

Friends,

Two important items in this update:

1. ANNOUNCEMENT: “JAN MANCH” ON EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE AND THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION (NEW DELHI, 21 MARCH 2009)
2. NREGA WAGES FROZEN

Regards,
Reetika.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT: “JAN MANCH” ON EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE AND THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION (NEW DELHI, 21 MARCH 2009)

A “Jan Manch” on Employment Guarantee and the Right to Information will be held in New Delhi on 21 March 2009, in anticipation of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. At this Jan Manch, representatives of all political parties will be invited to present their party’s position on these two crucial issues, and to respond to public demands or queries.

This event is being convened under the joint banner of People’s Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) and the National Campaign for People’s Right to Information (NCPRI). A draft charter of basic demands on employment guarantee, based on a preparatory meeting held on 26 February, is attached. It will be finalized on 8 March by the “charter committee” in the light of any comments received; please send any comments you may have to janmanch09@gmail.com.

This charter of demands will be sent to political parties, and circulated widely, in advance of the Jan Manch. A similar charter relating to the right to information is being prepared by NCPRI.

The Jan Manch will be held on the lawns of Constitution Club (Rafi Marg) in New Delhi, from 10 am to 4 pm. About 1,000 participants are expected to attend from all over the country. You are cordially invited to participate. If you are coming in a group, please inform the organizers in advance by sending a line to janmanch09@gmail.com. All participants are expected to make their own arrangements for travel and lodging.

In solidarity,

Jan Manch “charter committee”
(Annie Raja, Dithi Bhattacharya, Jean Drèze, Nikhil Dey, Radhika Menon, Ramit Basu)

2. NREGA WAGES FROZEN

This is to alert you to the freezing of the NREGA wage rates by the central government. In a notification dated 1 January 2009, the Ministry of Rural Development has fixed NREGA wages state-wise at the existing rate (e.g. Rs 100/day for Uttar Pradesh, Rs 80 for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 92 for Jharkhand etc.). This is being done under Section 6 of the Act.

The notification is attached (without the last two pages, which give detailed information on wages in Maharashtra, where there are region-specific rates).