

SEWA women join national stir, demand worker rights

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AHMEDABAD: Thousands of workers from across the country concluded the three-day 'Mahapadav', on November 11, in Delhi on the Parliament Street. The aim was to intensify struggle against anti-worker policies. Women from Ahmedabad-based SEWA's urban union also participated in the agitation.

Trade and workers' unions such as INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AICCTU, and AIUTUC were part of the initiative.

Some of the demands put forth by the unions included containing price-rise through universalization of public distribution system, banning speculative trading in the commodity market, and curbing unemployment through concrete measures for employment generation. The unions called for strict enforcement of all basic labour laws without any exception and stringent punitive measures for violation of laws.

"We also demanded minimum wages of not less than Rs 15,000 per month with provisions of indexation, assured enhanced pension for the entire working population, stoppage of disinvestment in central/state PSUs, stoppage of contractorisation in permanent perennial work and payment of same wage and benefits for contract workers as regular workers for same and similar work and stoppage of FDI in sectors such as railways, insurance and defence," said a SEWA member who was part of the team.

