

Rohtas Municipal Workers Demonstration

A dharna call was given by the Union of Safai Karmis of Rohtas district, affiliated to All India Federation of Trade Unions - AIFTU (New). Demonstration was held on 20th Dec 2021. All Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Councils, Municipal Corporations workers participated in huge number in front of Rohtas District Collector and held meeting near Collectorate Gate. Slogans against the four labour codes and against the illegal arrests of their leaders were raised.

Comrade Ashok Baitha, who participated in the dharna of Safai Karmi Sangh, while addressing the gathering said that even today sanitation workers are harassed and humiliated by their caste in the society. Even the tea seller does not serve tea in the glass. People do not even serve food by sitting beside them. They are not even touched. They are landless, jobless and living in poverty. There is only one job for their livelihood i.e. cleaning the dirt, litter, picking up the dead, rotten animals and sweeping roads and streets.

The laborers who have been doing it for almost 25 years whether in Lalu's govt. or Nitish's government in Bihar, not a single karamchari has been absorbed by any government permanently. They are working on temporary basis in utmost unhygienic and unsafe conditions. On the contrary, the government is looting more than half of the funds spent for sanitation by giving contracts to NGOs of their choice and exploiting the workers. In many Nagar panchayats, less than the minimum wage is being paid. In spite of their empty stomachs, the sanitation workers are making the city clean, beautiful and the officers are taking the credit. They are not being paid wages to lead a decent life. The Constitution of the country says that upliftment of downtrodden and backward and eliminating inequality is the responsibility of government. But government of any party so far has not been able to achieve this task till date; the government is being run by feudal and capitalist forces.

The government is gradually discontinuing the welfare schemes and the funds of ongoing schemes are being washed out in commission and bribery.

There is a plan to enslave the laborers by the four Labor Code law. The Union has staged a sit-in demanding the Government of Bihar through the District Collector on 16 demands.