

**National Conventions of NGOs on Social Security for Unorganised  
Workers - (To be organised in Oct 06.)**

**Minutes of The Meeting of NGO partners proposing to organise the above cited  
Convention, held on 12th September 2006 at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi**

*The meeting was attended by following NGOs-representatives:*

i.	Karen Tyagi	NAFRE
ii.	T A John	ISI
iii.	Sanjeev	CRY
iv.	Vikram Srivastava	CRY
v.	Vasundara	ISI
vi.	Thaneshwar	NCC-USW
vii.	Ajay Panday	ISI
viii.	Amzad Hassan	DAMU
ix.	Ashok Sharma	Delhi Forum
x.	Vijayan	Delhi Forum
xi.	Subash Lomte	NCCRW
xii.	J N Mohanty	DAMU
xiii.	Pallavi Mansingh	CEC
xiv.	P Ravindranathan	CEC
xv.	R S Tiwari	CEC

Initially the brief of proceedings of last meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 06 was discussed. Thereafter a slight change in the schedule of the convention from 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>

October to 27-29<sup>th</sup> October 06 was suggested in view of another national level meeting and agreed to by the participants.

Subsequently while programme schedule was being discussed and nearly finalised representatives of CRY and Delhi Forum made certain observations and raised their apprehensions. Mr Vijayan of Delhi Forum objected (kindly note the difference between objection and raising concern) inviting chairman of the National Commission For Enterprises in The Unorganised Sector pointing out the government wants to use NGOs for their hidden objectives etc. This is a mixture of many points! The concerns raised include the following:

- 1) The earlier format was that of Govt drafting the bill and asking for responses (Eg. case of fishworker's). Now Govt has washed their hands off the responsibility to organize any sort of consultation on any such draft/bill/issue and has happily passed on that responsibility to NGOs, who are then forced to firefight each time
- 2) Understanding our purpose as collecting the wide range of responses that exist to the Arjun Sen Gupta's (ASG) draft, it was suggested that we should try and engage people's movements and mass organizations in such a process and not limit it to (even terminology) only NGOs
- 3) It was said that ASG's opinions are already presented before us in the draft and giving a space to a person like ASG in such a gathering should be re-assessed. (Eg of the NCL national consultation, on the same draft, where he came and tried to impose his views on all the TU members and movement representatives sitting there and refused to even hear comments, leave aside a discussion of any sort.)
- 4) ASG being who he is, the blue-eyed boy of the WB/IMF lobby and future successor of Montek Singh, a concern was raised about even his influence on the funding/NGO world – whereby funders have started demanding NGOs to organize consultations on ASG's draft. To prove the legitimacy of the consultation that we are organizing, it was suggested that we should involve as many mass organizations and movements. It was in this context that Vijayan raised the issue of conviction behind the effort. He explained this argument by asserting that DF being not a registered NGO, and being a movement support centre in Delhi, had the responsibility to convince others before involving in a process of the sort.
- 5) Since ASG has already put forward whatever he had to say on the issue in the draft, it was stated that the primary objective was to bring together all earlier drafts on the issue and prepare a counter draft / bill
- 6) ASG in the draft has deliberately tried to de-link social security for unorganized workers from issues like NREGA. It was stated that we should not only fall within this compartmentalizing trap, instead should challenge this approach of the state
- 7) While assessing the bill/draft from the sector's point of view, we should not miss out on the larger issues that exist

Mr Vikram of CRY and also Delhi Forum representative were of the opinion that objectives of organising the convention are not very clear (in writing) and not convincing (the statement was that since some of us need to go back to our constituencies and convince many people on our participation in the consultation, there should be better clarity)

According to the rep. of CRY and Delhi Forum these objectives do not spell out details and it is not clear, what we actually seek to achieve. Since there was no concept paper that was made available (some members even said that the language in the earlier minutes and field-visit report was not in the right spirit), it was requested that CEC team, should put together a brief concept paper with clear objectives (as per the previous discussions and the discussions held in the meeting) and circulate to all by 15<sup>th</sup> and finalization of the same can be done in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The representative of NCC-USW proposed that the background note could be prepared by Mr Subhash Bhatnagar but he will be available only after 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 06. It was suggested that other NGOs may send their inputs for the background note to Mr Bhatnagar by e-mail as early as possible. (Kindly refer to additions in the earlier paragraph) Other papers on the issues for group discussions could be prepared by other NGOs. Mr TA John of ISI and Karen Tyagi of NAFRE suggested for inclusion of the issue 'New Economic Reforms and Unorganised Sector'.

While the budget and sharing of expenditure was discussed CRY and Delhi Forum representatives stated that first the concept paper of the Convention of NGOs be developed setting forth the objectives in more clear and elaborate manner justifying the necessity and this could be discussed along with all other agenda issues in the next meeting which should be for one full day. This was agreed by all participating NGOs. The next meeting has been fixed **on Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> September 06 in CEC.**

We are making these necessary clarifications for better understanding regarding the discussion that was held, in the belief that this will make our next meeting easier and purposeful.