

THE LUCKNOW DECLARATION

Adopted Unanimously

By

**Rozgar Adhikar Sammelan on the conclusion of Rozgar Adhikar Yatra
Held at Patel Park, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 2 July 2006**

We, the people of Uttar Pradesh, including intellectuals, activists, workers and concerned citizens from all over the Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country, assembled at Rozgar Adhikar Sammelan on 2 day of July 2006, after undertaking a Rozgar Adhikar Yatra through 22 districts of Uttar Pradesh notified under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, and organizing hundreds of meetings, public hearings, social audits in these districts, to deliberate the issues concerning the implementation status of Employment Guarantee and socio-economic justice to more than 175 million people in the State of Uttar Pradesh :

Endorse the ideals of civil society enshrined in the Constitution of India, particularly its Preamble that declares the Indian State's commitment to Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity,

Recognize the Peoples' Right to Work as a legitimate and fundamental right,

Acknowledge the need of proactive engagement of the government, its machinery, political and administrative executive, judiciary, social organisations, peoples' movement, civil society organisations, political parties, elected representatives and concerned citizens to protect, conserve and enlarge the scope of the Employment Guarantees provided through National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005

Acknowledge the need to ensure Employment Guarantee equally to the men and women of age 18 years and above of the Dalits, Adivasis, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, aged, physically challenged and other poorer sections,

Recalling the struggles that peoples movement, civil society organisations, intellectuals, social movements, women and youth organisations had waged for Guaranteeing Employment for the removal of poverty of all to ensure a life of dignity and having won this in substantial measure in the form of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005,

Reaffirming that concerted action by society, as a whole -especially coordination among the political leadership, officials and grassroots activists - is necessary for the success of Employment Guarantee for the over-all development of the poorest of the India,

Fully understanding the responsibility to take forward our struggle at this critical juncture in spite of the fact that many formations of vested interests, corrupt bureaucracy and narrow political agendas of many political parties are reluctant to ensure speedy implementation of Employment Guarantees,

Recognize the necessity of informed and democratic discourse at all levels as essential to enlarge the scope of the Employment Guarantee to each and every men, women, aged,

physically challenged of above 18 years of age whether living in rural or urban areas for as much period of time as one wish to do,

We hereby solemnly proclaim that while this Rozgar Adhikar Sammelan rededicate ourselves to work in unison to achieve right to employment to all, ensuring employment guarantee under NREGA and work towards liberating ourselves from the web of poverty, injustice and ignorance to ensure a dignified life.

We appeal and demand from the state government of Uttar Pradesh that:

- The state government should immediately formulate a Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the rules pertinent to its implementation in consonance with the Act - The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005
- The state government should appoint Employment Guarantee Commissioner for ensuring that all activities required to fulfill the objectives of the act are carried out as per the law
- A State Employment Guarantee Council should be set up by the state government under section 12 of NREGA.
- The state government should give priorities for training of the key agencies and institutions on provisions of NREGA and its operational guidelines.
- The government should form a high-powered Employment Cell with adequate representation from the civil society organizations including representatives of the dalits / adivasi and physically challenged person.
- The state government should appoint grievance redressal authorities at the block, district and state level. The state government should also set up a system of ombudsman at district level and impose pre-specified penalties on responsible officers in the event of major violations of the Act (e.g. refusal to accept an application for a job card or for employment).

People's Demand:

- Perspective Plan, Relevant Government & Departmental orders, should be made public for debate and opinion building on its relevance for effective implementation of the NREGA, 2005
- The current need is to immediately provide job card to all adult especially to dalits / adivasi women and physically challenged person and start work as early as possible.
- Payment should be made in public place. Timely and fair payment should be ensured to worker as per norms. Payment should be made on the basis of daily wages not as per measurement.
- Transparency should be maintained in sanctioning and implementation of work. Creation of productive assets of utility to dalit / adivasi community should be given priorities.
- Each records should be available to common villagers as per guideline
- Gram Panchayat should organize social audit exercise with the support of local villagers

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT ROZGAR ADHIKAR SAMMELAN