



NewsWatch on Livelihood, Food Security, Land Rights, Gender, Identity & Social Exclusion

About Us

Vision
 "Where there is justice in the land, fields and forest; every living being will dance and sing"



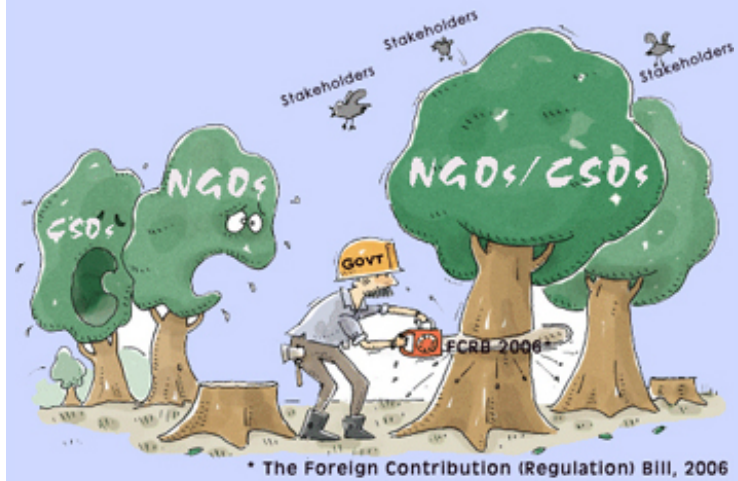
Mission
 In the spirit of service and sacrifice of Christ, CNI-SBSS would like to accompany DBSS and its partners to engage with the reference communities, so that they will develop the capacity (skills and assets) to negotiate with the policy makers and to realize their rights and emerge as an alternative political force. To move towards this direction, communities would be sensitized socially, politically, economically and culturally to organize themselves and to claim their rights over livelihood means while protecting their identity.

Our Resource Centres
 CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Livelihood and Food Security, Agra
 CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Land Rights and Dalit Studies, Pune
 CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Tribal Identity and Indigenous Rights, Ranchi
 CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions, Research and Training, Kolkata

Contact Us
SYNOCDICAL BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA
 CNI Bhawan, 16, Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi-110001.
 Ph: 91-11-23718168, 23351727
 Fax: 091-11-23712126
 Email: cnisbss@nda.vsnl.net.in
 Website: www.cnisbss.org

News of the Fortnight

FCRA: Throttling democratic civil space



The new FCRA bill which is being discussed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, if enacted, the critic and public feel that it would drastically choke the breathing space of our democracy, especially the rightful liberties of civil society organisations, in this case the voluntary or non-profit organisations.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2006 replaces the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA). The Bill seeks to regulate the acceptance and utilization of all foreign funds through donations, gifts or grants. Though the stated objective of the Bill is to strengthen internal security, it addresses only the voluntary sector and only foreign funding. This constitutes less than one per cent of gross inflow of foreign funds into India. Many of the objectives of the Bill are met by other laws in force such as the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and the Income Tax Act, 1961; in spite of these existing protections the present government looks determined to go ahead with the new bill.

The Bill prohibits all organisations of a "political nature" from receiving any foreign contribution but does not provide any guidelines to define organisations of a "political nature".

The Bill on the whole lacks clarity and focus. It is unclear whether the provisions in the Bill will fulfill the government's objective to ensure that "individuals working in important areas of national life... function in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic". It is also unclear whether the Bill is the appropriate means through which this goal may be accomplished (PRS' Legislative Brief).

Resources

FCRA

Background Materials
 Read the FCRA Bill 2006 [Click here](#)
 Read the FCRA Act 1976 [Click here](#)

FCRA has had an interesting life. Not many people are aware that its history goes back to the fifties [Click here](#)

Churches' Response
 National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) Delegation Meets Parliamentary Standing Committee Regarding Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2006

Critiquing FCRA Bill

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2006 if passed & enacted is certain to curb the democratic space enjoyed by dynamic Voluntary Sector because of its disabling provisions [Click here](#)

The proposed Bill continues to suffer from many fundamental as well as procedural shortcomings. There is an urgent need to revisit the relevance and rationale of this law [Click here](#)

Know critically about FCRA Bill 2006 in a nutshell [Click here](#)

Other materials on FCRA

Laws to regulate FC in Commonwealth Nations [Click here](#)

Learn about society registration [Click here](#)

Learn about non-profit company [Click here](#)

Society, Trust or Company [Click here](#)

NewsWatch is an electronic News Bulletin, a collection of previously published news and views from the print as well as the electronic media, transmitted by Synodical Board of Social Services (SBSS), a justice and development arm of the Church of North India (CNI) to keep a watch on various issues related to people and communities and draw the attention and the greater participation of civil society organisations to bring change in the lives of people. Visit us at www.cnibss.org