

Minutes of the discussion on JNNURM on 1st Aug 2006

The Discussion on Group B and D of the Delhi State TAG was organized by Hazards Centre in Mobile Crèches on 1st August 2006 from 11 am to 5.30 pm.

There were around 35 participants in both the group discussion from resettlement colonies, slums and unauthorized colonies, there were activists working with homeless, child rights, hawkers, rag pickers and other individuals. The full day discussion was divided into three sessions.

Session I – Overview of JNNURM

Session II – Group B discussion on Land Reform Agenda of JNNURM

Session III – Group D discussion on Basic Services to Urban poor in JNNURM

Leena gave overview on JNNURM with help of Charts describing all the components of the mission. The presentation introduced JNNURM to the participants who had a little idea about the mission and its targets, it was necessary to explain them the Mission. It is necessary to read the mission carefully; the objective of the mission is to develop city's infrastructure and maintenance, to protect the historical monuments, and to provide basic services to urban poor. While the strategy to be followed by the executors will be preparation of CDPs for 20-25 years, preparation of DPRs, definite role for the participation of private sector in developing infrastructure, transfer of funds from nodal agencies to ULBs through grant or loans and creation of a revolving fund for management and maintenance of created assets.

There was a need to take this mission to many communities and launch debates so that more and more people participate. The TAG meeting at the state level stated with one – day meeting with Civil Society Organizations in Ministry of Urban Development, Centre for Civil society was made the stake holder NGO to include more NGOs at Delhi State TAG. In one of the TAG meeting, it desired that we have detailed meetings on various agenda mentioned in the Mission Document. The reform agenda was divided into four groups and today we will be discussing two groups out of the four.

GROUP B – LAND REFORMS

Group B discussions on Land Reform was conducted by Dunu Roy, who drew a very clear picture of the land reform agenda of JNNURM with respect to the Urban land ceiling act 1976 and Delhi Rent Control Act 1958.

Going in to the history of the Urban Land Ceiling Act 1976, he said that it was formed to do three things: one to identify vacant urban land, second to acquire the vacant land and third to develop the land for public purpose. By 1999, BJP led NDA government repealed ULCA in many states to boost the free trade market.

While Delhi Rent Control 1958 was amended five times, it protected the rights of the people who came to city and took rented accommodation precisely due to lack of housing facilities. The act addresses two crucial things, one to control the rents and second to stop the eviction of tenants. It has extensive guidelines where the owner can remove the tenant, and other than those the tenant can't be evicted.

While the ULCA is due to be repealed to make space for acquisition of land and development of land supported by due registration of land records according to the JNNURM document. This development is proposed through Public private partnership (PPPs) but the question is who is the public whether it is the people or is government agencies. The registration of land is proposed to through e-governance, now who will have the right to access e-governance, and those who have land under their names will be called respectable citizens of Delhi and others who live in informal settlement will cease to become citizens.

Interestingly, JNNURM talks of effective implementation of 74th Constitutional Amendment in its mandatory reforms, and vouches to bring two laws one on community participation and another on public disclosure in place. Even though these laws are progressive in nature but one finds it difficult to understand that how its going to help people. When the citizenship will be defined by entitlement and e -governance records then how community and which community will participate in this process of empowerment of local self-governance.

JNNURM has also presented its case strongly in favour of enhancing FSI (Floor Space Index) and bringing in TDRs (Transferable Development Right), which

will encourage more and more private developers. How will the private builders or developers see their interest in giving basic services and houses to urban poor is a question? Certainly, there is also a mention in the Mission that no one will get houses for free and the services will be provided at the user-charges. This clearly removes the urban poor out of the ambit of the mission.

GROUP D - BASIC SERVICES TO URBAN POOR

Group D on basic services to Urban poor in JNNURM was conducted by Lalit Batra. Lalit started his presentation with the advent of globalization in 1991, which saw a new policy where development is based on the import and export policies. Although, the Nehru era felt the need of 'import substitution', but by 1991, this model of indigenous production was discarded and import options were opted. The new model was based on 'trickle down theory' of economics wherein first provide benefits for the rich, which would trickle down to the last person of socio-economic ladder.

By 1995, the slum demolitions gained pace resulted in massive displacement of urban poor, one need to contemplate the reason behind the recent aggression. It is the mandate of the International Financial Institutions like WB, USAID, ADB, UNDP, which is, designed these changes in the urban landscape, and these are the institutions which have developed JNNURM. At this instance, another force emerged in the urban scenario, the urban middle class, which sought to demand appropriate use of the taxes they are paying. The revenue should be spent on their betterment and not on the working class. They resort to court to remove slums, close industries, beautification of parks, etc. The courts changed their stand by changing the purview of from pro-poor PILs into anti-poor judgments. The new trends of court emerged where the city belongs to those who can pay more, totally rejected the Gandhi, Nehru, Bhagat Singh and Jay Prakash Narain's theories of social up-liftment of downtrodden.

In this new era, one needs to examine the mandate of JNNURM minutely, why we want a mission like this to come which is the largest policy document for urban development in the history of India. The reason, which the Government is providing with, is population explosion of the cities and crumbling of urban infrastructure and services. Separating the mission into two sub-mission has clearly defined the perspective of the government. Why the second mission (Basic Services to urban poor) not integrated in the first mission (urban Infrastructure and development)? Why is that there is a need to alienate urban

poor of the city? Why has the two-third budget for the first sub-mission and only one-third for the urban poor?

The public-private partnership is visible in the DDA auctioning land in Tehekhand to private builders for Rs 450 crores to develop 3500 flats for the EWS and 750 for super HIG. According to the mission document, flats will not be given for free, the minimum cost of each flat will be Rs 1 to 1.5 lakh, which is out of the reach of the urban poor's paying capacity.

It is also interesting to note that the mission document has carried all details on the Urban Infrastructure development but has vaguely said about the Basic Services for the urban poor.

Conclusion:

- ?? This mission document should be discussed in Community meetings in a simplified form.
- ?? We should identify the gaps and propose a policy document on behalf of TAG Delhi.
- ?? Through the policy documents we should influence the City Development Plan and Detailed Project Report.
- ?? If the mission is talking about Security of tenure for urban poor then we should demand where and at what price they will get the security of tenure.
- ?? We should examine the mission document in detail.
- ?? Hazards Centre will get the pamphlet printed.
- ?? There should be many more meeting of these groups.

List of participants

S.No.	Name	Organisation & Address	Phone and email
1.	Raghuvir Singh Kapoor	CARE 199, Vipin Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 59	25564630 @, 23510042 (o)
2.	Mahavir Singh	Neelwal Village, Tikri Kalan, Delhi -110041	
3.	Chirashree Ghosh	Mobile Creches, DIZ Area, Raja Bazaar, New Delhi-110001	23363271, 23347281
4.	Jyoti Sinha	Mobile Creches, DIZ Area, Raja Bazaar, New Delhi-110001	23363271, 23347281
5.	Shveta Mathur	Centre For Urban Regional Excellence.	
6.	Prashant Narang	Centre for Civil Society PRABODH K-36, Hauz Khas Enclave New Delhi – 110 016	26537456, 26521882 9811322297 prashantnarang@yahoo.com
7.	Ashok Kumar	Satark Nagrik Sanghthan B-76, (Garrage), S.F.S. Flats Shekh Sarai, Phase-I New Delhi – 110 017	9811420295 snsindia@snsindia.org
8.	Sunita Devi	Satark Nagrik Sanghthan B-76, (Garrage), S.F.S. Flats Shekh Sarai, Phase-I New Delhi – 110 017	26011362
9.	Pusha Lata	Satark Nagrik Sanghthan B-76, (Garrage), S.F.S. Flats Shekh Sarai, Phase-I, ND – 17	26011362
10.	Susheela	Satark Nagrik Sanghthan B-76, (Garrage), S.F.S. Flats Shekh Sarai, Phase-I, ND – 17	26011362
11.	Sanjay	Ashray Adhikar Abhiyan S-442, 2 nd Floor, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi – 92	98107011644, 22481609 creatinghomes@yahoo.co.uk
12.	Sadre Alam	Hazards Centre 92-H, 3rd Floor, Pratap Market, Munirka, New Delhi – 110 067	26187806, 26714244 9868078123 mosdral@yahoo.com
13.	Bijulal M.V.	Indian Social Institute 10, Lodhi Inst. Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi -110002	bijulaal@gmail.com 24694602, 24622379
14.	Shashi Kant	Hazards Centre 92-H, 3rd Floor, Pratap Market, Munirka, New Delhi – 110 067	26187806, 26714244 9868612237 111.shashikant@gmail.com
15.	Basab Paul	Hazards Centre 92-H, 3rd Floor, Pratap Market, Munirka, New Delhi – 110 067	26187806, 26714244 haz_cen@vsnl.com
16.	Vijay Kr Pandey	Nirmaan Mazdoor Panchayat Sangam C-484, Millennium Apts. Rohini, Sector 18, New Delhi - 85	27859158, 27014105, 27022243 nirmana@ndf.vsnl.net.in
17.	Arhadeep Sakar	Nirmaan Mazdoor Panchayat Sangam C-484, Millennium Apts.	27859158, 27014105, 27022243 nirmana@ndf.vsnl.net.in

		Rohini, Sector 18, New Delhi - 85	
18.	Arun Bhandari	B-80 LIG Flats, STB Enclave, Delhi – 93	9818304795 arunbhandari1@email.com
19.	Sushil Kumar	Vikas Jagruti Samiti B 1 – 1096, Madanpur Khaddar, New Delhi	9911270505
20.	Santosh	Ankur 7/10, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi-110016	26521411, 26523395.
21.	Rani	Ankur 7/10, Sarvapriya Vihar, ND - 16	26521411, 26523395.
22.	Pushpa	Ankur 7/10, Sarvapriya Vihar, ND - 16	26521411, 26523395.
23.	Leena	Hazards Centre 92-H, 3rd Floor, Pratap Market, Munirka, New Delhi – 110 067	26187806, 26714244 9811137421 leena2112@yahoo.com
24.	Rajesh Jaiswal	Harit Recyclers Association 252, Siddharth Enclave New Delhi – 110 014	9312507080
25.	Makarand Bakore	Centre for Civil Society K-36, Hauz Khas Enclave New Delhi – 110 016	26537456, 26521882, 9312444725 makarand@ccsindia.org
26.	Dharshana	Bhalswa Lok Shakti Manch B-4 , Basti Vikas Kendra Bhalaswa Punarwas Colony , Delhi – 110 042	
27.	Najma	Bhalswa Lok Shakti Manch B-4 , Basti Vikas Kendra Bhalaswa Punarwas Colony , Delhi – 110 042	
28.	Sangeeta	Bhalswa Lok Shakti Manch B-4 , Basti Vikas Kendra Bhalaswa Punarwas Colony , Delhi – 110 042	
29.	Santosh Kumar Shukla	E- ¾, Sector 11, Rohini Delhi -85	
30.	Shanta Tufani	Ankur 7/10, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi-110016	26521411, 26523395.
31.	Mriyunjay Prabhakar	Hazards Centre 92-H, 3rd Floor, Pratap Market, Munirka, New Delhi – 110 067	26187806, 26714244 haz_cen@vsnl.com
32.	Indu Prakash Singh	Action Aid N-222, Greater Kailash, Part – I New Delhi, 110048.	9313327669 indu@actionaidindia.org
33.	Lalit Batra	Independent Researcher C-23, Ayudh Appt, Plot 3, Sector 13, New Delhi - 110075	9899091413 lalitbatra@gmail.com
34.	Deepa Gupta	Jan Swasthya Abhiyan – Delhi, C-38, Okhla Ind. Area, Ph- II, ND 20	
35.	Dunu Roy	Hazards Centre 92-H, 3rd Floor, Pratap Market, Munirka, New Delhi – 110 067	26187806, 26714244 qadeeroy@vsnl.com