



CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

30 September 2010

PRESS RELEASE: ATTENTION CHIEF EDITOR

**RALLY, MASS DEMONSTRATION: 11 AM, GEETA ASHRAM,
SODALA TO STATUE CIRCLE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

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Thousands of street vendors from across Rajasthan marched to State Secretariat today on the streets of Jaipur demanding passing of long awaited **Bill on Urban Street Vendors** in the State Assembly and early implementation in the state. The bill would ensure protection of livelihood of more than 1 million urban street vendors and will regulate street markets of Rajasthan.

Centre for Civil Society has been running '**Jeevika: Law, Liberty & Livelihood**' campaign in entire Rajasthan state. Under the campaign the organization held a state level Rally and Mass Demonstration of street vendors of the state on today. Hundreds of street vendor unions from Jaipur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Kota, Jalore, Ajmer and other cities of the state closed their market and participated in the event. The Rally started at **11 AM from Geeta Ashram, Sodala to proceed for Udyog Bhawan (Statue Circle)**.

A delegation of street vendors' representative from different cities of the state and associated NGOs also presented a memorandum to the Chief Minister Mr. Ashok Gehlot at the end of the Rally urging implementation of the legislation.

Addressing the media on the purpose of the Rally Mr Amit Chandra, Campaign Coordinator of *Jeevika: Law, Liberty & Livelihood Campaign* said, *"The Govt of India enacted the **National Policy for Urban Street Vendors** in 2004. Based on the Policy, the Govt of Rajasthan adopted a State Policy called **Pheriwalo Ka Sansar** in 2007. Despite the efforts by various Street Vendor organizations the policy was not implemented in the state. In 2009 a model law was drafted by Government of India and was sent to the State Government for enactment in the state. Even the Prime Minister of India **Dr. Manmohan Singh** wrote letter to the state head in August 2009 regarding the implementation of the law. However, the irony of the day is we still don't have a law for street vendors in Rajasthan till date and more than 1 million street vendors are forced to leave under constant threat of loss of their means of livelihood."*

Addressing the street vendors in the Rally Mr Arbind Singh, Coordinator of *National Association of Street Vendors of India* said, *"The new Govt in Rajasthan headed by Shri Ashok Gehlot rekindled*

the hopes of over 10 lakhs street vendors in Rajasthan by announcing that Rajasthan will make a law for Street Vendors, the first of its kind in Rajasthan. The law would be based on the Model Law for Street Vendors 2009 which was sent to the states in 2009. We urge the Chief Minister of Rajasthan to take personal interest in enacting the law for street vendors. Such a law will go a long way in integrating street vendors in the cities as legitimate workforce contributing to the urban distribution system."

Mr. Nathu Singh Rathore, President of *Jaipur Mahanagar Thadi Thela Vyavasayi Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti* said, *"As pace of urbanization and tourism has peaked up, the trouble on street vendors have increased in the form of regular evictions, extortion, taking away of goods, beating and so on. No such workforce of any country faces everyday humiliation as the street vendors though they are all entrepreneurs in their own way."*

Addressing the Rally Mr. Ghanshyam Kotwani, *President of Jaipur Mahanagar Thadi Thela Vyavasayi Union* said, *"It is a historical day in Rajasthan when thousands of street vendors from hundreds of street vendor unions from across Rajasthan have come together to demand a legislation and the day isn't far when we would have one."*

The occasion also marked end of 15 day long awareness campaign on the model legislation for street vendors through Rath (Bus) in the state which was flagged off from Jaipur on September 15. The Rath campaigned in mainly in Jaipur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Kota, Jalore, Ajmer and other on rout cities of the state.

The Rally and was also addressed by Mr Uday Singh Rathore (former MLA of Jaipur), Mr Omprakash Devda (Street Vendor leader from Jodhpur), Mrs Raheema Shiekh (Self Employed Women Association), Ms Archana Srivastava from (Heinemann Charitable Mission Society), Mr Ranjit Abhigyan from (National Association of Street Vendors of India) and many more street vendor leaders.

For further information, please contact Campaign Coordinator, Mr. Amit Chandra at 09784258630 or write to amit@ccs.in

Regards,

Amit Chandra,
Campaign Coordinator.