

Independent People's Tribunal to look into World Bank policies

Express news service

Posted online: Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 0000 hrs IST

NEW DELHI, SEPtember 19

Over 50 organisations from all over India will meet this week to convene an Independent People's Tribunal on the World Bank in India. The tribunal, the first of its kind, will give an opportunity for impacted communities to present testimony, evidence and research on the impacts of World Bank's policies and projects.

Over four days this week, the testimonials would be heard by a 15-member jury, including Aruna Roy, former SC Judge P B Sawant, activists Amit Bhaduri and Arundhati Roy.

According to the organisers, the aim of this tribunal is to raise a comprehensive national debate over neoliberalism and economic policy.

"By bringing into the limelight and giving voice to the testimony and personal experiences of the poor, adivasis, Dalits, women, and other marginalised people, the tribunal will challenge the Bank's (and the elite's) most powerful tool: the monopoly of knowledge. These real stories are in direct conflict with the World Bank's own means of understanding economic and social policy," said Prashant Bhushan, senior advocate, who will present his own analysis on the working of the World Bank at the tribunal.