



Right to Food Campaign

Secretariat

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Hunger Watch (II) Survey - Press Note

66% respondents said that their income has decreased compared to the pre-pandemic period

80% reported some form of food insecurity, 25% reported severe food insecurity

41% said that nutritional quality of their diet deteriorated compared to the pre-pandemic period

67% could not afford cooking gas in the month preceding the survey.

45% households had some outstanding debt

The Right to Food Campaign organised a press conference at Press Club of India, New Delhi on 23rd February (Wednesday) at 3pm where the Hunger Watch II findings were released.

Findings from the Hunger Watch II survey which covered over 6500 people across 14 states were shared. **Raj Shekhar, Kalyani Raghunathan and Dipa Sinha** presented the findings of the survey. The survey was conducted by activists associated with the Right to Food campaign across the country. A number of students and volunteers also contributed to the data collection, cleaning, analysis and report writing.

Panellists at the press conference included **Kavita Srivastava, Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri**. The alarming situation of food insecurity in the country and the need for greater investments in food entitlement and social protection schemes was discussed. The campaign demanded that the PDS must be universalised and include pulses, millets and oils. The PMGKAY must be extended till such time that the pandemic continues. Mid day meals and nutrition given in anganwadis must be revived fully and they must be improved to include eggs, milk and fruits. Increase in social security pensions, maternity entitlements and allocations for MGNREGA were also demanded.

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