



**LOK SATTA**  
*People Power*

**Presentation to SSF Partners**

Bangalore, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2003

# Mission

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

## Governance at a Glance

- Governments spend Rs. 1800 crores every day
  - Out of 27 million organised workers, government employs 70%
  - Fiscal deficit (Union and States) remains at 10 % GDP
  - 50% Union tax revenues go towards interest payment
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# Is Money the Issue?

## School Education

- 1.6 million classrooms needed
- Capital cost : Rs.16,000 crores – 9 days govt. expenditure
- Recurring expenditure : Rs.8000 crores – 5 days govt. expenditure

## Sanitation

- 140 million toilets needed
  - Cost: Rs 35000 crores
  - Equals just 20 days expenditure
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# In a Sane Democracy

- Political process should resolve the crisis
  - Parties, elections and public office are the route to reform
  - In India a vicious cycle operates
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# Key Reforms

<b>Electoral reforms</b>	<b>Funding</b>
	<b>Criminalization</b>
	<b>Voting irregularities</b>
<b>Electoral system</b>	<b>Proportional Representation</b>
	<b>Separation of Powers</b>
<b>Decentralization</b>	<b>Local Governments</b>
<b>Rule of Law</b>	<b>Judicial reforms</b>
<b>Accountability</b>	<b>Right to information</b>
	<b>Citizens' charters</b>
	<b>Independent crime investigation</b>

## Some Significant Successes

- Disclosure of candidate details (March 13 SC Judgment)
  - Funding Reform Bill (now before Parliament)
  - Post office as nodal agency for voter registration (agreed in principle)
  - Arrested criminalization of politics in AP
  - Altered the nature of debate on Women's reservation – Lok Satta's alternate model is widely accepted
  - Have firmly put key electoral reforms on the national agenda
  - India's leading civil society initiative on governance reforms
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## Key Activities in AP

- Campaign for empowerment of local governments
  - Local courts for speedy justice
  - Training of active citizens
  - Healthcare – pilot project along with CDF
  - Power Sector – 4 feeders were taken on a pilot basis to prove the efficacy of micro management of distribution
  - Education, stakeholder groups etc. in addition to our core agenda of electoral reforms
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## EWR Training – Phase I

- Undertaken in 3 districts – Medak, Krishna and Mahaboobnagar – all 3 have women ZP chairpersons
- Approximately 800 EWRs participated in our workshops
- A forum of EWRs was created in Medak district

# Key Experiences

- EWRs are keen to learn about various issues related to governance.
- Depending upon their socio economic background wide variation in their capacities to exert themselves
- Across the board complaint of patronizing behaviour from civil servants
- Some of the EWRs have openly expressed that they are just functioning as proxies for male members of their families.
- Have expressed apprehensions about the reservation with rotation system, which will ensure that they will not be in office for another term.

## Phase II Proposal

- 4 districts – Warangal, Karimnagar, West Godavari and east Godavari – intensive – 4 meetings per district
- 7 districts – Chittoor, Kurnool, Nalgonda, Khammam, Vishakapatnam, Guntur and Nellore – 1 meeting per district
- Culminating in formation of state federation of EWRs in Feb 2004

## Critical Emphasis

- Empowerment of EWRs will be integrated with Lok Satta's campaign for empowerment of local governments. In fact the project will be implemented under the aegis of the Federation for Empowerment of Local Governments along with FDR/Lok Satta
- Education, Healthcare and Sanitation will be centre-pieces of our strategy to empower women leaders
- Focus on accountability to citizens through RTI and CC
- Will be working closely with AP Mahila Samakhya and Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF) in the implementation of the project

## Sustainability of Federation

- Lok Satta will play a key role in formation of the federation to ensure that EWRs from across the political spectrum are a part of it
- Federation will need some support for the first 2 years to ensure that they are sustainable in the long run

“The punishment suffered by the wise who refuse to take part in the government, is to suffer under the government of bad men.”

Plato