

National Conventions of NGOs on Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill, 2006 - (To be organised in Oct 06.)

Minutes of The Meeting of NGO partners proposing to organise the above cited Convention, held on 1st September 2006 at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi

The meeting was attended by following NGOs-representatives:

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| 1. Subhash Bhatnagar | NCC-USW |
| 2. Jimmy Dikhi | ISI |
| 3. Arun Khote | NCDHR |
| 4. Anju mol George | NCC-USW |
| 5. T A John | ISI |
| 6. J John | CEC |
| 7. Pallavi Mansingh | CEC |
| 8. P Ravindranathan | CEC |
| 9. Karan Tyagi | NAFRE |
| 10. R S Tiwari | CEC |

This meeting began with the brief on the proposed convention of NGOs, by J John of CEC. He stated that the proposal has been endorsed by various prominent NGOs in the last meeting held on 30th August 06. In a nut shell the proposed convention of NGOs is needed to integrate efforts of NGO for a broader campaign involving possibilities of interaction with trade unions. This will strengthen the campaign for social security . It is important that NGOs understand their role in ensuring social security for unorganised workers in both urban and rural areas. They should play a meaningful role in cooperation with trade union and peoples' movements. They need to understand Government actions, proposed law and their responsibilities.

The participant representatives discussed various facets of the proposal and unanimously agreed for holding the convention of labour oriented NGOs and those

who are working for tribals, dalits, women workers, agriculture workers and for such other social cause relating to livelihood production etc. Various decisions are given bellow.

- i. The dates of proposed convention: 28 –30 October 06
- ii. Place: Nagpur
- iii. Venue: (To be decided)
- iv. **Objectives:**
 - To Sensitize NGOs on issues relating to social security and the proposed law of NCEUS.
 - To generate awareness among NGOs on various provisions of the proposed law and their role in delivering the benefits of social security (as workers facilitation agencies).
 - To prepare NGOs for adopting the role of facilitators and campaigners to improve the coverage of maximum number of people/workers.
 - To facilitate interaction with Trade Unions and People movements of dalits, women’s groups, forest peoples, agriculture workers etc; for forging more meaningful unity and coordination to building a organised base of unorganised workers, etc.
- v. **Strategy**
 - Involve tribals and dalits panchayat leaders, agricultural workers, women’s group etc.
 - Arjun Sengupta, Chairman of NCEUS, Raveendra Verma Chairman of second NCL and DGLW in the Labour Ministry would be requested for presentations on focal issues.
 - Parallel and plenary sessions and different group discussions could be held simultaneously on first or second day
 - Background paper would be prepared of NGOs who are in the organising committee (these papers need to be finalised by 25th September 06 so that they can be sent to participant NGOs)
 - Following consortium members would involve and coordinate in organising the Convention.
NFDLRM, CEC, ISI, NAFRE, BIRSA, VANI*, CRY*, GPF*, NCC-USW, Nagpur Group*, DAG, NAWO*, NCCRLW, DBSU/Sakshi*, Delhi Forum*

(Note: * to be cross checked and confirmed)

- vi. **Issues**
- Social security versus employment regulation,
 - Discrimination in social security benefits.
 - Structure of social security administration
 - Social Security fund (Sources and method of collection)
 - Feasibility of insurance based Social security and privatization of insurance, alternative ways as in ESI Scheme (for health)
 - Sexual Harassment, violence and gender discrimination in unorganised sector.
- vii. **Budget would be finalised later in next meeting considering the following:**
- Travel assistance expenses to invitees/participants should not be given.
 - Boarding and lodging assistance could be borne by organizers.
 - Raising funds by NGOs contributions or a consortium of NGO-organizers may collectively approach to funding agency for funds.
 - Registration Rs. 50/- per participants.
 - Travel assistance for resource persons would be considered by organizers.

Accommodation, Comprehensive plan and Budget and invitations will be finalised on September 12, 06 in the next meeting to be held at ISI at 3 pm.

It was decided that Dr R S Tiwari of CEC and Mr Arun from NCDHR will visit Nagpur on 6th or 7th Sept. 06 and contact other friendly NGOs for accommodation, venue of the convention, secretarial assistance, logistic support etc.

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