



NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS

Memo No. NPSSFW/ Conv. – 19/22

May 16, 2022

Sri K. Chandrasekhar Rao
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telengana
Telangana Secretariat
Burgula Rama Krishna Rao Bhavan
NH 44, Hill Fort, Adarsh Nagar
Hyderabad, Telangana 500063

Sub: Request to take immediate step against unjust and illegal fine imposed on tribal fisher women by the Forest Department

Sir,

Greetings from the National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW), the largest organization of small scale fish workers in the country.

This is to bring to your kind notice that according to the media reports (copy and link attached) 33 tribal fisher women were fined Rs. 5,000/- each by the Forest Officials for allegedly fishing in the Kawal tiger reserve located at Jannaram mandal of Mancherial District in the state of Telangana.

The women fishers along with other members of their community have been traditionally fishing in the tanks in forest areas and near their villages during summer. It was not a new practice undertaken for the first time. They collected bidi leaves, bamboo and other forest produce from time immemorial. Thus their rights are recognized and protected by the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The forest officials without helping in implementation of the Act are now imposing restrictions on the entry of the forest dependent tribal communities into the forests and the tiger reserve.

NPSSFW holds that the forest department has violated the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 by letter and spirit. NPSSFW condemns the unjust and illegal action of the forest in fining the forest dependent tribal women in unequivocal terms.

We request you to kindly intervene in the matter and restrain the forest officials from obstructing livelihood practices of the forest dependent tribal people.

Hon'ble Ministers for Fisheries, Forests and Tribal Welfare along with the Chief Secretary and the Secretary, Tribal Welfare of the Government of Telengana are being informed.

Yours sincerely,

Pradip Chatterjee,
Convener, NPSSFW.

Headquarters: 20/4 Sil Lane, Kolkata-700015, West Bengal, India. Phone & Fax-91-33-23283989.

National Convener: Pradip Chatterjee (Mobile: 9874432773)

Delhi Office: B48/T1, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095. (Contact: Dipak Dholakia. Mobile 9818848753)

Website: [http:// www. smallscalefishworkers.org](http://www.smallscalefishworkers.org) E-mail: npssfw@smallscalefishworkers.org



NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS

Memo No. NPSSF/ Conv. – 19/22 (1/5)

May 16, 2022

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to –

- 1. Smt Sathyavathi Rathod**
The Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Welfare
- 2. Shri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy**
The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Dairy Development Corp., Seeds Corporation
- 3. Shri Jogu Ramanna**
The Hon'ble Minister for Forest & Environment
- 4. Shri Somesh Kumar, IAS**
Chief Secretary,
Government of Telangana
- 5. Dr. Christina Z.Chongthu, IAS**
Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department,
Government of Telangana

Pradip Chatterjee

Pradip Chatterjee,
Convener, NPSSF.

Headquarters: 20/4 Sil Lane, Kolkata-700015, West Bengal, India. Phone & Fax-91-33-23283989.

National Convener: Pradip Chatterjee (Mobile: 9874432773)

Delhi Office: B48/T1, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095. (Contact: Dipak Dholakia. Mobile 9818848753)

Website: [http:// www. smallscalefishworkers.org](http://www.smallscalefishworkers.org) E-mail: npssf@smallscalefishworkers.org