

SOCIAL AUDIT TOOLKIT

Glossary of Terms, Common words, Categories

Total number of documents: 2200

→ **Public Archive Introductory Note-**

The National Advisory Council, formed by the United Progressive Alliance as an advisory body to the government first between 2004-2007 and then between 2010-2014, has been credited for bringing rights based legislation into the center of the conversation on welfare in India. When the NAC ceased functioning in 2014, the website which should have continued as an archive of its work was pulled down with no in-depth records available to the public.

This digital collection comprises a database of important documents such as proposed policies, reports and draft bills that highlight the rigor and criticality of work conducted in these meetings. It attempts to create a public archive to answer crucial questions about the role of participatory policy-making in strengthening democratic processes.

→ **Document Types**

- 1. DRAFT BILL-** In the stages of the legislative process of a proposal becoming a law, a draft bill is the draft document which is brought to the Lok Sabha or the parliament, which when passed becomes an Act or is amended.
- 2. REPORT-** Reports are analysis documents which explain the impact and consequences of a policy. It is prepared by social organizations and committees to help people understand how the policy affects them and to suggest changes or improvements. This archive contains reports from coalitions such as Action aid, Social Audit reports, and petitions from campaigns.
- 3. MINUTES OF MEETING -** Minutes of meeting refer to the official written record of what was discussed, decided and action points agreed upon in a meeting. These records are crucial for accountability, transparency, and continuity of information across various stages of policy-making.
- 4. AMENDMENTS -** Amendments refer to changes made to a draft bill or motion during the deliberations in the parliament or the legislative body. These amendments can either be accepted or rejected, and are documented as modifications to the original version of the proposal before it is passed as a law.

5. **ARTICLES**- Independently written essays and writings that are published in newspapers or magazines have been included in this archive based on a key issue or law they have raised attention to. These writings often display the work of outside journalists in the same areas or even give an insight on what the general public opinion is regarding the policies of the country.
6. **RULES**- Rules are official statements and list of directions/regulations passed by the government regarding the due process to be followed by any person/organization to avoid being punished or fined.
7. **AGENDA** - Agenda refers to a list of items or topics to be discussed during a meeting or a session. The agenda is usually prepared in advance and circulated to the members to provide them with an idea of what is expected to be discussed.
8. **GOVERNMENT ORDER** - Government Order refers to a directive or order issued by the government or its departments as a final say on matters. These orders are usually meant to implement the decisions taken by the government or its officials and are legally binding.
9. **POLICY**- A policy is a statement of intent that examines the history of a suggested issue, key concerns and problems around it, existing laws and rules, statistical analysis and then suggests tangible measures for changes and its implementation.

Terminology Used

1. **TORS**- The Terms of Reference of a policy or act officially define the purpose and key objectives of a proposed programme.
2. **WORKING GROUP (WG)**- A Working Group (WG) is a temporary body of experts in a particular field who are brought together to convene on a focused topic and then disband once the goal has been achieved.
3. **PAPs**- Project Affected Person
4. **SOCIAL AUDIT**- Social audits are processes of evaluating public facing agencies and government service delivery to take stock of social and environmental impacts of projects. These audits enhance the spirit of accountability and transparency and are useful in identifying cases of corruption in development programs.

→ Category of Content (Social Audit Toolkit)

1. **MNREGA**- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA), or commonly referred to as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is the largest work guarantee programme in the world, with the primary objective of guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment to rural households. It is described as a “demand driven wage employment programme” which guarantees and secures paid work

based on the demand for employment by individuals, emphasizing on the responsibility of the State to secure living wage to all workers, as considered in the universal rights of UDHR.

2. **NAC MEETING-** The National Advisory Council, constituted on 31st May 2004, was an advisory body formed by the coalition UPA government with Sonia Gandhi as their chairperson. A body of 14 civil society members, economists and activists came together to assist in the monitoring of the NCMP and provide policy inputs to the government. The NAC was uniquely placed as an institution that could involve the expertise of people outside the government and strengthen people's voices in decision making. The records of discussions and outputs from these meetings form the source of this archive which show us the trajectories of many important acts and welfare policies in their nascency.
3. **NCMP-** The National Common Minimum Programme was a joint priority document of all parties in the UPA coalition government and made up the main policies and programmes conducted in their term. The NCMP commitment or Agenda for Action consisted of a large number of initiatives arranged under different ministries, across agriculture, education, health, Panchayati Raj, etc.
4. **NFWP-** The National Food For Work Programme was a massive programme and self-targeting scheme which paid for wages partly in cash and partly in grain. One commitment of the UPA under NCMP was to enact NREGA, and the Food for Work program was to be conducted in the interim time period before the implementation so that the rights of food security of qualified people could be ensured.
5. **SSA-** A Universal Elementary Education Programme known as 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' was a nation-wide mission to ensure that children in the age group of 6-14 were all enrolled in schools by 2010. By the specific objective of imposing an 'education cess' on all taxes to raise additional resources into the Prathamik Shiksha Kosh.
6. **CTV-** The Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill of 2005 was a bill proposed by the NAC I following the 2002 Gujarat pogrom. It outlined the prevention of communal violence and an increased accountability from the government for the rehabilitation and compensations of victims. This bill was then amended in 2011 by the second phase of the NAC (II) to include further provisions.
7. **RTI-** India's desire towards transparency and participatory democracy first emerged with the Freedom of Information Act of 2002, which was a weak manifestation of a people's movement started in Devdungri by MKSS to grant the power of information and knowledge as a fundamental human right. The demands for a more equitable and inclusive law led to the formulation of the Right to Information Act, in 2005 by the NAC council which included leaders of various movements as its members. The RTI holds a potential to make government

functionaries answerable to the people, and although many of the amendments and suggestions were not included in the final cut,

- 8. SEEDS-** Originally known as the Seeds Act of 1966, The Seeds Bill was passed in 2004, and aimed to regulate the quality and variety of commercial seeds. Each variety for sale has to be registered, requiring seed producers, sellers, nurseries and horticulturists to (1) register their seeds and (2) meet minimum standards. Farmers rights are protected in selling and growing their seed/plant material as long as it meets the standard. Farmers can avail compensation (under Consumer Protection Act) for any underperforming seeds which cannot be sold.
- 9. ICDS-** Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was originally launched in 1975 on a small scale aimed at providing care and basic healthcare to children under six years of age and their mothers. The universalization of ICDS issued by the Supreme court mandated that ICDS be implemented for every child under 6 and provide a range of services including health check-ups, nutrition, and pre-school education, but the implementation fell short. The recommendations and amendments to the latest ICDS include demands for better quality, decentralized control and focus on malnutrition.
- 10. LOCAL COURTS-** The Gram Nyayalaya Bill, 2007, establishes local courts at the village level to provide access to civil justice at the grassroots level. Gram Nyayalaya refers to a local court in coordination with Gram Panchayats; and the act was previously known as the Local Courts Bill.
- 11. MDM** - The Mid Day Meal scheme or mandate was issued by the central government as the National Programme of Nutritional Support for Primary education in 1995. The aim of 'universalization of primary education' necessitated the provision of food and assistance to primary schools to provide every child under 8 with a prepared mid-day meal with a set calorie and nutritional value for a minimum of 200 days.
- 12. UNORGANIZED-** The Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007
Looks for social security and welfare measures for workers in the unorganized sector, such as daily wage earners, street vendors, domestic workers and workers without fixed employment and seeks labor standards, benefits, and protections in informal settings.
- 13. FRA-** The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognizes the forest rights and occupation on forest land by Scheduled Tribe members under a situation where their formal rights and contributions have not been recorded. The act also includes responsibility and authority for sustainable and commercial use of forest land and protection of resources. Amendments to the act refer to petitions and complaints from tribal communities and their legal protection from displacement and resettlement.

- 14. RTE-** Right to Education Act mandates that the State provide free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6-14 as a fundamental right. The passage of the RTE followed the advocacy for prohibition of child labor, followed by the universalization of education and SSA
- 15. WOMEN-** The Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Work Place Bill, 2010, aims to prevent and address sexual harassment faced by women in the workplace by establishing mechanisms to file complaints, and ensure the effective implementation of preventive and redressal measures.
- 16. ANTI CORRUPTION-** The Lok Satta movement advocates for anti-corruption measures and governance reforms. It emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance, aiming to primarily combat corruption
- 17. T, A & G (Transparency, Accountability & Governance)-** T, A & G refers to a set of principles and practices that promote transparency, accountability, and good governance. Social audits and RTIs are critical in ensuring these principles are upheld.
- 18. MANUAL SCAVENGING-** The employment of Manual Scavengers was prohibited in 1993, but further strategies have built on the infrastructure and rehabilitation needed for alternative options provided to workers, education for their kids and skill training schemes.
- 19. DOMESTIC WORK -** The essential elements of a national strategy for The Domestic Workers (Registration Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2008 relate to the livelihood rights and rights of domestic workers (under the Social Security Act) to be entitled to such as minimum wage, regulated work and paid time off.
- 20. FSA (NFSB)-** The National Food Security Act, 2013, provides subsidized food grains to eligible individuals and households, ensuring food security. The act establishes the legal framework for the targeted Public Distribution System (PDS) and other related nutrition schemes to target kids and mothers.
- 21. A&N-** petitions and demands related to development of roads and construction of the Andaman Trunk Road which disturbs the Jarawa tribe reserve. Speedy implementation of Supreme Court orders regarding the 'Inner Line regime' to deal with the problem of continued influx of people to the islands from mainland India is the key recommendation. A need for a stronger defence policy (with self-determined policing rights given to the tribe) against poachers was brought up along with the set up of an Advisory Committee. Regarding the reconstruction plans, use of long-term sustainable materials and mechanisms dealing with the disposal of waste and debris is suggested.

22. DDR- In response to the displacement by major infrastructure changes and resettlement issues, the need for setting up a national commission on Displacement, Resettlement and Rehabilitation in 2005 in relation to provisions of land acquisition, and packages of rehabilitation. To ensure that in cases where displacement is unavoidable, PAPs and affected families be compensated with a standard of living superior to the one before their displacement, and have an income above the poverty line to receive equal benefits as that of the planned project. The policy should also follow the principle of 'land for land' where SC/ST and PAPs are provided at least one standard hectare of agricultural land in irrigation projects.

23. LAND ACQUISITION- The laws related to The Land Acquisition and Resettlement and Rehabilitation Bill, 2011 introduced in conjunction to the DDR bill, limit the ability of courts to acquire land under any 'public purpose'. Public purpose is redefined as land acquired for defense purposes, infrastructure projects where 70% of the land has already been purchased, barring any company acquisition under 70%. A social impact assessment study is to be conducted in any case of displacement, along with compensation provided according to the intended use of the land and its current market value.

24. HEALTH- Documents related to the health policy, budget and National Rural Health Mission of India. The review of public health in India demanded a need for an integrated and comprehensive healthcare policy with a focus on rural populations. Strategies for a decentralized program promoted community health activists (ASHA workers) and regional plans created for districts and villages.

25. WASTELAND- Waterland and Wasteland Development Programmes that need to be implemented especially in drought-prone areas integrated with NREGA for the treatment of degraded lands. The agricultural development caused in the first two decades following the Independence focused on large scale irrigation projects created regional disparities between upper watershed regions and drought prone regions. A critical review committee run by Prof. Hanumanth Rao was constituted with a particular aim of integrating watershed development with desert, drought prone regions and poverty alleviation programs for people affected by such conditions.

26. NBSAP- NBSAP- The NBSAP is a national obligation under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and funded by UNDP which led to the creation of a consultative, people led committee who drafted the NBSAP over four years. Despite its collaborative and bottom-up efforts resulting in thematic action plans for Livelihoods and Biodiversity, Health and Biodiversity, etc the MoEF rejected the final approval and release of a report

27. CONSTITUTION- The Constitution Amendment Bill is formulated to introduce any

amendments to the constitution. In the NAC in 2009, the Constitution (111th Amendment) Bill was discussed and brought up for the promotion of cooperative societies under state laws with rights to autonomous management, elections and independent professional audit.

- 28. BEGGARY LAW**- A drafting group formed for considering an alternative law for beggary which reconsiders the punitive process against beggary in all states leading the person to be detained. Law considering a central scheme for the creation of training and employment for beggars and special institutions to house beggars with a principle objective of preventing beggary in the first place.
- 29. BLA** - legal and policy changes around the Bonded Labor System Abolition Act, 1976 under Article 23 which outlaws all forms of forced labor but has faced poor implementation. In 2011, key issues brought up in the definition of bonded labor urged to consider conditions where minimum wages are not met, physical constraints on exercise of liberty and contemporary labor bondage where no obligations and contracts exist.
- 30. BHOPAL TRAGEDY**- Reports and consideration of cases for rehabilitation and support to victims of the bhopal gas tragedy.
- 31. RPDB** -The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, refers to the provision for equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and access to education, employment, healthcare, and other services for persons with disabilities.
- 32. JAN LOKPAL**- The Jan Lokpal bill is an anti-corruption bill that sought to establish an independent institution, grievance frameworks and rules to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption involving public officials. Along with the bill, protection of whistleblowers and institutionalizing social audit were areas of measure.
- 33. URBAN POVERTY**- Proposed agenda that investigates the need for urban versions of NREGA, Health mission. Gave rise to the Property Rights to Slum Dwellers Act, 2011 in relation to the Beggary law.
- 34. OMBUDSMAN**- an order under Section 27(1) of NREGA outlines the establishment of an ombudsman for grievance redressal. Rules and provision for an Ombudsman investigator for local courts and panchayats. Specific rules and provisions for an Ombudsman investigator particularly for local courts and panchayats are laid down that detail the power of the Ombudsman and the process involved in the action and disposal of complaints.
- 35. PESA** (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas): The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 was set up as for independent governance structures in Scheduled Areas. In

light of lack of implementation in state laws, a working group on Tribal Development was put together to examine the changes needed for the PESA Act.

- 36. NEP-** The National Education Policy Environment Policy proposed in 2004 was met with citizen concerns around unnecessary haste and lack of participation, as well as poor regard for people affected by environmental issues. Consultations and letters against the NEP suggested critical reforms to translate in other languages and change in its economic and environmental fundamentalist form, which were discussed in two meetings by the NAC.
- 37. RTW** - The Right to Work is a fundamental right enshrined in the constitution. It was first considered by the Planning Commission in 1990 in the 8th Five Year Plan as the government's resolve and need to introduce a guarantee scheme for employment. The basis and principles of this proposal were instrumental to the formulation of the NREGA employment guarantee scheme,
- 38. PDS** - After the National Food Security Bill, the aim of implementation focused on a larger Public Distribution System to ensure the right of food reached all citizens. It evolved as a system of distribution of essential commodities and food grains such as wheat, rice and kerosene at affordable prices to ration card holders through government shops. Various issues around the implementation and reach of PDS to BPL families have been brought up to amend the system under the NFSB.
- 39. SGRY-** Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana was a scheme launched in 2001 to provide a two-pronged approach of supplementary wage employment and food security in rural areas where wages are paid partly in food grains and partly in cash.
- 40. BPL-** the Below Poverty Line is an economic indicator used to identify vulnerable and financially weaker families in India whose income falls below an average standard set for expenses on food, education, health etc. The methodology used for identifying the BPL in 2002 was under scrutiny for being exclusive to further vulnerable groups such as poor tribal groups, women-headed households, and people living in remote hamlets. Their exclusion and the criteria for evaluating the BPL were then proposed by the NAC to be reconsidered in 2011 to ensure the appropriate provision of services by NFSB and NREGA.
- 41. UID** - The Unique Identification Number (Aadhar) strategy was adopted by the Central government in 2009 to store basic identity and demographic data of each resident in India and use it for the distribution of services and food. However the lack of answers on privacy of information, profiling and usage of data raised many concerns related to the compulsory nature of such a strategy.

→ **Translations/Hindi terms used:**

1. ROZGAR ADHIKAR- Right to 'Work'
2. SUCHNA KA ADHIKAR- Right to 'Information'

→ **Members and Work of NAC I (2004-2008)**

1. Smt. Aruna Roy- (Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan)
2. Prof. CH Hanumantha Rao (Chairman of the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad)
3. Shri Jairam Ramesh (Member of the Parliament)
4. Dr. Jayprakash Narayan (National Coordinator, Lok Satta)
5. Dr. Jean Dreze (Delhi School of Economics)
6. Dr. A.K Shiva Kumar (Advisor, UNICEF)
7. Dr. V Krishnamurthy (Chairman of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council)
8. Dr. Madhav Chavan (Activist, CEO-PRATHAM)
9. Dr. D Swaminadhan (President, Mahatma Gandhi National Institute of Research and Social Action)
10. Dr. N C Saxena (Member, Planning commission)
11. Shri Sam Pitroda (Entrepreneur)

→ **Approved Laws and Policies:**

1. Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI)
2. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA)
3. National Rural Health Mission, 2005(HEALTH)
4. Universalization of the Integration of Child Development Services (ICDS)
5. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent girls
6. Kishori Shakti Yojana (Adolescent Girl Empowerment Scheme), 2007
7. Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDM)
8. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 2002

→ **Members and Work of NAC II**

1. Prof. M S Swaminathan (Member of Parliament)
2. Dr. Ram Dayal Munda (Member of Parliament)
3. Prof. Narendra Jadhav (Member, Planning Commission)
4. Prof. Pramod Tandon (Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hill University)
5. Dr. Jean Dreze (GB Pant, Social Science Institute)

6. Ms Aruna Roy (Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan)
7. Shri Madhav Gadgil (Agharkar Research Institute)
8. Shri N C Saxena (Member, Planning commission)
9. Dr. AK Shiva Kumar (Advisor, UNICEF)
10. Shri Deep Joshi (Activist, Co-founder PRADAN)
11. Ms. Anu Agha (Director, Thermax Ltd)
12. Ms. Farah Naqvi (Civil rights activist)
13. Shri Harsh Mander (Special commissioner Supreme Court)
14. Ms. Mirai Chatterjee (Coordinator, SEWA)

→ **Approved Laws and Policies:**

1. National Food Security Act, 2013
2. Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013
3. Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014
4. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013
5. Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill 2011

→ **Amended Laws- Introduced before 2010 but amended and approved in NAC II**

1. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (Amended)
2. Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016- (Amended)
3. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989- (Amended)
4. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009- (Amended)
5. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (Amended)
6. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986- Amended
7. The Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005- Withdrawn
8. Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996- Amended

→ **Policies and Schemes**

1. Scheduled Caste Sub plan
2. National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, 2006
3. Shelters for the Urban Homeless- Approved
4. Enhancing farm income for smallholders- Approved
5. Universal healthcare- Approved
6. Integrated child development services- comprehensive strategy- Approved
7. Social Audit Rules

8. National Agroforestry Policy- Approved