

Starving landless labourers, by denying ration. Please take action.**Kirity Roy** <kirityroy@gmail.com>

11 July 2020 at 17:17

To: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

Cc: Chief Secretary Gov of WB <cs-westbengal@nic.in>, "Home Secretary Govt of W.B." <wb.secyhome@gmail.com>, Secy Food & Supplies W B <itcellfswb@gmail.com>, DM North 24 Pgs <dm-bar-wb@nic.in>, SP Basirhat K P Barui <spbasirhatoffice@gmail.com>, SDO Basirhat <sdobasirhat@gmail.com>, BDO Swarupnagar <bdoswarupnagar@gmail.com>, "UN SR Food Ms. Hilal Elver" <srfood@ohchr.org>

To
The Chairman
National Human Rights commission
Manav Adhikar Bhawan
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA
New Delhi- 110023

11 July 2020

Respected Sir,

This is to bring your attention on the situation of some villagers in the village of Gobindapur under Swarupnagar Police Station in the district of North 24 Pargana, where these villagers are devoid of proper ration cards and thereby deprived from public distribution system. Even in this critical time of nationwide lockdown, where people are not engaged in any work or trade, these villagers did not get the ration items.

The affected villagers several times visited to the Swarupnagar Food and Supplies Office to enroll themselves and their family members in public distribution system and applied for proper ration card but as of now those affected villagers have not received the same. The Food and Supplies Office, Swarupnagar asked them to fill the required forms; which they complied but still no cards have been issued; for last 2 years, the governmental departments are making false promises by saying that they will receive ration cards very soon.

It is also mentioned that on 21.03.2020 the Chief Minister of West Bengal announced that people will be getting subsidized rice and wheat free of cost. But these villagers here are not provided with any amount of food grains. Ration dealer Mr. Brajogopal Sarkar (Shop number 131) does not provide them ration items in any way without proper ration cards and instead of filling up proper forms, concerned authority till date does not provide them ration cards.

The details of the affected villagers have been provided here under –

Name	Father's name	Mother's name	Address	Date of Application	Application form no.	Ration card type	Dealer name and shop no.
Faraha Mondal	Faruk Mondal	Fatema Mondal	Vill+P.O. Gobindapur, P.S. Swarupnagar, North 24 Pargana	01.08.2018	11-002319-18-002996	SPHH	Mr. Brojogopal Sarkar Shop no. 131
Mahabub Gazi	Majibur Rahaman Gazi	Achiya Bibi	Vill+P.O. Gobindapur, P.S. Swarupnagar, North 24 Pargana	04.09.2019	11-002319-19-010070	PHH	Do
Asma Khatun	Ajjul Mondal	Anjuyara Bibi	Vill+P.O. Gobindapur, P.S. Swarupnagar, North 24 Pargana	10.01.2018	11-002339-17-102489	SPHH	Do
Mostafa Mondal	Ajjul Mondal	Anjuyara Bibi	Vill+P.O. Gobindapur,	10.01.2018	11-002339-17-102489	SPHH	Do

			P.S. Swarupnagar, North 24 Pargana				
Layala Mondal	Moslem Mondal		Vill+P.O. Gobindapur, P.S. Swarupnagar, North 24 Pargana	18.07.2017	11-002319- 19-006541	PHH	Do
Noor Hossain Mondal	Najrul Mondal	Layala Mondal	Vill+P.O. Gobindapur, P.S. Swarupnagar, North 24 Pargana	18.07.2017	11-002319- 19-006541	PHH	Do
Noor Mohammad Mondal	Najrul Mondal	Layala Mondal	Vill+P.O. Gobindapur, P.S. Swarupnagar, North 24 Pargana	18.07.2017	11-002319- 19-006541	PHH	Do

These seven villagers are denied of minimum Governmental beneficial facilities in ration distribution process. They several times requested to the concerned Food and Supplies office in Swarupnagar Block. But no one thinking about the problems of these villagers and no measures has been taken by the district administration till date.

The negligent act of the concerned officials of Food and Supplies Department Basirhat Sub Division, in particular of Swarupnagar Block are violator of their own Departmental order vide Memo No. 1480-FS/0/Sectt/IT-19/2018 (Part-I) Dated 12th May, 2020. The acquiescence of people paid from public exchequer can not force people to die due to hunger. These villagers are living in misery. During this time of lockdown, they have no money in their hand and the district administration also does not listen to their problems.

Through its landmark decision in the public interest litigation Petition (Civil) No. 196/2001, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) v. Union of India & Others, the Supreme Court explicitly established a constitutional right to food and determined a basic nutritional floor for India's impoverished millions but in this case the district administration and Food and Supplies Office of Swarupnagar did not take any steps over this matter. These public officials should be charged with contempt of court as they violated the guidelines of the Apex Court and silent and inactive over this problem of the villagers.

This unresponsive attitude of the government and the district administration towards the people of Gobindapur village is in violation of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India and Articles 11 of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Goals number 2 of Sustainable Development Goals and for both these international instruments Government of India is a party.

Are the provisions of Fundamental Rights dead during Corona war? Life is life, all lives are as godly but the concerned authorities think otherwise. Is this our spirit of humanity? Why these poor people are being victimized of this situation or our governments become anti-poor?

I therefore, urge you to make urgent intervention into the matter by directing the concerned authorities to provide the above mentioned residents of the Gobindapur village in the district of North 24 Pargana with proper ration cards and get the required amount of ration stuffs as declared by the State of West Bengal and the Government of India.

Thanking you,
Yours truly

Kirity Roy
Secretary, MASUM
&
National Convener, PACTI



West Bengal to provide free ration to poor till June 2021, says Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday announced that the state government has extended the scheme of free ration for poor till June 2021. Mamata's announcement came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation in which he announced that Centre's 'free food grains for poor' scheme will be extended till November end.

[Swipe left for more at The Financial Express / few hours ago](#)

'Our quality of ration better than Centre's'
Tap to read what more she said

**Government of West Bengal
Food & Supplies Department
11A, Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-87**

Memo No. 1486-FNS/Seet/IT-18/2018(Part-1)

Date: 12th May, 2020

NOTIFICATION

The people who have old paper ration cards, but either had not been issued Digital Ration Card / Coupon or had not applied for Digital Ration Card, are applying for food grains under PDS due to sudden hardship arose out of lockdown and COVID-19 Pandemic. It was in the active participation of the Government in the Food & Supplies Department to provide food grains to these people for a certain period to mitigate their socio-economic.

Now, after specific consideration of the matter, the Government is pleased to issue notification that the people who have Old Paper Ration Card, but either had not been issued Digital Ration Card / Coupon or had not applied for Digital Ration Card and are facing food problems due to sudden hardship arose out of lockdown will be provided food grains from 100 g to 5 kg per Coupon per month for 3 (three) months i.e. May, 2020 on the basis of their applications.

Any person who is a permanent resident in the State of West Bengal and has Old Paper Ration Card and 'General' (NFA / RDSY) Card Issued' as who has not been issued Digital Ration Card / Coupon one is in the need of food grains due to sudden hardship arose out of lockdown shall apply to the respective District Magistrate in case of the District other than Kolkata (KVC area) and to the Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation in case of Kolkata Municipal Corporation area and District Magistrate / Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation will dispose of the applications on the basis of the guidelines enclosed with this notification. The eligible applicant will be issued a 'Special Coupon' on the basis of which he/she will get food grains from the allotted PDS. The distribution of food grain to Special Coupon holders will be from 15th to 10th day of the month.

This has the concurrence of the Finance Department vide their D.O. No. 0282 dated 11-05-2020 of Group 'A'.

By order of the Governor

(Parvez Ahmad Siddiqui, IAS)
Secretary, Food & Supplies Department