



UTTAR PRADESH
उत्तर प्रदेश
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION
FOR THE RIGHT TO FEED ONESELF

U.P. (INDIA) SECTION
A-8, Sarvodaya Nagar, Indira Nagar,
Lucknow-226 016 U.P. India
Tel. : 0091-522-2349556, Fax-2355534
E-mail : fianup@yahoo.com

"Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2014 released"

at the occasion of the World Food Day on Oct.16,2014 in Lucknow, U.P. India

We are blind! Look at us!

We are also entitled for Right to Food and Nutrition.

FIAN UP and National Association of the Visually handicapped (NAVH) jointly released Right to food and Nutrition Watch- 2014 in U.P Press Club Hall in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) India .

While releasing the report **Mr. S.K Singh, General Secretary NAVH** and board member of FIAN U.P said that as per Census 2011 in India around 3% of population is physically challenged. The main reason of disability in India is poverty and malnutrition. Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2014 has been covered broader issue for all victims of hunger and malnutrition across the world.



Mr. S K Singh addressing the media

The booklet contains a series of write-ups by acclaimed writers on food, nutrition and related issues. Releasing the booklet **S K Singh, president NAVH**, said that malnutrition was one of the prime factors responsible for physical disability, especially in Uttar Pradesh. He said in initial stages of life lack of vitamins, calcium and weakness in immune system often triggers blindness and anemia. Facts released by Nutrition and Monitoring Bureau says 28.2 % children in the age group of 4 to 6 were getting protein and calorie in sufficient measures in 2002 whereas only 23.8% children got this in 2006. In the age group of girls of 10 to 12 years this went down to 21.7% from 32.9 %. He said this

again pushed us backward in the hunger index. More than 51% women and 24.7% men in Uttar Pradesh were anemic. According to Sample Registration System Survey 2013 53 out of 1000 children die within one year of their birth. Malnutrition was one of the reasons behind these deaths. Singh said that government jobs up to 3% for handicapped and one for blind are reserved but till of now there were 50,000 posts meant for blind were lying vacant. Singh felt that the Uttar Pradesh government was not sensitive towards problems of blind. He said country like England and Germany had blind men as ministers but this was not possible in India because of mindset. He said that the central government has categorically said that blind are eligible for grade 4 jobs but the Uttar Pradesh government was not agreeable to this idea. It finds the blind fit for music teachers and similar jobs, he said. Singh further felt that in such a scenario how could the hapless people who were dealt a blow by nature in form of blindness be able to lead a dignified life?

On this occasion **Sanjay Rai, Uttar Pradesh FIAN president**, said that when everybody he had pleaded before the World Food Summit at Rome way back in 1996 that *"food security was akin to a situation when everybody was able to obtain food in accordance with his wishes at a given time."* The summit was organized by the United Nation sponsored FAO. He said according to National Survey, in 1983 2221 calorie was available to people in the rural areas which went down to 2153 calorie in a decade. Again this went down to 2047 calorie by 2004-05, he added, adding that in a similar way availability of protein went down to 57 calorie in a decade from 62 calorie a day.

Sanjay Rai said that a committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Ramesh Bais, MP. This committee will look into different aspects of the **Viklang Adhikar Vidheyak 2014 (Rights of Disabled Bill 2014)**. He invited suggestions to be placed before the commission. He placed a demand to be conceded by the government which said that all handicapped (barring income tax payers) families be included in the list of beneficiaries. All poor from the city (construction workers, juggi-jhopri dwellers, Rickshaw pullers and cart-pullers etc) and forced migrants family be included in the list of beneficiaries. Panchayat be made accountable for selection of beneficiaries and execution of the schemes. In these law old, single women, handicapped landless, migrants, and illiterate be given pension and regular financial assistance. Leprosy patients, brick-kiln workers, landless wanderers, mushahar, nut, kanjar, and orphans be included be given priority in the scheme. For the implementation of Food security Act framing of regulatory rules be made transparent and on the pattern of Karnataka government Uttar Pradesh should also ensure participation of judicial institutions and social organizations. On the pattern of Haryana UP government should also include Roti-Dal scheme (source of protein).

Speaking on the occasion **RR Jha** senior journalist said that passing of the Food Security Bill was enough to meet the challenges faced by the country. He said the Bill lack of clarity on some accounts need to be bridged for its success.

