies/infirmities in the Act passed by the parliament and the demands that would be raised in the campaign.

- 1 Boards provided in the Act are only advisory.
- 2 Schemes are undefined.
- 3 No social security fund is provided.
- 4 No separate administrative machinery is prescribed for the implementation of the scheme.
- 5 Livelihood rights contingencies are not included within the schemes.
- 6 Benefits provided in the Act are not adequate.
- 7 Unpaid women workers and unpaid family members are not included within the ambit of the Act.
- 8 More than 90 per cent of the unorganised workers are excluded from the benefits of the law. Only BPL workers will get benefits.
- 9 Who implements the scheme is not clear.

Major Demands

- 1 Create Social Security Fund - Provide Budgetary Allocation
- 2 Bring all the schemes under Ministry of Labour to make the implementation authority clear.
- 3 Provide Authority to the National and State Social Security Board
- 4 Include livelihood rights contingencies within the ambit of the schemes
- 5 Include all unorganised workers within the purview of the Act and schemes in the schedule. The clauses of income ceiling and contribution by workers are removed.
- 6 Dispute settlement should be the mandate of the Board and not prescribed in the schemes
- 7 Schemes should not be insurance based.

Action Plan

During Parliament Session in February 2009

Objectives:

- 1 Expose the Bill
- 2 Bring amendment
- 3 Election Campaign

Activities:

- i. Give the demand to MPs and request them to raise it in the Parliament
 - ii. Meet SC & ST MP Forum (R K Nayak) by NFDLRM and BC MP Forum
 - iii. Target Left Parties, UTUC, TDP, AIADMK, BSP and JD(U)
 - iv. Demands should be submitted to the political parties.
 - v. Talk to Jayprakash Narayan of Lok Satta
 - vi Group of Civil Society Organisations to meet Congress Party leaders - Sonia Gandhi
 - vii During Trade Union Rally of February 18:
1. Presentation of our position and demands to the CTUOs prior to the February 18th rally.
 - 2 Participation in the rally of the CTUOs and submission of a memorandum to the Ministry of Labour
- viii. It was decided that we should pressurise political parties to include the necessity of amending the 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act' 2008' in the election manifesto. We should prepare and release 'People's Manifesto on social security' and widely distribute it.
 - ix. Include mass organisations in the campaign
 - x. One-day observation - Dharna at District Collector in all districts and Press Conference on February 23, 2009.
 - xi. We should adopt 'We the People' type of address in all memorandum and campaign programmes.
 - xii. National Workshop on 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act' 2008' two months before election - March 20-21, 2009.
 - xiii. Election strategy: Three groupings of national politics to be addressed
 - xiv. Long term strategy:
 - 1 Amendment of the Act to make it inclusive and comprehensive
 - 2 Effective Implementation of the Act
 - 3 Broadening the Platform
 - 4 District level monitoring committees & Monitoring Process
 - 5 Issues of Discrimination based on experiences of EGA
 - 6 Social inclusiveness within the 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act' 2008'
 - xv. Preparatory Materials
 - 1 Poster on deficiencies of the Bill
 - 2 Document on deficiencies and Demands

Monitoring Process

SSN should initiate establishing the network of monitoring the progress of implementation of the 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act' 2008' and issue status report periodically to put pressure on the government and implementation authorities for taking benefits to the deprived unorganised workers. Our action plan would be:

- 1 To demand for register all unorganised workers since registration is not restricted to BPL workers
- 2 Evaluative Study on schemes
- 3 Constitute district level monitoring committees
- 4 Bring out consolidated annual reports.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Ramanath Nayak
For SSN Secretariat