

National ID cards distributed
Protest against acquisition of land
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to combat
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Let Justice Roll



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 claim their rights over livelihood means while protecting their identity.

Our Resource Centres

CNI Resource Centre for Social Action on Livelihood and Food Security, Agra

CNI Resource Centre for Social Action on Land Rights and Dalit Studies, Pune

CNI Resource Centre for Social Action on Tribal Identity and Indigenous Rights, Ranchi

CNI Resource Centre for Social Action and Research, Kolkata



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News of the Fortnight

Parliament okays the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill, 2008

Unorganized sector comprises of 92% of the work force of India

Finally after years of long struggle, the Parliament passed the [Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security Bill](#) on 17th of December 2008. The Bill was introduced in the RajyaSabha in September 2007 and was subsequently referred to the Standing Committee. It was then passed in October 2008. The Bill was described as the first major step in 60 years to remove the plights of the poor worker in unorganized sector, after several amendments moved by the members of the Left parties were defeated. It is a welcome step forward in the prolonged struggle of the millions of unorganized sector workers, who have borne the brunt of historical injustice and are still being deprived and neglected by an increasingly corporate State.



The Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2008 aims to provide for the welfare of around ninety two percent of the workers of India who have neither formal social security cover nor regulation over

conditions of work. It identifies the unorganised sector and empowers the state and central governments to adopt suitable schemes with the help of advisory boards created at the central and state levels. While briefly providing for how these schemes would be funded, it also provides for the registration of all unorganised workers. This Bill represents the first step in the direction of comprehensive definition and identification of the unorganised workers.

Background: In India almost 92 per cent of the work force is in the unorganized sector that is total workforce of about 457 million (as of 2004-05). For most of them, conditions of work are utterly deplorable and livelihood options extremely few.

They work as so called self employed or wage workers, sometimes located in their homes but mostly outside. Some are lucky to have some kind of regular work but majority of wage workers are employed on a casual basis. Most get wages that are too low to enable them to come out of their poverty, not to speak of overcoming their vulnerability. Discrimination is the norm when it comes to women, children, bonded or migrant workers. Such positions of disadvantage are often reinforced by one's social identity, rural location and, above all, low or no education.

Most people in India earn a livelihood by working for an income. They work for one employer or many, or as self employed or own account workers or as contract workers, home-based workers etc. in every sector in the economy. It has been recognized that workers need to have good working conditions, receive a minimum wage, and have access to a minimum amount of social security. To this end a large number of labour laws were passed which cover different aspects of a worker's needs eg. Provident Fund Act to give security in old age, Factories Act for good working conditions and so on. However, today in India, only about 8% of workers actually get the benefits available under these Acts as rest 92% belong to the unorganised sector, resulting in insecure employments and low incomes. They have no coverage of social security, and have to spend out of their meagre incomes for all contingencies such as illness and children's education; in their old age they are helpless. This, in spite of the fact that they contribute over 60% of the country's GDP.

The situation called for immediate steps to ensure minimum conditions of work for the unorganised workers as well as measures for livelihood promotion.

Resources

Note on Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill

The Problem, Purpose of the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Bill & Provisions of the Bill: Main Features [Click here](#)

Report on "Conditions of work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganized Sector"

The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector had prepared a detailed and comprehensive Report on "Conditions of work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganized Sector", analyzing the conditions of work and issues in livelihood promotion along with a set of recommendations for the unorganized sector. This Report deals with these issues in the non agricultural sector, focusing separately on wage workers, self-employed workers & women workers. It also profiles agricultural workers with special emphasis on marginal and small farmers as well as labourers. The Report further focuses on the regulatory and promotional issues arising out of the detailed analysis. [Click here](#)

Contribution of the Unorganised sector to GDP Report of the Sub Committee of a NCEUS Task Force

The economic value of goods and services produced in the Indian economy is estimated in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by using a combination of production, income and expenditure methods. The estimation of contribution of any sub-sector of the economy, like the un-organised sector, to GDP also needs to use the same methodology and procedures for maintaining comparability and complementarity. It also has to be within the overall framework being used for the compilation of national accounts statistics in the country. The Sub-committee developed an alternative method of apportioning by using estimates of labour inputs and productivity differentials of both the organised and unorganised sectors. According to the estimates worked out by the Sub-committee by using the modified apportioning method, about 50 percent of the GDP was contributed by the unorganised/informal sector in 2004-05. [Click here](#)

Reports on 'Financing of Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector' & 'Creation of a National Fund for the Unorganised Sector' (NAFUS)

The National Commission for Enterprise in the Unorganized Sector prepared a set of two reports on 'Financing of Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector' and 'Creation of a National Fund for the Unorganized Sector'. The latter report flows from the first report. The first report focuses on the status of financing of the enterprises in the Unorganized Sector. It also deals with the deficiencies in institutional infrastructure and constraints on financing this sector as well as measures to overcome them. [Click here](#)

