

People's manifesto for Rajasthan being prepared

3,000 civic organisations to take part in the drive in Rajasthan

HT Correspondent

A NATIONWIDE people's manifesto for forthcoming Lok Sabha elections is being prepared by civil societies organisations, under *Vaada Na Todo Abhiyan* banner.

Process is under progress to identify the ground realities and aspirations of people living across the country. For this local hearings are being organized in all parliamentary constituencies.

In Rajasthan, CECOEDECON, a local NGO, is leading this campaign by organising local hearings in 12 constituencies to formulate local manifestos, 10 key demands for governance and development.

NGO's secretary Sharad Joshi said that during the drive, "our organisation will capture the voices of people of the state by developing a people's manifesto for each constituency".

This people's manifesto will represent the voice of dalits, vulnerable communities, farmers, tribal, women and children and impose a duty on the candidate to ensure fulfillment of each and every demand mentioned.

Dr Alok Vyas of Research and Policy Unit of CECOEDECON said that 35 civil society organisations of the state have come together to develop the people's manifesto.

The process is being undertaken to enable various sections to voice their demands for the upcoming Parliamentary elections, he added.

Local hearings for the development of the manifesto have been undertaken in eight parliamentary constituencies so far, including Alwar, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Sikar and Bikaner.

He said that water and irrigation have emerged as common

concerns across constituencies. "Access to drinking water and irrigation is the most imminent need of the people in the area. Also the declining girl child and sex ratio was a major concern."

The Abhiyan's spokes person said that the all-India people's manifesto aims to facilitate a systematic process of engagement with political parties at the state and national levels to integrate people's priorities.

The presentation of the local manifesto to current and potential elected representatives during the course of the local hearings will enable to negotiation and representation of demands at the constituency level, he said.

Following this, meetings will be organised at regional and national political party offices to present the manifesto and demand its inclusion in their election manifestos and post-election governance charters.