

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: Essential Demands*

WHAT WE OPPOSE:

- 1. Any amendment of the Act, or any major policy changes, without public consultation.**
- 2. The discontinuation of the Central Employment Guarantee Council.**
- 3. Any dilution of people's participation in the planning and policy process, as mandated in the Act.**
- 4. The recent freeze on NREGA wages and increase in working hours.**
- 5. The use of labour-displacing machines at NREGA worksites or any change in the mandatory labour-material ratio (60:40).**
- 6. The constant sidelining of NREGA's transparency and accountability provisions.**

WHAT WE SUPPORT:

- 1. Priority to workers' entitlements, including work on demand, minimum wages, and payment within 15 days.**
- 2. Individual work entitlements (100 days per adult per year), as promised in the Congress Manifesto.**
- 3. A national Employment Guarantee Mission.**
- 4. Activation of the Central Employment Guarantee Council, with adequate representation of workers' organizations.**
- 5. Activation of NREGA accountability clauses, including penalties, unemployment allowance and compensation for late payments.**
- 6. Institutionalization of social audits and grievance redressal.**
- 7. Massive expansion of NREGA in response to the impending drought.**

* Based on a meeting of individuals and organizations working for the realization of employment guarantee in different parts of the country, held in Delhi on 5 August 2009 under the banner of "People's Action for Employment Guarantee".