

# WELCOME

Ms. Purabhi Bose of Sir Ratan Tata Trust

**FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS and LOK SATTA**

**FDR**

**LOK SATTA**

# Mobilization of Active Citizens in Andhra Pradesh

A Project Funded by Sir Ratan Tata Trust

Status Report

# MISSION

**To promote peaceful, democratic transformation of Indian Governance process and enable India to achieve full potential through good governance**

# Key Reform Goals

- **Comprehensive Electoral Reforms**
- **Empowerment of Local Governments**
- **Instruments of Accountability**
- **Speedy and Efficient Justice**

# Electoral Reforms

- **Process Improvements**
  - preventing polling irregularities
  - arresting and reversing criminalization of politics
  - and checking abuse of unaccountable money power in elections
- **System Improvements**
  - Political Party Reform
  - Proportional Representation
  - Direct Election of Chief Executive at the state level with clear separation of Powers

# Empowerment of Local Governments

- **Transfer of Funds, Functions and Functionaries to Local Governments**
- **Link between Vote and Public Good, Taxes and Services and Authority and Accountability**

# Instruments of Accountability

- **Right to Information**
- **Independent Crime Investigation**
- **Independent appointment of constitutional functionaries**
- **Independent and effective Anti-Corruption agency**
- **Term Limits for Public Office**
- **Strict penalties for abuse of office**
- **Citizens' Charters**
- **Stakeholder Empowerment**

# Judicial Reforms

- **Limit Writ Jurisdiction**
- **Increase number of courts**
- **Local courts in local language (Gram Nyayalay)**
- **Time bound Justice**
- **Independent mechanism for Judicial Appointments**
- **Independent Crime Investigation**



# Approaches to Citizens' Action

- **Collective Informed Assertion**
- **Wide Dissemination of Information**
- **Effective Mass Communication**
- **Strategic Intervention**

# Methods of Citizens' Action – Peoples Watch

- **Collective Informed Assertion**
- **People's Charters**
- **Lok Satta as Platform**
- **Fight against corruption**
- **Fight for better delivery of public services**

# Methods of Citizens' Action – Swarajya

- **Advocacy & Campaign for specific reform goals**
- **Choice of Goals**
  - locally achievable
  - no cost/low cost goals
  - universally acceptable
  - strategic goals opening many doors

# Swarajya – Reform Goals

- **Right to Information**
- **Citizens' Charters**
- **Empowerment of Local Governments**
- **Empowerment of Stake Holders**
- **Universally accessible school education**
- **Speedy Justice through rural courts**
- **Toilet for every household**

# Methods of Citizens' Action – Election Watch

- **Voter verification and registration**
- **Screening of candidates**
- **Know your candidates**
- **Common Platforms**
- **State-Level debates**
- **Training of volunteers**
- **Monitoring of polling process**

# Methods of Citizens' Action – Election Watch

- Does not aim to affect the outcome
- Election time is ripe for awareness campaign
- Focus on remediable flaws
- Pressure on parties and candidates
- Idea of accountability

# Impact of Lok Satta

## **Citizens Charters – A.P. government introduced in 9 departments**

- State Electricity Board
- Road Transport Corporation
- Transport department
- Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Works and Sewerage Board
- Employment Exchange
- Commercial taxes department
- Registration department
- Municipalities

# Impact of Lok Satta

- **Cessation of short delivery at Petrol Stations all over A.P.**
- **Stakeholders empowerment – water user associations and school education committees constituted formally by the state government**
- **Toilets for every household – largely on Lok Satta's advocacy over 2 million toilets were built in the last 2 years**



# Impact of Lok Satta

- **Building Regularization Scheme - Kukatpally**
- **Changing the nature of dialogue on Women's Reservation**
- **Creating awareness on Right to Information**
- **Election Watch – arresting growth of criminal elements in Politics and spearheading massive voter registration drives**

# Impact of Lok Satta

- India's leading movement for governance reforms
- 20 % popular base in A.P.
- Emerged as an influential voice for specific governance reforms in various for a of civil society as well as government bodies
- Nationally recognized as a credible, non-partisan, effective platform to fight corruption, and seek better governance
- Acquired the potential to build a national movement

# Mobilization of Active Citizens in Andhra Pradesh – Project Overview

- **Goal : Promoting Citizens' Initiatives for Better Governance Through a Multilevel Training Programme**
- **Target : Train 75000 active citizens in 1000 mandals**
- **Duration : 3 years from April 2001- March 2004**
- **Estimated Cost: Rs. 86,47,150**
- **Funded by RTT : Rs. 60,00,000**
- **From other Sources : Rs. 26,47,150**

# Methodology

- **Objective: Impart requisite skills to Active Citizens in Citizens' initiatives and promoting informed and collective assertion**
- **Wide dissemination of Information through distribution of literature, street plays and other forms of mass communication**
- **Training at 4 levels in a staggered manner viz. Master trainers, Senior trainers, Trainers and Active Citizens**

# Project Activities

- Preparation of Literature/material to be shared with trainers and active citizens
- Preparation of content and training for street plays
- Performing of Street plays/cultural programmes
- Training of Master Trainers
- Training of Senior Trainers
- Training of Trainers
- Training of Active Citizens

# Current Status

- 25 Master Trainers' from 13 districts are trained
- 150 Senior Trainers' from 6 districts are trained
- 398 Trainers from 5 districts are trained
- In 1st block of mandals from Group I districts , Active Citizens training will be conducted from Oct. 2001 - March 2002
- All relevant literature for training is printed and distributed to various districts covered in Group I
- The content (songs, script & audio visual material) for the street plays is developed and teams of artists are giving performances in Warangal district and will be extended to other districts shortly

# Change of Course

**Initially we proposed to take up Active Citizens training in all the 23 districts simultaneously. Now we are taking up the training in 4 groups for the following reasons:**

- Concentrated input in a short time of 6-9 months in a district has a greater impact**
- Organizational infrastructure can be built before the training of active citizens' is taken up**
- The experience from training of earlier groups will give us valuable inputs for mid course correction**

# Financial Overview

- **First Installment disbursed in April 2001 - Rs. 12,00,000**
- **Expenditure incurred from SRTT funds – Rs. 13,47,983**
- **Other resources deployed (cash & kind): equivalent to – Rs. 10,29,945**



# Looking Ahead

- **Senior trainers training to be completed in 12 districts by May 2002 (group I + group II)**
- **Active citizens training to be completed in all the group I districts by September 2002**
- **Street Plays will be performed in 6 districts from December 2001 to March 2002 covering 150 mandals**