

# Food campaign criticises NAC

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

**March 7:** The Right to Food campaign has criticised the National Advisory Council's framework note on the proposed National Food Security Bill stating it fails to address key issues of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity in the country. The campaign said the NAC framework note has been delinked from food security. Hence, measures to ensure food security have

been relegated to the "enabling provisions" but there is no legal guarantee that the same were enforceable in the future.

According to the campaign, the NAC framework note provides only five guarantees — a fragmented PDS, limited maternal and child rights, provision of cooked food to the vulnerable sections, ration cards in the name of women and portability of ration cards to the migrant labour.

The campaign further said

that though the framework note has provided for an independent grievance redressal authority, along with civil and criminal liabilities on denial of entitlements, it has eliminated the aged, widows and pensioners from its ambit.

Even on the issue of access to minimum food grains, the NAC framework note is disappointing as it moves away from the idea of a universal PDS, said the campaign. The division of the population into cate-

gories of "general", "priority" and "excluded" is just a continuation of the artificial division of households into APL and BPL, which excludes the majority of the poor, it said.

By proposing to continue with the system of targeting, the NAC has failed to seize the current opportunity of a proposed food security bill, which should address the issue of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity in the country, said the campaign.