

## SHORT BIO NOTE

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**Mr. V RAMASWAMY**, the Treasurer of CRG, is a Calcutta-based business executive. After completing his formal education in economics in Calcutta and higher education in the U.K, Ramaswamy entered public action in 1984, working with and for the labouring poor in Calcutta. He was a founding member of Chhinnamul Sramajibi Adhikar Samiti, a city-wide platform of squatter organisations, social and political activists and workers' unions. Ramaswamy was also associated with Unnayan, an important social action group in Calcutta; the National Campaign for Housing Rights, which brought together activists and campaigners from across the country and was successful in advancing state housing policy; and TARU, an Indian research and consulting network. In 1995, on behalf of Unnayan and Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, he developed a proposal for comprehensive inner city renewal in the blighted canal-side Beliaghata area through basti redevelopment and squatter rehabilitation. He has undertaken research studies for the Govt of India and international agencies like the World Bank and DfID, and was Social Development Coordinator of the Calcutta Environmental Management Strategy & Action Plan, a project of the Dept of Environment, Govt of West Bengal during 1995-97. In 1997, he established the grassroots organisation, Howrah Pilot Project, in Priya Manna Basti, a century-old jute workers' settlement in Shibpur, Howrah. HPP runs Talimi Haq School, a non-formal learning centre for poor children, and works to build awareness, capabilities and leadership for community development among slum youth. Ramaswamy has also worked as a social planner at the Jerusalem Institute for Urban Environment and taught economics at St Xavier's College, Calcutta and at Calcutta International School, and urban sociology at the Dept of Architecture, Jadavpur University and at the Centre for Urban Economic Studies, Calcutta University. He has written and lectured extensively over the years on issues of Kolkata's slums and squatters, among others. He was an active blogger on Cuckoo's Call. Since 2005, Ramaswamy has been translating the Bengali anti-establishment and little magazine writer, Subimal Misra. His translations, The Golden Gandhi Statue from America and Wild Animals Prohibited were published in 2010 and 2015 respectively. He was a recipient of the Sarai fellowship in 2013, during which he translated Those Days, an account of Kolkata during 1970-71, the era of violent politics and state terror, and been invited to writing residencies in Sangam House (India), Ledig House (USA) and Toji Foundation (Korea).  
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