



BULLETIN : 5

from **DURBAR**

16th August 2011

Supreme Court Involved DMSC and USHA Cooperative Society in support of sex workers

The Supreme Court on July 19, 2011 (Tuesday) set up a panel to rehabilitate sex workers in the country. The court directed the Central and the State governments as well as the Union Territories to carry out a survey of sex workers in their jurisdiction and submit that report to the panel. Initially the survey will start at different metropolitan cities of India, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai as the problem of sex workers is more acute and on a much larger scales in these metropolitan cities.

A bench comprising of Justice Markandey Katju and Justice Gyan Sudha Misra issued the order after hearing the petition on issues related to the problems and rehabilitation of sex workers.

The Bench appointed a committee comprising senior counsel Pradip Ghosh, who will be its chairman; senior counsel Jayant Bhushan; the Usha Multipurpose Co-operative Society, which runs a microcredit programme for sex workers; the

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, a forum of sex workers and their children; and the Roshni Academy, New Delhi, through its founder Saima Hasan, to render assistance to the court in giving suitable directions with regard to broadly three aspects of the problems relating to trafficking and rehabilitation of sex workers.

The committee would make suggestions for

- (i) Prevention of human trafficking
- (ii) Rehabilitation of sex workers who wish to leave sex work
- (iii) Conditions conducive for sex workers who wish to continue working as sex worker with dignity.

Usha Multipurpose Cooperative Society and Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee suggested that in order to develop appropriate rehabilitation program it is necessary to carry out a survey to ascertain how many sex workers want rehabilitation and to find out a mechanism for rehabilitation.

The First Panel meeting was attended by Ms. Tripti Tandon and Dr. Smarajit Jana on behalf of DMSC and USHA Cooperative. The next meeting is scheduled on 17th of August to deliberate on the issue and would be attended by Ms. Bharati Dey, the Secretary of DMSC and Dr. Smarajit Jana, the Chief Advisor of DMSC.

Inauguration of Manbhum Loksansriti O Nachni Unnayan Samiti and Research Centre



Sri Santi Ram Mahato, the Minister of Self Employment and Self Help Group inaugurated the Manbhum Loksanskriti O Nachni Unnayan Samiti & Research Centre

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee is not only working to help the sex workers but also fighting for many other marginalised communities like Nachnis, Adivasis, Sabar, Construction Workers, and Domestic Workers etc.

Durbar had been working on the health status of marginalised population for years in different parts of West Bengal. Durbar also works in Purulia (a district town of West Bengal). Purulia is the heart of folk and tribal arts like *Chhou*, *baul*, *Natuwa*, *Jhumur*, *Nachni* whose social status is very poor. After coming to Purulia and working among the weaker population, DMSC became aware that the Nachnis were in a terrible condition and not even recognized as humans.

Nachnis are one sort of entertainment workers controlled by their masters known as Rasiks. They usually belong to very poor families, sold to or forced to join in the song and dance troupes. Rasiks are young men in these troupes who train the women to sing and dance. Nachnis often end up with these men. Rasiks treat the Nachni like an outcast but readily live off her earnings. They have no rights. They are even excluded from social and religious events and denied a decent funeral. After the death of a Nachni, the body is tied by a rope round her feet, dragged and thrown into a garbage pit.

DMSC as part of their mission stands in support of the marginalised communities and help them to fight for their rights and recognition. As a result and initiation, Durbar in 1997, helped the Nachnis to get their recognition as folk artists. In 2004 Durbar in collaboration with the different folk artists of Purulia district established *the Manbhum Loksanskriti O Nachni Unnayan Samiti*. Also DMSC had purchased a land in the Surulia district of Purulia and has constructed a building where the different folk artists could meet and their art would be displayed. The research centre would help different folk troupes to market their products and also will work to improve its marketability through necessary modifications and packaging of their folk art. It has also taken an initiative to open up a research centre in this building.

16th July 2011 was a landmark in the history of Durbar. The *Manbhum Loksanskriti O Nachni Unnayan Samiti O Gabeshana Kendra* was inaugurated on that day. Guests from different sectors were present in the ceremony. The program was inaugurated by Sri Santi Ram Mahato, Minister Self Employment and Self Help

Group. A Charter of Demand was also submitted to Sri Santi Ram Mahato on behalf of the organization.

Felicitation ceremony of the young sports persons



Players of the Durbar Football Coaching Camp at the Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club

On 14th July 2011 DMSC organized a felicitation ceremony for the members of the national football team (Under 13) who belongs to the states of West Bengal at the Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club. Sports Minister Mr. Madan Mitra was present in this felicitation ceremony. Other sports personalities of repute like Padma Shree and Arjun awardees Mr. P K Banerjee and Mr. Chuni Goswami, Asia Cup winner captain Subhas Bhowmik, and Arjun awardee Mr. Deepak Mondal were also present in the dais.

DMSC felicitated the eight Under-13 Bengal players (two of them from our Rahul Coaching Centre run by DMSC at their Hostel at Baruipur) who played at Iran could secured 2nd position in the AFC Youth tournament in May 2011.

DMSC has its football team made up of the children of sex workers and the team will make its debut in the Nursery Football League, which is a sub-junior (under 13) tournament organized by the Indian Football Association. The jersey of the team was unveiled by the Sports Minister Mr. Madan Mitra and was sponsored by the players of Mohan Bagan team.



Sports Minister Mr. Madan Mitra in the felicitation ceremony of the young sports persons organised by DMSC