



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 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

Rural job scheme now in all districts

At a total budget outlay of Rs. 16,000 crore

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has been extended to all 604 districts of the country from April 1, 2008.



Announcing this, Union Rural Development Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said the total budget outlay for the extended scheme for 2008-09 would be Rs. 16,000 crore.

The amount available for release under vote-on-account was Rs. 4,666.67 crore and the fund released for preparatory activities for 274 new districts Rs. 163.12 crore.

Seeking cooperation from Chief Ministers and elected representatives in the implementation of the scheme, Mr. Singh said its success depended on people's participation and monitoring.

The scheme, which came into existence in 2005, was aimed at enhancing the livelihood security in the rural areas by providing 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The Minister said in 2007-08, a total of 3.10 crore households demanded employment, against which jobs were provided to 3.08 crore.

However, only 32.26 lakh or 10 per cent households completed 100 days, with 23 per cent in Rajasthan, 13 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 7 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, 6 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and 6 per cent in Chhattisgarh.

Resources

Two Years of NREGA: The Road Ahead

It is not possible to realise the massive potential of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act if we deploy the same ossified structure of implementation that has deeply institutionalised corruption, inefficiency and non-accountability into the very fabric of Indian democracy. On the other hand, if the reforms suggested in this paper are put into place, NREGA holds out the prospect of transforming the livelihoods of the poorest and heralding a revolution in rural governance in India. [Click here](#)

Wake-up Call on Rural Employment Guarantee

An independent report offers constructive criticism, but the findings are being sensationalised. [Click here](#)

Employment Guarantee, Women's Work and Childcare

A social audit in Tamil Nadu finds that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has brought about major changes in the lives of women. However, the act overlooks the fact that childcare is a problem for many of the working women, especially for young mothers. [Click here](#)

Leakages

The Minister said the first priority would be to ensure transparent and corruption-free implementation of the programme.

He, however, admitted that there were leakages and diversion of funds by some State governments.

The total share of the Scheduled Castes in the employment was 27.04 per cent, the Scheduled Tribes 30 per cent and women 42.13 per cent, against the earmarked 33 percent. [Click here](#)

Reviewing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme

This article presents results on the participation of rural workers in the National Rural Employment Guarantee programme based on a pilot survey of three villages in Udaipur district in Rajasthan. Its focus is on participation in the nreg programme of different socio-economic groups and the determinants of the participation of these groups. It is found that the mean participation was 59 days and that targeting was satisfactory. The performance of the programme has been far from dismal. [Click here](#)

Narega cannot be April Fool...

Detailed information on PDS, TPDS, AAY... Measures to strengthen TPDS [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 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.cnisbss.org