

### ***Ranchi, Jharkhand***

At the beginning of the year, we had decided to carry the programme to a new state. We had been contacted by groups from Jharkhand who were awaiting the formation of the new state. The third regional workshop was therefore held in the Social Development Centre, Ranchi, in December 2000, soon after the new government for the state was formed. The networking, logistical organisation was done by local partners, especially by Rupesh, of the Panchayat Bachao Abhiyaan, who has been associated with us for most of the programme activities. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Namdhari Singh, Speaker of Jharkhand Assembly and the keynote address was by a senior journalist Shri ....., editor of a popular daily, *Prabhat Khabar* . The concluding address was given by Shri Prabhash Joshi, senior Hindi journalist and member of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information. NGOs and even government officials detailed how lack of information in land, government schemes etc. was affecting the rights of the very poor. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Bar, the media, trade unions, political parties and the movements for tribal land rights. The workshop passed a resolution asking the Jharkhand Government to implement the right to information as well as one detailing the suggestions on the Freedom of Information Bill 2000. A small group was formed for follow up work on the issue.