

Bhumi Adhikar Andolan meeting , 11th July 2017

1. Com.Hamam Mollah shared that so many activities have been carried out in several states. Bhumi Adhikar Andolan has submitted two reports on land rights issues. One, on the issue of Jharkhand government's efforts to amend CNT Act and other, is an all India reports on the land rights issue. Com. Mollah updated the previous activities that are done in the states like, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. He also raised his concern over the hatred and violence committing against religious minorities, especially muslims and Dalits across the country.

In addition, com.Mollah reminded the commitment made by Bhumi Adhikar Andolan and suggested the leaders carry out massive rallies and other programs putting forward the commonly agreed demands across the cities in the coming months.

2. Mr. Sunilam, one of the organizers of the meeting, shared the whole process of how the "Bhumi Adhikar Andolan" was initiated. Actually, it was started with extending solidarity and support to the farmers of Tamil Nadu and Maharastra who have already been fighting.
3. Some of the participants also raised the concern over the ambiguity since various political parties and farmer front/organization, such as of BJP's and Congress are also the member of the Bhumi Adhikar Andolan. It is also not clear what exactly are the common minimum points/issues that BJP and Congress are with the Andolan.

Finally, after discussing different aspects of and previous activities carried out, some activities were planned on commonly agreed demands.

1. Massive activities programme, and rallies on farmer's rights need to be carried out across the country in next 3 months.
2. 9th August 2017: - massive rally in 200 cities to be carried out in 200 cities across the country. (A common leaflets would be prepared by NAPM and shared widely putting the commonly agreed demands)
3. 3rd-5th October 2017: National Conference of Bhumi Adhikar Andolan Hissar, Haryana

Demands to be put forth:-

1. Redistribution of surplus land: Implementation for land reform need to be done with the facilitation of land rights appeals and its sustained follow up with the assistance of civil society organisations since land less Dalits are not empowered for taking up the application process and following up sustainably.

2. Integrating Land Right of Dalits in the national agenda of Action: Civil society networks need to continue the movement through diverse networks and independently in order to realize the vision of land rights for all.
3. Attempts need to be made to pressurize the government to immediately free the farmers from debt
4. Pressurizing government Revive and start the MGNREGA with its true spirit
5. Increase the price of rice/paddy/wheat. Rate should be at least one and a half
6. To ensure the life of farmers who are continuously under pressure to survive, farmer should get at least Rs,5000/month
7. Lift the ban on cattle trade since cattle trade is one of capital a farmer can access during a crisis situation.
8. Implement the Schedule Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
9. Implement Forest Right Act (Govt. data says 48 Lakh claims made but only 3% implementation)
10. Put a halt to the displacement and acquisition of land belonging to the tribal, Dalits and farmers.