



स्वा श्रयी महिला सेवा संघ

SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SEWA)

Sewa Reception Centre, Opp. Victoria Garden, Bhadra, Ahmedabad-380001.

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By Reg. Ad

December 17, 1999

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Pages: 1 + 9 = 10

Shri Ajai Singh
Provident Fund Commissioner (Central),
Bhavishyanidhi Bhavan,
14, Bhikaji Kama Place,
New Delhi 110 066.

Dear Sir,

Self Employed Women's Association is organising the poor, self employed women workers in the unorganised sector. SEWA's main goals are full employment and self reliance of our members. Currently the membership is 1,43,000 members.

Large members of SEWA's members are home based workers. These workers mainly work for the employers/traders and contractors from their own homes.

Bidi rollers area major category of home based workers. SEWA has organised more than 15,000 beedi workers. In Gujarat, above there around 1,50,000 beedi workers.

SEWA had filed a case in the 1985, for payment of Provident Fund to above 154 workers, by their employer M/s Jivraj Beedi and partnership firm.

The case was transferred to the Central Industrial Appellate Tribunal. The Tribunal passed a judgement, establishing employer/employee relationship between the employer and home based workers and therefore held that they are eligible for Provident Fund. The copy of the judgement is enclosed herewith.

However, the Jivraj Beedi, challenged the judgement of the Industrial Appellate Tribunal in the High Court of Gujarat in 1998. The High Court of Gujarat has issued order to the Commissionerate of Provident Fund, Gujarat, to assess the eligibility and dues of these 154 Beedi workers. The copy of the order is enclosed herewith.

As a result, the assessment procedure and hearings are being held by the Provident Fund Commissioner.

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To pressurise these poor, home based workers into submission and giving up their legal rights the Beedi Employers Association has stopped giving work to all the Beedi workers, about 15,000 in Ahmedabad, for almost one month since October 99.

After series of negotiation, the work was reopened but, on sale purchase system. However, M/s Jivraj Beedi, still has not started giving the work to the workers, because it is the largest, oldest and most powerful employer in Ahmedabad.

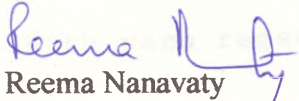
The hearing of the above case, in the High Court of Gujarat is scheduled on 23rd December 99.

May I, on behalf of the Beedi Workers request you to kindly look into the matter and request the commissioner of Provident Fund, Gujarat, to look at this issue in the proper legal perspective and take positive view to help the workers. Further delay in submission of the eligibility and dues assessment, will impoverish the beedi workers and their families and adversely affect their livelihoods.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to ask for the same.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


Reema Nanavaty
General Secretary, SEWA

Encl: As above.

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