



POORA KAAM, POORA DAAM
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Press Release

27/03/2020

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We, the participants of this two day National Workshop on Universal Social Security, appeal to all the political parties to come up with their vision for social security and present them before the people. In this context, the Nyay scheme being proposed by the Congress party is still shrouded in ambiguity and lack of clarity. It is not clear if Nyay would be a top up scheme or if after the implementation of Nyay, all the existing social security schemes will be removed altogether. We express our concern that perhaps, contrary to the claims, Nyay too will be a targeted and limited scheme as many of the features of target based schemes can be seen in the case of Nyay too. We are of the view that the amount of cash-transfer being proposed under Nyay is nominal and grossly inadequate to address the requirements of the vast majority of the people in this country.

On 27th and 28th March, 2019, a two day National Workshop on Universal Social Security was organised in Nagpur by Social Security Now (SSN)- a network of more than 100 organisations and individuals, advocating generous and universal social security for all the people living and working in India. SSN demands that everybody living and working in India must be provided with non-targeted and non-discriminatory social security. The workshop discussed in details about the specific social security concerns of different segments of the population – such as unorganised workers, farmers, women, migrants, dalits, adivasis and transgenders. It also discussed about possible ways to bring all of them under a robust and universal social security framework.

SSN demands that the state must ensure a minimal living standard for everybody living in the country and a non-targeted, non-discriminatory universal social security legislation must be brought at the earliest. Such a generous social security system must have provisions for unconditional and non-discriminatory old age pension, accident fund, maternity benefits etc. At the same time, all the workers must be able to enjoy universal and affordable health care. The government also must ensure that health insurance schemes are not left to private players. SSN is of the view that universal social security should not be confused with essential social protections – such as universal health care, universal education, universal child rights etc. Policies should be such that they ensure livelihood and job opportunities for everybody and the specific needs of all social segments must be fulfilled.

SSN demands that since social security and social protection comes under the responsibility of the state, the government must collect the essential financial resources through progressive taxations and wealth tax on the super rich.

The workshop saw participation of more than 100 people coming from different organisations and parts of the country.

Rajesh Malviya

Social Security Now

28th March, 2019

Nagpur