

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

For Central Legislation on Construction Labour

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Dear Friends,

The NCC-CL meeting held on 27th June 2019 at the Mobile Crèches office in Delhi noted with pain the cabinet decision to bring in Central Labour Codes in order to repeal the BOCW Acts and other Labour Laws. Representatives from NMPS, SEWA, Delhi Union of Journalists and AICCTU from Delhi, Bandhkam Mazdoor Sangathan of Gujarat and NMPS Tamilnadu along with student representatives from Bangalore decided to go ahead with campaign efforts in full swing to pressure the Govt of India to withdraw the Labour Codes. Several NCC-CL constituents were unfortunately unable to attend but given the urgency of the issue we agreed to take immediate action.

As you know, the first cabinet meeting of the Central Government has decided that the four Labour Codes will be passed in the **Monsoon Session** of the Parliament which implies **repealing of the Building and Other Construction Workers Acts of 1996** besides several other labour legislations enacted during the past one hundred years.

Therefore we have decided to **once again call a national meeting of the NCC-CL to plan a strategy to deal with the repealing of the BOCW Acts of 1996**. This meeting is proposed on **Thursday 11th July, 2019**. The meeting is being held mid-week so that the organisers coming to Delhi from different parts of the country take out time to **meet the Members of Parliament of their constituencies/states at Delhi**. The venue of the meeting will be confirmed soon.

The NCC-CL meeting was briefed about a **meeting of the Central Trade Unions held on 25th June 2019 at the CITU office** by Ms. Subhadra of CITU. Ms. R. Geetha briefed the NCC-CL meeting about **the two-day meeting organized by NCL at Bangalore on 23rd and 24th June 2019 on the Labour Codes**.

The NCC-CL meeting discussed the following actions, some of which were also considered and accepted by the NCL-meeting at Bangalore:

- (1) To start a signature campaign on **change.org**
- (2) To organize a Post Card Campaign to the Prime Minister/Labour Minister. NCC-CL is enclosing a draft in English and Hindi which can be translated in local languages by you. If the material is long, you can use **Inland Letters** or **Envelopes** with appropriate postal stamps. Groups writing letters to the Prime Minister and Labour Minister may kindly share a copy with NCC-CL. Your union/organization can plan joint letters of several construction workers, with copies to the NCC-CL. **We request you to please post the enclosed letter to the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister by 10th July 2019, at least 1000 from each state and UT.**

- (3) To identify Members of Parliament across all political parties who can be approached to support the cause of construction workers.
- (4) All MPs and MLAs should be approached at local levels also.
- (5) Written questions may be given to the MPs to be raised in the Parliament on the BOCW Acts and related issues.
- (6) All State/UT Governments should be approached to support the cause of construction workers.
- (7) All Chief Ministers should be met and asked to issue a Press Release in support of the cause of construction workers.
- (8) NCC-CL should **form a Joint Platform with all sectors of unorganized sector workers who are likely to be adversely affected by the Labour Codes.**
- (9) A **common pamphlet** (parcha) should be issued on the BOCW Act, a **signature campaign** should be organized and **four regional meetings** should be called, followed by a **March to Parliament by construction workers**. It was suggested that a public awareness campaign at National Level be launched on 15th August.
- (10) NCC-CL was advised to focus on the issue of **diversion of the Cess collected for the Social Security of construction workers if the 1996 Acts are repealed.**
- (11) It was suggested that the campaign for registration of construction workers as beneficiaries should go beyond Welfare benefits to other issues such as improving safety, occupational health and working conditions of the workers.
- (12) The **South Regional meeting** of the NCC-CL should be called **on Thursday, 1st August 2019**, directly after the India Affiliates Council Meeting of the BWI on 31st July at Chennai.
- (13) The NCC-CL constituents from the **Western and Eastern regions** are requested to propose suitable dates to **host regional meetings.**
- (14) At the Parliamentary level, the NCC-CL should strategise to persuade the major political parties to get **the Labour Code Bills referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee** because in fact **no consultation with the Central Trade Unions has been held till now. Ten of the 12 Central Trade Unions have been boycotting the Labour ministry meetings, to protest against the Codes.**
- (15) **Convention 144 of the ILO suggests an “effective consultation” which has not been done till now.** The Central Trade Unions boycotting the meetings have given detailed written statements on their positions. This violation must be pointed out.

We request **all constituents of NCC-CL, all Central Trade Unions and all affiliates of BWI and other organisations of construction workers to seriously consider the importance of the next NCC-CL meeting at Delhi on Thursday 11th July, 2019 and confirm their participation.**

At this juncture, instead of enquiring about the travel expenses from NCC-CL, we request all to **please contribute to the NCC-CL campaign.**

With thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Subhash Bhatnagar