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Right to Food Campaign-Karnataka

No.2, 6th Main, Narayanappa Block, R.T. Nagar
Telephone: 080-41511821/41512949

Bangalore-560032,
Email ID: right2food_kar@yahoo.co.in

REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAMME

Venue: Sarbandepalya, Banashankari, Bangalore

Date: 06 July 2011

The public hearing programme was organized by the Right to food campaign and the collaboration with the Sthree Jagruthi samithi at Sarbandepalya, Banashankari on 6th July 2011. The chief guest of the programme was Mr. Krishna the Food Inspector of Chamarajpet Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department Bangalore. On the occasion Ms Sudha State Convener of Right to food Campaign, officials of the Sarbandepalya Dipo, Mr. Anurag the Hindu Reporter, Sthree Jagruthi samithi supervisors also gathered.



The public hearing programme was started at 2.30pm and concluded at 5pm. Ms Rosee the supervisor of Sthree Jagruthi samithi welcomed the guests.

Ms Sudha explained about the Right to food campaign and its objectives. This is nationwide campaign related to the food rights each one of the people of the society should get the food for their livelihood. She also informed the people to express their ration problems in front of the food inspector. Ms Sudha also gave the chance to the public for express their problems of the ration distribution at the time of public hearing..

Opinion of the public

Puttamma: she is a widow living in a rented home. Since 8 years living in this area. She is widow. She has no support from the outside. She works as a domestic maid and is the bread winner. They applied for ration card and got APL card. She is requesting for BPL card as she is an aging widow with no pension or other resources. She requested food inspector to give Antyodaya ration card.

The food inspector replied that if puttamma will come with the documents to the food department then only provides the ration card.

Kempamma: she is belongs to the sarabandepalya area and living in a rented house. The family economic condition is also not well established. The family has applied for the BPL ration card but till now did not get. The officials are delaying to give the ration card since 10 years this family living in this area and depending upon the outside ration.

For this complaint the foods inspector replied that from this month the ration will be provide to kempamma's family.

Nagrathna: she is also living in sarbandepaly and she has not getting any ration from the dippo.

The food inspector verified Nagrathna's ration card and gave positive reply to her and she will be get the ration from the dippo. If the family's address has changed anywhere then the family should come with the present house agreement records and electricity bills of the house to the food department. Then only the ration card will be given to the family.

Ningamma: Ningamma has been living in this area since 10 years and no ration card from the government and nobody helped. During the election time representatives will come and ask the vote, once they will get the vote then they will not do anything.

Mr. Krishna, Food inspector replied that people should come with the documents to the department during the month of September onwards then the department will give the application. Once people filled this application then the department will provide the necessary ration card.



At the same time many people of this area showed the documents which they already applied for the ration card. The food inspector verified the documents and told them to come to the department with the documents. The food department also organizing the ration card campaign during the month of September onwards in every area. So that time people will apply for their ration card directly.

Giriappa: Giriappa is living in sarbandepalya and he complained about the ration shop. The shop has open at 11 clock and afternoon will be closed. The ration office has not given the proper ration to the people.

The food inspector replied that if ration shop open at 11 clock then you can complaint to the department we will take the action against it. The government has fixed the timings for the ration office that is 8am to 12pm and 4pm to 8pm.

Ms Sudha announced that Supreme Court has been ordered that 35kg rice to the BPL families but in Karnataka government has giving unit system of ration based on the family members. The

Antyodaya card holders should get 35kg rice per month. If ration office people has done the mall adjustment then public has to complaint against the ration office because people having the right to complaint against maladjustment. The toll free number of the food department is also given at this time that is 18004259339.

Again people raised the complaint of providing kerosene because the ration office people has not providing kerosene properly. For this complaint Krishna replied department can not able to provide the kerosene on time we adjust for that and also people should cooperate. Food inspector also informed that those who are not get the APL and BPL ration card should come to the department and apply for the ration card.

Ms Sudha also raised the voice against planning commission order that means those who are earning 20 rupees of amount per day they are rich and should provide APL ration cards but the reality is none of the family can live with this system and people has to come forward and raise the voice against it. Every ration shops have to put a notice board and on that board they has to write details of the stock and BPL, APL, Antyodaya ration card holders. In every ration office there is a Jagruthi committee and 7 members should be there. Among them 5 women's, 1 elected representative, and 1 NGO representative. This committee role is whether the ration has supplying properly or not and also giving information to the people.

The food inspector explained to the people that, the officials can do the work of the government and cannot curb the rules and regulations. The public has to come forward and raise the voice against the corruption and maladjustment then only the society will maintain balance and healthy life. The food inspector received many complaints from the public and gave positive note on this programme. During the public hearing programme more than 200 people were participated. The food inspector promised that those who are having ration card application acknowledgement they have come to the Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department then only the department will provide the ration cards.

Ms Rosee concluded the programme with the vote of thanks.

Also please find attached the news paper clippings of the hearing (The Hindu and DNA).

Public hearing on PDS

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Discrepancies in the Public Distribution System (PDS), such as not getting the right quantity of ration, cancelled cards and issues with identity and address verification, were raised at a public hearing jointly organised by the Right to Food Campaign (RFC) and Stree Jagruti Samiti here on Wednesday.

"The data from the survey we had conducted in this area shows that more than 100 families residing here have not been given a ration card and 50 have been issued

- Over 50 residents submitted their complaints

- Most common was of not receiving ration cards

above-the-poverty-line (APL) cards whereas they should have got below-the-poverty-line (BPL) cards," said K. Sudha, state convener for RFC.

Food inspector M. Krishna was present at the hearing to receive complaints and re-

dress grievances of the residents of Banashankari slum. The most common complaint that residents raised at the hearing was about not receiving ration cards.

Mr. Krishna said the department would conduct an enrolment camp in September and citizens could apply for all cards. Over 50 residents submitted their complaints to Mr. Krishna.

Further, he stated that all complaints regarding quantity of ration or inability to collect ration should be made to the toll-free number 1800-425-9339.

Sarbande Palya residents can get their ration cards

DNA Correspondent

BANGALORE

Sarbande Palya food inspector Krishnappa assured on Wednesday that ration cards will be issued to the residents of the area who are possessing acknowledgement slips.

He was present during a public hearing organised by non-governmental organisations Sthri Jagruth and Right to Food Campaign-Karnataka.

Krishnappa said people with acknowledgment slips could approach the area office on Thursday to receive their ration cards.

Domestic workers and members of a minority community brought various issues, ranging from non-is-

suance of ration cards to irregular distribution, to the notice of Krishnappa.

Geetha, a domestic worker belonging to a family of four, said, "We have to line up early in the morning to get kerosene as the shop opens by 6 am and closes by 8.30 am."

Another concern was that people had been issued wrong ration cards. Those eligible for Antyodaya cards complained that they were issued APL and BPL cards.

NV Prasad, commissioner, food and civil supply department was slated to be present in the hearing, but could not attend as was transferred. Dr KH Govindraju, who took over as the commissioner, was not present.