WELCOME

Ms. Purabhi Bose of Sir Ratan Tata Trust

FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS and 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 poling 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 forums 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
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