

Minutes of the executive body of Peoples' Rights Forum meeting

Venue: Hotel Alankar

Date: 22nd Feb'11

No. of participants: 10

Agenda

1. Discussion on Zonal level peoples' convention on Agriculture Policy related to PDS and MGNREGA
2. Discussion on Study of price rise on essential commodities & its impact on the poor and marginalized and Survey on status of local governance vis a vis Right to Food Programmes
3. Discussion on Advocacy with media, political parties and civil society organizations
- Meeting political leaders and chief secretary
4. Discussion on Fund raising
5. Discussion on Opening of account of Peoples' Rights Forum
6. Discussion on member and NGO contribution

At the outset Saito Basumotary welcome the members and briefed the objective of the meeting. In his objective speech he summarized the agenda of the meeting. On the Zonal level meeting on Agriculture policy relating to PDS and MGNREGA Chandan talukdar opined whether it could be organized centered to Nalbari comprising the surrounding districts of Kokrajhar, Chirrang and Baksa. He said that if the committee members agree, GVM would take up the responsibilities in organizing the convention. Rest of the members made a constructive discussion on the feasibilities to conduct the convention in Nalbari. Atlast unanimous decision was taken to support Chandan in making the convention a grand success. The date of the convention couldn't be fixed but last week of March'11 was taken as tentative days for the convention.

But before moving to the next agenda Wilfred Topno wanted to know the objective of the convention. Saito replied that there are various objectives like second green revolution, impact of green revolution in North East India, Rice humidity, sustainable agriculture and Minimum support price, anomalies in PDS and discrepancies in MGNREGA. To this Chandan emphasized on the inclusion of revitalization of SRI. Stephen Ekka stressed on the role of Media in the convention. Saito suggested that

Kavita Srivastav could be invited for the convention. So, all the members vested him the responsibilities to invite her on the day.

On the next Saito said that IFSN project would take two surveys on (1) Study of price rise on essential commodities & its impact on the poor and marginalized and (2) Survey on status of local governance vis a vis Right to Food Programmes. On this he said that after survey one could understand import-export rates on commodities, assess the impact of price rise and thus complain in State and district consumer forums on the other hand the people would understand the mechanism of GPSSS, FCI, Seed cooperation of India and market regulatory system in districts and actively participate in the decision making process of all the systems.

Press meet, advocacy programmes and meeting both political leaders and officials can be taken up both in the state and district level to pressurize them to play their role sincerely in implementing the entitlements. Decision was also taken to meet the chief secretary of the state to intimate on the present scenario on food security after the state assembly elections. At the same time decision was also taken to meet the local MLAs, scientists, researchers, university and college teachers and students to discuss on food politics the message of which would go through Media.

To continue with work the forum emphasized on fund raising and opening of an account. As the representative of PRF, Saito and janki were given the responsibilities to raise funds from various sources. Raju, Saito and janki were made the joint signatories to open an account for PRF.

Lastly, Simanto suggested that the contribution fee should be Rs.100/ and Rs.500/ for individual members and NGOs respectively. Requesting to attend the preparatory meeting for the convention in Kokrajhar Saito thanked all the PRF members for attending the meeting and ended the meeting.