

LAW CONSCIOUSNESS

Bharathamma belonging to Arutla and Pitla Mallamma are saying, "here water is not available. Last year no work is there.....lands are very few..... Work will be there only when it rains heavily. So if we get these works it would be better." These ladies should come forward themselves without intervention and their families can get far away from hunger, and can fulfill their daily needs.

V. Udaya Lakshmi

"Central village development minister, Mr.Raghuvamsh Prasad Singh said, "for the last one year in the districts where the National Rural Employment Assurance Scheme has been implementing 3.36 crore families have obtained their job cards. Labour Gained 2,500 lakh of job days. These facts are clearly showing the consciousness of labour regarding right to work." But the last fact in minister's speech is contradictory to the reality. The consciousness has not yet come in the labours to demand for the work by utilizing their job cards. For this time of consciousness authorities have not at all helped. As the works have to be done by any means, so they are conducting the works through field assistants. They are making the labours as partners in the works through them.

Now one problem is job cards are not obtained to the needy workers. The second problem is the workers who are also having the job cards didn't know how to utilize their cards. For example, consider Erupla Andallu a lady belonging to lingampalli of manchala mandal./ She is hardly leading her life and she didn't get any work. But she didn't go to panchayat and ask for work. She didn't know that it is her right to ask for work. Same situation is there in chennareddyguda. According to the details given by Yashoda, the Village surpanch.... At present there are no works in that village. Some ladies are going out from the mandal for the work. According to law, These people can submit an application to the panchayat seeking the number of job days required for them and their family members. They can also submit the groupwise applications. They can also submit the applications in advance mentioning the date from which they need work. But it seems that even surpanchs are not aware of all these facts. As half of the work has to be implemented through panchayats, by this time authorities should have create awareness of the scheme. But it has not been done. Creating awareness doesnot mean that only conducting conferences. Actually it means, the authorities should come to surpanch's level and have to explain the things in such a way that they are able to understand the facts. Proper training has to be given. They have to make them partners in the implementation of the scheme by encouraging them. They should pay attention on female

representatives. When this type of good effort is there then only surpanch's can make the village people as partners in the implementation of the scheme and also in the composition of planning, thereby helping in the development of the village. But in mahchala mandal of ranga reddy district and also in the entire state there is no sincere effort put by the authorities. At least the key objectives of the law are not been implemented. According to law in the work places if children below six years are present and their number is more than five, then one care taker should be appointed among the female workers for looking after them. Common facilities like clean drinking water and shelter should be provided. But these arrangements have not been made in manchala mandal where a number of ladies have worked. Mr. Suribabu, the Programme Officer say's that such requisitions have not come from any one village of manchala manbdal. So, arrangements have not been made. But the female workers of loyapalli were questioning, how can they bring their children to the work places when there is no water and shelter? Kurra Lakshmi belonging to loyapalli said "we were drinking just mouthful of water whenever we were thirsty. We suffered a lot by drinking hot water. With all these problems how can we take our children to work places?" Proper treatment was not provided to the injured people as mentioned in the law. At least tools like crowbar, are also not been given. Lakshmi and other workers are saying, "We purchased all the things spade, crowbar, basket, water can. We spent around 500 rupees for that." Water facility has been provided to only to 50 workers when 1100 workers were working here in loyapalli. Rest of the people purchased and carried their own water cans.

According to the details given by the field assistant of loyapalli Mr. Venkatesh, in that village the work was started in the month of June, where the peak summer was running. At each work place about 200 workers were working. Female workers were telling that even though not even a single tent was provided for taking rest. Delay in payment of wages is another problem. The regulation 'payment of wages within 15 days' has not been implemented anywhere. Other issues like availability of village secretary to the labour, encouraging the workers for applying for the work, issuing receipts to the workers have not been implemented in manchala mandal. When the workers are able to question the authorities regarding these issues and gaining the work chances by demanding, then only these workers are said to be having conciousness and this law is justified.

Bharatamma belonging to Arutla says, "Water is not available here. There was no work in the last year. We are having a little bit land. Work will be there only when it rains. That is why it would be better if we get this work." Other ladies like Potla Mallamma should come forward initiatively without any intervention of field assistants. They have to utilize their right to work. Then only they and their families will get rid of the hunger problem. They can fulfill at least their daily needs. While starting the Employment Assurance Scheme, Dr. Man Mohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India mentioned that there is no other scheme like this in the history of independent India. But it will not get success, if there is not proper partnership of panchayat and public.

(As a part of Fellowship in CSE)