

## In War against Hunger:

### *South 24 Parganas - Tala Kholo Abhijan*

More than 400-500 women and about 50-100 men from the South 24 Parganas district joined at the headquarters in Alipur, Kolkata on the 27th of June 2012 at a Dharna from 1 to 4 Pm. The Dharna was organized as a second day event in the one month long Tala Kholo Abhijan of the Right to Food Campaign. Right to Food – Work Campaign- West Bengal is organizing this month long protest many districts of Bengal. Udayani Social Action Forum is heading the movement in collaboration with NGOs, Trade Unions, CBOs and Net-wroks.

After three hour slogans shouting by the demonstrators at the premise of the District administration a small delegation was requested to meet the District controller of Food and Civil supplies (DCF&CS).

A 17 member delegation from over 15 blocks of the district met the District Controller of Food and Civil Supplies (DCF&CS). While raising general demands like distribution of food grains from over flowing godowns and enactment of a National Food Security Bill, the delegation also drew the attention of the DCF&CS to problems peculiar to his district-

- The district level vigilance and monitoring committee has not met even once since its formation a year ago, while block level and shop level committees have not been formed or are non-functional.
- Pathar Pratima applicants have been told they will receive cards after 6-months, contrary to the PDS Control Order that promises cards within month of application.
- Tokens or receipts for ration card applications have not been given to 500 applicants in Kakdwip.
- Applicants in Namkhana block have been asked for hefty bribes, while in other blocks the block and sub divisional officials are refusing to give fresh ration cards.
- People are not getting the allotted amount of rations and allotment orders and other public information has not been displayed in the ration shops.



Mr. Swarup Mondal assured the delegates

- A circular has been send to all the BOD to include the cancer patients, suffering from leprosy, HIV AIDS, sex workers coolies, rickshaw pullers porters cobblers, widows terminally ill persons 60years or more, single woman into the AAY schemes.
- He requested the Campaigners to help the administration in the allotment of Ration Cards and distribution of the same
- He would pass an order for digitalization of Ration cards by the end of July
- Due to too many bogus ration cards the issue of new ration cards is stalled for a while
- The SHGs and Swarno Jayanti and cooperatives are encouraged to run the Fair Price shops and that would be introduced in 24 parganas
- The food grains that is approved by the Administration is different from the one they supply to the shops which is of substandard.
- With regard to Cash memo, he expressed the problems and of APL, BPL and AAY and so a Conesus is worked out,.



The District Controller gave his word to conduct meetings around the said issues and send letters to all those concerned asking them to take the necessary steps immediately. He also asked the activists to suggest names of people in the APL and BPL category who could join the shop level vigilance committee. The activists left after agreeing with the District Controller that they would return in a week's' time to the Controller to evaluate the action taken report.

**Jothi SJ**

Right To Food/Work Campaign – West Bengal