

Country Presentation

India



Ekta Parishad

Agenda

- Critical issues affecting access to land in India
- Interventions being done or needed to address these issues



Critical issues affecting access to land

- Government Policy
 - Land acquisition act
 - Forest conservation act
- Displacement due to development projects, Industrialization, SEZs and Corporate farming
- Feudalism
- Inefficiency, corruption among the Government officials
- Inadequate implementation of Law
 - Lack of joint entitlement
 - Inheritance rights of women



Unfinished agenda: land reform

- ❑ 43% of the people of India are still absolutely and near landless (<0.2 hect.)
- ❑ 13.34% SCs (Dalits) and 11.50% (STs) Adivasi households are absolute landless
- ❑ A mere 1.33% landholders in the country (having more than 10 hectares) continue to control 15.20% of the land holding
- ❑ 63% of marginal landholders control only 15.60% of the landholding (NSS 48th round 1992)
- ❑ Around 30 million people have been displaced by the establishment of various development projects, of them around 40% are STs and 25% are SCs, where 64% could not get rehabilitation
- ❑ 9,15,442.57 acres of STs land has been reported in alienation as on November 30,1996.



Interventions being done or needed to address these issues

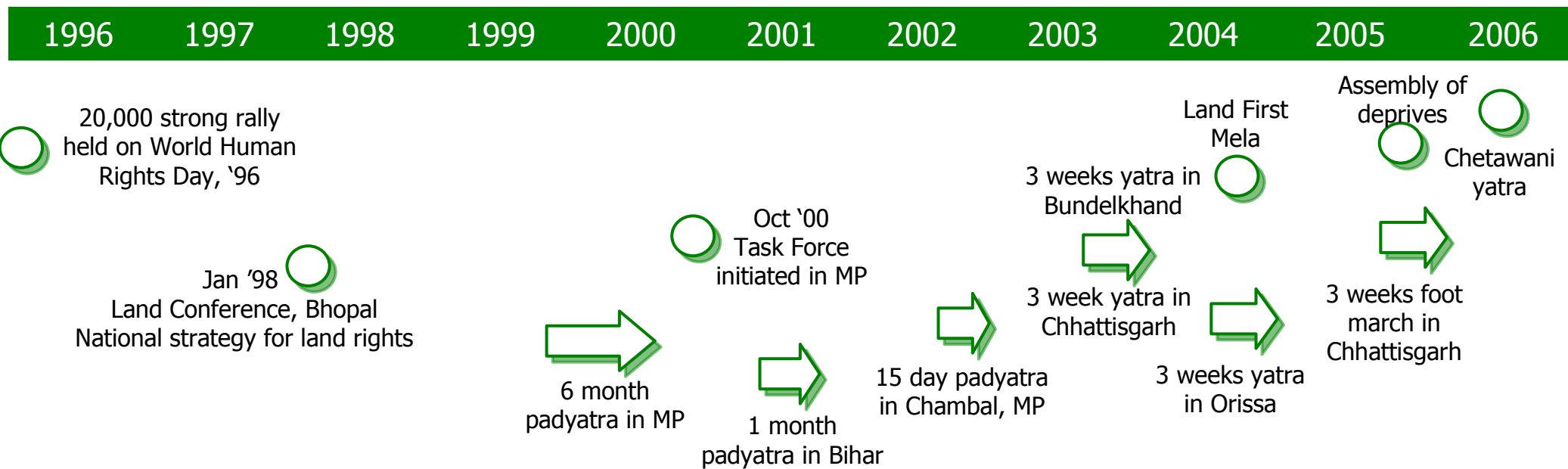
- Struggle and dialogue with Government to launch “**New vision of Land reform**”
 - Land to the landless poor
 - Regularization of tribal land
 - Prevention loss of farmland particularly that owned by small and marginal farmer
 - Land and women
 - Setting up the empowered committee
 - Provision for a central Land Authority
 - Set Fast Track Court on Land Disputes
- Land Rights campaign of Ekta Parishad
- People’s Verdict 2007 (Janadesh 2007)



Land rights campaign of Ekta Parishad

- Early days

- 1990: Ekta Parishad launched
- 10 states, 100+ districts, 5000 vilages with total population > 5 million, 450 Activists, 150,000 paid membership, International Network



Major achievements

- ❑ 347,000 people got land entitlement in MP, 3,000 in Chhattisgarh
- ❑ 580,000 forest crime cases lodged against tribes dropped by the Government
- ❑ Task forces set up in MP, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Gaya district in Bihar
- ❑ Success in establishing national People's Commission on Land
- ❑ Land issue has become national & international through NCCL and LFI
- ❑ EP filed petition currently in supreme court – affects 4.75 million acres and 2 million people
- ❑ Successful dialogue with Honorable Prime minister and Planning commission
- ❑ Next step- janadesh 2007 People's verdict



Janadesh 2007

- Declaration of People's Verdict 2007 on 10th Dec. 2005
- Meeting with Honorable Prime minister of India on New vision of Land reform
- Caveat Foot march – in 2006
 - 2nd to 21st of October 2006 from Gwalior to Delhi
 - 400 activists across the nation
 - Sit in organized before the parliament from 16-21 October
 - Several politicians, Gandhian and well known activist express their solidarity
 - Caveat submitted to Honorable Prime minister of India
- Janadesh 2007 – Foot march from Gwalior to Delhi on 2nd October 2007
 - 25000 peoples march, 25000 letter to PM, 25000 Grievances, 25000 contributor, 25000 Janadesh band, 1 Lakhs peoples in Delhi
 - March begins from Gwalior
 - In india
 - Needed International Action



Thanks

