

## Empowering Unorganized Workers Nationwide

Rajasthan Fellowship: Prabhat Sinha

In our times marked by the plethora of state welfare schemes, it is easy to forget that the humane and dignified way to end poverty is by providing everyone an opportunity to earn a living. Equally important is to see that those who work are adequately compensated. At a time when even the organized workers are facing cuts in wages and job security, the conditions of the unorganized that constitute over 90% of India's workforce are dire. These are the very workers who have faced the most hardship during the pandemic years.

### The Fellowship

Prabhat Sinha was born in Bihar but migrated to Punjab at an early age following in the footsteps of the migrant laborers. After years of fighting on their behalf in Punjab and the adjoining areas, he finally settled in Rajasthan and was instrumental in the establishment of the Rajasthan Mazdoor Kisan Union. IFA support, beginning in 2013, was a major milestone for him. Assured of personal stability he was able to galvanize the union throughout Rajasthan. RMKU is now helping secure benefits to thousands of workers in MNREGA, construction, mining, loading and unloading (hamals) as well as small farmers, women and the tribal community. He has since embarked on a nationwide campaign to empower unorganized workers to fight for better wages, social security, pension, health and other benefits.

### National Network of Unorganized Workers

Presently, Prabhat has taken up the challenge to create a national platform of unorganized workers in association with the Indian Community Activists Network, a fellow organization in India that promotes self-governance and pro poor economic policies. He has been traveling all across the country meeting with local activists and organizing district and state level committees. So far such organization have taken shape in 11 districts of Rajasthan, 8 districts of Jharkhand and 3 of Madhya Pradesh. Overall, 12 states are being targeted and the plans are to complete organizing in the 2022-23-time frame.

### Salient Accomplishments of 2022

राजस्थान सरकार  
श्रम विभाग

क्रमांक 15(2)असंगठित/खान/विधि/श्रम/2022 पार्ट 1/14032 दिनांक 16.05.2022

:- आदेश :-

खान श्रमिकों के लिए कल्याणकारी गतिविधियों की कमी होने के कारण खान श्रमिकों के कल्याण हेतु सुझाव देने बाबत निम्नानुसार खान श्रमिक कल्याण बोर्ड का गठन किया जाता है :-

(अ)	राज्य सरकार द्वारा मनोनीत	—	अध्यक्ष
(ब)	राज्य सरकार द्वारा मनोनीत	—	उपअध्यक्ष
(ग)	राजकीय विभागों के प्रतिनिधि—		
1	अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव/प्रमुख शासन सचिव, खान एवं पैट्रोलियम विभाग	—	सदस्य
2	प्रमुख शासन सचिव, वित्त विभाग	—	सदस्य
3	प्रमुख शासन सचिव, उद्योग एवं वाणिज्य विभाग	—	सदस्य
4	प्रमुख शासन सचिव, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य विभाग	—	सदस्य
5	प्रमुख शासन सचिव, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग	—	सदस्य
6	शासन सचिव, श्रम एवं नियोजन विभाग	—	सदस्य
7	शासन सचिव, सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग	—	सदस्य
(द)	गैर सरकारी सदस्य (राज्य सरकार द्वारा मनोनीत)	—	सदस्य (5)
	श्रम आयुक्त, श्रम विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर	—	सदस्य (पदेन)

खान श्रमिक कल्याण बोर्ड का कार्यकाल 03 वर्ष का होगा तथा बोर्ड खान क्षेत्र में कार्यरत श्रमिकों की समस्याओं, सिलिकोसिस पीडित श्रमिकों के कल्याण, खान श्रमिकों की सुरक्षा, अन्य कल्याणकारी गतिविधियों, अन्य कोई कार्य राज्य सरकार द्वारा आदेशित किया जायेगा, आदि पर विचार विमर्श कर सुझाव देगा। बोर्ड के संचालन व वित्तीय व्यवस्था उपरोक्त विभिन्न राजकीय प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा विचार विमर्श कर की जायेगी।

(सिन्हा प्रकाश एदरू)  
शासन सचिव  
श्रम, कारखाना एवं शौचालय,  
ईएसआई विभाग राजस्थान, जयपुर।

	Activity	Nos.
1	Mine workers got tested for Silicosis	300
2	Mining dept. made aware of illegal mining on the river bank resulting in the areas being marked inaccessible to mining	
3	Workers registered with the Govt. Labor Portal	1000
4	Farmer grants under the CM Krushak Saathi Yojna	300
5	Helped set up the Worker Security Center in Chittorgarh Workers got financial help	460
	Workers 'at work' abuse incidents resolved via mediation	107
6	Widow and disability pension for men/women in 9 districts	284
7	Residential plots to deserving family units	1084
8	Farmers enrolled in the PM Crop Insurance Scheme	3400

After years of struggle, the Rajasthan Government last year conceded the union's demands to set up a Mining Workers Welfare Board. Although the board has many govt. functionaries, it has significant non-government presence and the union is looking at this as a huge milestone in improving working conditions in the mines as well as for their general welfare.



Meeting Construction workers in Pratapgarh



Prabhat visited the rain hit areas and submitted a memorandum to the Collector about their problems.

-- IFA Liaison: Maninder Madan