



Unorganised workers in India include about 390 million employed, employable and self employed work force engaged in various unorganised economic activities. They barely earn a subsistence level wage, remain unorganised and are denied social security, welfare and health security. Neo-liberal policies of the government have increased contractualisation and outsourcing resulting in informalisation and closure of small-scale industries. This has led to expansion of this workforce at a faster pace.

Social Security

Income, employment protection and social security are primary concerns of unorganised sector workers. Government sponsored schemes applicable to a few targeted groups provide welfare benefits which, too, are inadequate. Employment regulation, livelihood protection social security system remain absent.

Legislation for Unorganised Workers

The central trade unions and trade unions of unorganised sector workers have been raising demands for a comprehensive legislation for unorganised workers. There has been demand for social-assistance-based social security system for unorganised workers considering the low income levels of these workers and their inability to contribute. The efforts of the government, that too half hearted, to cover unorganised workers under some kind of social security system could not crystallise so far. The issue of an Umbrella Legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers was referred to Second National Commission on Labour in the year 1999 which submitted its report in the year 2002 recommending social security cover with regulation of employment and dispute resolution system. The government, however, circulated different versions of unorganised sector bills proposing only enabling provisions and ultimately introduced a scheme for social security of unorganised workers in early 2004. Subsequently labour ministry floated one more draft bill (2004) and now the latest bill (2006) of National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector is being debated. There are two other bills, namely Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill, 2005 by National Advisory Council of UPA and Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2005 by National Centre for Labour. The NCC-USW has also suggested a draft bill. Besides, Central Trade Unions have also submitted their joint comments on the draft bill of the government. This delay has raised questions on the intention of the government. The cost of social security under the contributory system, deter them from enacting the law.

Role of NGOs

Several NGOs are working in unorganised sector and many others associate with people's movements. They create network and collaborate with other NGOs, trade unions as also with similar other institutions. These ramifications necessitate that NGOs address the issues of social security which affect almost entire unorganised workers. NGOs should debate and analyse legislative proposals of the successive governments in the larger political and economic context.

"Mil Kar Challenge, Mil Kar Ladenge Samajik Suraksha Ka Haq, Le Kar Rahenge"

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National Convention on Social Security for Unorganised Workers

26-28 October 2006

Ramgopal Maheshwari Sanskrutik Sabhagriha
Vidarbha Hindi Saahitya Sammelan, More Bhavan
Jhansi Rani Square, Sitavardi, Nagpur

**"Samman Se Jine Ka Haq
Samajik Suraksha Ka Haq
Yeh Haq Hai Mera
Yeh Haq Hai Ham Sab Ka"**



Convention on Social Security

The convention will discuss issues relating to social security of unorganised workers. Relevant legislative proposals and draft bills including the draft bill of Second National Commission on Labour, the draft bills developed by the Ministry of Labour, the draft bill of NCEUS, other alternatives and suggestions made by activists, trade unions and labour experts will be discussed. Policies of the government, employers, World Bank and WTO will also be examined.

Objectives of the Convention:

- To equip NGOs on issues relating to Social Security for the Unorganised Workers
- To critically look at various Bills on Unorganised Sector
- To assert state responsibility to provide Social Security in the Unorganised Sector
- To strengthen NGOs role as facilitators and campaigners, addressing issues of unorganised sector
- To facilitate interaction of Trade Unions and People's movements with NGOs for forging a meaningful alliance and coordination on issues of unorganised sector

Issues that will be discussed:

- Social Security versus Employment regulation
- Discrimination in Social Security Benefits
- Structure of Social Security administration
- Social Security Fund (Sources and methods of collection)
- Need for a separate Comprehensive Law for Agriculture Workers
- Feasibility of Insurance Based Social Security and Privatisation of Insurance, alternative ways as in ESI Scheme (for health)
- Sexual Harassment, Violence and Gender Discrimination in Unorganised Sector
- Women and Social Security
- Social Exclusion, Discrimination and Violence based on Caste
- New Economic Reforms and Unorganised Sector

The convention is expected to result in closer dialogue among NGOs, trade unions and people's movements to ensure that unorganised sector workers get social and economic justice. The conference is also expected to identify and affirm the non-negotiables with regard to any law on social security of unorganised workers.

"Adivasi Ladenge

Dalit Ladenge

Mahilayen Ladengi

Mazdoor Ladenge

Mil Kar Ladenge, Lad Kar Lenge

Lade Bina Nahin Rahenge

Jine Ka Haq, Haq Ki Ladai

Milkar Hasil Karenghe Bhai"



National Convention on Social Security for Unorganised Workers



Tentative Programme Schedule

Day 1 (October 26)

Registration
Inaugural Session (09.30 - 10.30 am)
Keynote Address and Presentations (10.30 - 11.30 am)
Tea Break (11.30 - 11.45 am)
Presentations (input session) (11.45 am - 01.30 pm)
Lunch (01.30 - 02.30 pm)
Presentations (input session) (02.30 - 03.30 pm)
Tea Break (03.30 - 03.45 pm)
Group Discussion on Issues (7 or 8 groups) (04.00 - 06.00 pm)
Cultural Programme (06.30 pm onwards)

Day 2 (October 27)

Plenary for Group Discussion (09.30 - 11.00 am)
Interaction Session with Key Resource persons (11.30 - 1.30 pm)
Lunch (1.30 - 2.30 pm)
Interaction with Trade Unions (2.30 - 4.00 pm)
Tea Break (04.00 - 04.30 pm)
Interaction with People's Movements (4.30 - 6.00 pm)
Cultural Programme (07.00 pm Onwards)

Day 3 (October 28)

Group Discussion on Identifying/formulating main demands and strategies (09.30 - 11.30 am)
Plenary and Concluding Session (12.00 - 01.30 pm; 02.30 - 03.30 pm)
Lunch (01.30 - 2.30 pm)



National Convention on Social Security for Unorganised Workers

26-28 October 2006
More Bhavan, Sitavardi, Nagpur

Participation Form

Mr./Ms. _____ (Name of the Individual)

from _____ (Name of the Organisation)

agrees to participate in the National Convention on Social Security taking place in Nagpur from 26-28 October, 2006.

We/I understand that we must make our own arrangements to cover the cost of travel and other expenses.

The organisers will provide us with accommodation in Nagpur for the given dates.

The individual registration fee for the National Convention on Social Security is Rs 50 per delegate.

Sincerely,

Authorising Person:

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Address: _____

Phone and Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature