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March 2009

From the Desk of the Director, R&R

Kipling's following verse remains a valuable standby for R&R policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners and researchers:

*"I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who."*

Government has adopted the Orissa Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy 2006 to comprehensively address the complex “resettlement effect” associated with loss of physical and non-physical assets such as house, income earning assets, cultural property and identity, and also mutual help mechanism. The Policy prescribes the minimum and the projects are at liberty to provide higher level of benefits based on specific needs of the impacted population. While the project is responsible to provide R&R assistance, the role of government is to monitor and ensure that the rehabilitation plan is inclusive and is implemented in a participatory manner.

It is necessary to keep people informed on the vital aspects of R&R to enable them to form an informed opinion on the possibilities and performance of the Orissa R&R Policy 2006. "Punarbasā" the Newsletter on R&R, is an attempt in this direction. We are delighted that the response to the previous issue has been highly encouraging.

We hope that the Newsletter will continue to provide useful information on contemporary philosophy and practice on R&R to its useful readers and thereby serve the purpose behind its publication.

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Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project

A Success Story in Participatory R&R

The Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project (UIHP) financed by the World Bank is one of the success stories of participatory process of Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) in Orissa. There are many tools to measure the success of an R&R process and I have chosen to use *Impoverishment Risks Analysis Model* formulated by Michael Cernea, my colleague in the World Bank, as a methodological tool.

This is particularly so as this Model is based on "the analysis of the vast evidence coming from numerous displacement and resettlement processes" that have revealed patterns of recurrent characteristics. While each one of these characteristics is distinct and irreducible to others, they have a common denominator: all are dimensions of a multifaceted process of impoverishment." According to Cernea, there are eight dimensions of impoverishment risks and they are: (1) Landlessness; (2) Loss of access to common property; (3) Joblessness; (4) Homelessness; (5) Marginalisation; (6) Food Insecurity; (7) Morbidity and (8) Social Disarticulation.

When these risks are reversed in a development induced displacement, one could assume that those involuntarily displaced had been properly resettled and rehabilitated. And, this is my view about the R&R process of UIHP and my conclusions are based on the basis of the findings of the Socio-Economic Impact Study conducted by the Centre for Education, Research and Training (CENDERT) of Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar.

Landlessness

The Study covered 4,119 Displaced Persons (DPs) out of whom only 559 (14%) had land. Of these, 373 (67%) had *patta* land in their name, 154

(28%) had *joint patta* while 32 (6%) had individual and joint *patta* land. Many of the DPs also had access to forest land for *podu* (shifting) cultivation. The average land holdings were rather small: the average land holding of a *patta* holder was less than 2.5 acres and the average forest land holding were less than 2 acres.

Government of Orissa's (GoO) initial plan was to resettle the DPs in a way that they could be provided with land based rehabilitation in the command area of the Project. This was rather difficult to implement as the DPs were not keen to move to the command area and to enjoy land based rehabilitation because it would mean resettling in areas away from their social relations and networks.

In as much as GoO was keen to facilitate participative process of R&R and as the DPs were willing to move to the command area of the project, it was decided to finance the purchase of 1.225 acres of irrigated land or 2.5 acres of un-irrigated land for each DP. When the Study was completed, 4,351 out of 5,344 DPs had either 1.25 acres of irrigated land or 2.5 acres of un-irrigated land. The remaining DPs had money in their bank accounts to purchase land.

Considering that most of the DPs were landless, it was possible for GoO to provide them with some land as the *basic resource* on which efforts for the restoration of their livelihood could be built by providing them further economic rehabilitation assistance so that their standards of living could be further improved. This would mean that GoO was not only able to reverse the risk of landlessness; it was also able to demonstrate that *land-based rehabilitation* is a viable option in a particular context.

Loss of Access to Common Property

The risk of landlessness would have been more if the DPs' loss of access to common property governed by land under *podu* cultivation was also taken into consideration to assess the loss of landlessness as almost all families in tribal areas have access to forest land not only for *podu* but also for Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). The forest land were occupied or

used by the DPs on the basis of usufruct or similar occupation-based tenure. The extent, therefore, of landlessness went far beyond for the DPs. The DPs who depended on forest land, because of their need for access to forest and other such common properties, had formulated their own coping mechanism.



This mechanism was their own decision to reject GoO's land based economic rehabilitation in the command area and to resettle in clusters closer to the forest so that they could continue to have access to NTFP and also fuel wood and fodder. Of the 4,110 DPs studied, 3,711 (91) had access to fuel wood, 2,913 (715) to fodder, 2,596 (63) to timber and 3,553 (56%) to NTFP. In order to further complement this, the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Unit (RRU) of the Project had planned to undertake social forestry programmes closer to resettlement clusters where lands were available.

Joblessness

As far as joblessness was concerned, there was not much of a change in the number of wage earners before and after displacement. There were 2,457 wage earners before displacement and the number came down to 2,336 after displacement. There were 34 DPs who had regular employment and 190 DPs had been



employed by the Project. The RRU was planning to provide productive assets and training to improve the

productive skills for self-employment in order to further address joblessness as a risk.

Homelessness

Homelessness, as a risk is a very critical factor in development induced displacement as it not only causes involuntary displacement but also loss of access to sources of livelihood, social and community relations. There were 5,344 DPs of whom a vast majority were major sons. Of the 4,119 studied, 3,433 were major sons and 658 were widows. Of the 4,119, 1,124 (27.3%) lived in their own houses. 1,571 (38.1%) in their own houses but built on *encroached land*, 954 (23.2%) in their own houses built on the land of relatives while 347 (8.4) lived in the house of their relatives.

While some built houses on land that belonged to temples and others, only 19 (0.5%) live in a rented house. The houses had not been provided with electricity connection at the time of Study but had all



civic amenities and access to social infrastructure. It is important to note, as pointed out by the Study, the quality of construction of the houses that the DPs had built was "by far much better than those found in their host villages."

Marginalisation

Marginalisation, in the context of development induced displacement, is severe erosion in the economic condition of displaced households and often overlaps with landlessness, joblessness and homelessness. In Upper Indravati Project, though a very large number of DPs had been provided with land as a basic resource base, a large number of them were marginalised because the land provided as a basic resource base was sufficient to enable them to maintain their subsistence level. The RRU had planned to help the DPs with further productive assets, sources of income and training to improve their productive skills, particularly of women in accordance with "Cluster Based and Family Oriented Rehabilitation Action Plan (CBFORAP).

Food Insecurity

GoO had planned to address, among others, the risk of food insecurity of DPs by providing them with land based economic rehabilitation. This was also because of the World Bank's Operational Directive on Involuntary Resettlement that required those affected by a Bank financed project to be resettled and rehabilitated in a way that they enjoy the benefits of the project that displaced them.

Since the DPs did not want to have land based economic rehabilitation at the cost of their social and cultural relations and network, GoO as described earlier, had provided the DPs with basic resource base. In as much as this enabled the DPs only to have subsistence level of living, RRU sought the help of Agramee (A NGO based in Orissa) that organised Participatory Public Distribution Centres in a number of resettlement clusters through which DPs were provided essential commodities such as rice, sugar and kerosene. Agramee also enabled DPs in some clusters to organise Grain Bank to meet their needs when their need for food security and energy were higher and when the availability of food was lower. The children and pregnant mothers also had the benefits of nutrition through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). All these contributed towards reducing the risk of food insecurity.



Morbidity

Involuntary resettlement, particularly in transit and temporary shelters, lack of adequate food and unhygienic living and environmental conditions generally have adverse impacts on the health of the displaced – particularly women and children. RRU had undertaken a study to assess health implications of involuntary resettlement and found morbidity and mortality were high due to diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory illness and malaria. Malnutrition was another factor among the children in the age group of 1-3 years.

In order to minimise morbidity and also to meet the health care needs of the community of displaced persons, the RRU organised health and immunisation camps and also mobile health services in cooperation with Primary Health Centres and Agramee.

Social Disarticulation

Social and kinship relations enable a group of people to remain a community, because they provide the bond that helps to tide over many economic and social problems. They also provide, among others, mutual help arrangements, labour exchange relationships, production oriented informal organisation. All these are severely affected and lost during involuntary resettlement. Such a loss also affects the ability of the community to manage its socio-economic and cultural affairs due to weakening of traditional authority, leadership and social networks.

It was interesting to note that social disarticulation; a very common risk of displacement was not a problem in Upper Indravati because of the participative process of R&R.

There were 560 resettlement clusters spread over 19 blocks of five newly-created districts: Kalahandi, Koraput, Nowrangpur, Malkangiri and Rayagada. The sites of these clusters were actually chosen by the DPs with a view to have continued access to forest resources and also the presence of relatives and friends. The findings of the Study confirmed that the displaced wanted to have social relations and economic resource base in the place of their resettlement rather than having access to land and irrigation in the command area. This would mean that the R&R in Upper Indravati was a participatory one in which the DPs took their decisions mostly as a group that resettled in a particular cluster.



Of the DPs studied, 1,489 (36.1%) DPs chose their place of resettlement because of the availability of resources and the presence of their relations while 1,010 (24.52%) chose the sites because of availability of land and forest. A total of 386 (9.4%) DPs chose their sites because of the presence of relatives and friends in the area.

All these meant that the community of displaced made deliberate choices, both as individuals and as

groups, with regard to resettlement clusters and these choices had reduced and almost eliminated social disarticulation.

In as much as social disarticulation is a very important aspect of the displaced person's ability to



actively participate in their process of rehabilitation, the RRU with the help of Agramee had planned to organise community groups in all large resettlement clusters and host villages with a view to enable them to regain their sense of community, leadership and mutual help arrangements so that they were fully responsible for planning and implementation of Updated Rehabilitation Action Plan (URAP).

Successful Completion of R&R Process

I have used the term "successful" to denote that the RRU had paid the entire amount of *entitlements* that were due to the DPs which by itself is a great achievement by many standards. The other two reasons are the reversal of *impoverishment risks* and RRU's Plan for participative planning and implementation of URAP to further complement the reversal of impoverishment risks.

The GoO had asked the World Bank to include the URAP as a component in the Orissa Power Sector Programme that was later financed by the World Bank. The World Bank had agreed to this proposal with a view to support the Government's plan to complete the R&R of Upper Indravati to ensure that the DPs not only regained their standards of living but further improved it. However, the Government of India did not want to add a *social safeguard* issue to power sector reform project that was the first of its kind in India.

The Influencing Factors

There were certain factors that were largely responsible for what the RRU could do to ensure that R&R process was completed. They were: (i) political

will and commitment of the Government at the *highest level*; (ii) committed bureaucracy particularly at the level of RRU; (iii) *civic engagement* involving Agramee and (iv) the *partnership* between the Government, its RRU and the World Bank through regular supervision missions.

I still remember the breakfast meeting that Mr. Kari Nyman, the Task Team Leader of the Project and I had with Mr. Biju Patnaik, the then Chief Minister at the Jeypore Airstrip in which the Chief Minister personally reviewed the progress of R&R in the Project and the constant support that I received from Mr. Pyarimohan Mohapatra, IAS, who was in Chief Minister's Office as his Principal Secretary, Mr. Pradeep Jena, IAS, who headed the RRU in the early years of R&R process



and Mr. Saurabh Garg, IAS, who took over from Mr. Jena.

It is my firm belief that without the political will and the commitment at the highest level of the Government, and dedicated bureaucracy it would not have been possible for the success that the RRU could achieve. The other important aspect was the involvement of Agramee to facilitate participatory process and to complement and strengthen the efforts of RRU.

Sam Thangaraj

(Mr. Sam Thangaraj was the R&R Specialist of the World Bank who worked on the Project. After retiring from World Bank, Mr. Thangaraj worked as a consultant with Asian Development Bank. He is currently Advisor, Social Development, Managing Director's Office, Tata Steel)

Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) Directorate Update

Capacity Building Training Programmes

Capacity building training programmes for PRI members, CBOs/NGOs, community volunteers and revenue inspectors/amins at the district level has been completed. Training programmes for PRI members were held in Sambalpur, Angul, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Balangir districts. Similarly, R&R Training programmes were organised for NGOs/CBOs/women SHG representatives in Sambalpur, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Jharsuguda, Balangir, Angul and Rayagada districts. R&R Training programmes were also held for community volunteers and RIs,



Amins and other revenue officials in Angul, Jharsuguda, Rayagada, Balangir, Keonjhar, Sambalpur and Mayurbhanj districts.



Review of R&R Implementation of Select Industries 24th October, 2008 Durbar Hall, Collectorate, Keonjhar.



Another review meeting on R&R implementation of select industries was held at the Collectorate, Keonjhar. Collector, Shri Pramod Chandra Patnaik; RDC (Northern Division), Shri Jamil Ahmmad Khan; SP, Shri Soumendra Priyadarshi, and former Director,

R&R, Shri B.N. Das were among the officials present. R&R implementation of Arcelor Mittal India Limited, Sterlite Iron & Steel Company Limited, Crackers India Limited, Arya Iron & Steel Co (P) Ltd, Jindal Steel & Power Limited industries was reviewed during the meeting.

The Collector said that the industries have to take a holistic approach and convince people that the quality of their lives will be definitely better. The RDC said that the administration was pro-industry but not at the cost of people. It was emphasised that the training programmes for persons residing in and around the industrial area should be undertaken at the earliest. The gap between payments of compensation and land acquisition has to be minimal. The participants were also told that with regard to Periphery Development Fund (PDF) emphasis should be given to human resource development.

Review of R&R Implementation for Aditya Aluminum Limited, Sambalpur 20th January, 2009 Collectorate, Sambalpur

The R&R review meeting for Aditya Aluminum Limited (AAL), Sambalpur was held on 20th January 2009. The Company was told to complete the model houses in the proposed resettlement colony as soon as possible. AAL was also directed to conduct mobile health camps in the displaced villages. RDC (Northern Division), Shri Jamil Ahmmad Khan; Collector, Shri P. K. Patnaik and former R&R Director, Shri B. N. Das and senior officials from Aditya Aluminum Ltd were among those present during the review meeting.

Creation of Grievance Redressal Cell

Grievance Redressal Cells for addressing grievances related to LA and R&R have been set up in three districts of the State. The cells have been established at: RDC office Berhampur; Collectorate, Sambalpur

and Collectorate, Jajpur. The cells have been facilitated with infrastructure support.



Creation of PD, R&R posts

The Government has created posts of Project Director (PD), R&R in nine districts (Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Angul, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Rayagada, Keonjhar, Nuapada and Bolangir). The PD, R&R will exclusively deal with cases related to R&R in the respective districts.

Exposure Visits for Stakeholders

To enhance understanding of R&R issues & observe best practices, government officials, PRI & NGO representatives were taken for exposure visits to Upper Krishna Irrigation Project (UKIP), Karnataka, Tehri Irrigation Project, Uttarakhand & Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP), Gujarat. The exposure visit of SC/ST Development Officers was organised to SSP, Gujarat and the exposure visit of Project Director, R&R and officials from Department of Water Resources was organised to UKIP, Karnataka.



Another exposure visit of senior government officials was organised at Mysore, Karnataka to observe the MIS package of UKIP. ♦♦♦

Impact Assessment Study

An Impact Assessment Study commissioned for eight completed projects (MCL Jharsuguda and Angul; NINL and Jindal Stainless Ltd., Kalinga Nagar; Bhusan Power and Steel Ltd., Sambalpur; Vedanta Alumina, Jharsuguda and Lanjigarh; Badanala and Harbhanga Irrigation Projects, Rayagada and Gajapati respectively) is being conducted by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad. Primary data collection has been completed.



Review of R&R Implementation of Select Industries 12th November, 2008 NALCO Training Hall, Angul.

A review meeting on R&R implementation of select industries of Angul was held at the NALCO Training Hall in the district. Six industries (NALCO, MCL, NTPC, Kalinga Coal Mines, Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd and Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.) RDC, Central Division, Shri Jamil Ahmmad Khan; SP, Shri Prateek Mohanty and Collector & District Magistrate, Shri S.N. Girish and former R&R Director, Shri B. N. Das were present during the meeting. Employment, periphery development, upgradation of facilities in the resettlement colonies, gap in land acquisition and payment of compensation, training for displaced population were among the main issues discussed during the review meeting.

CONSENT AWARD

ITS LEGALITY, CONTEXT, SIGNIFICANCE & SCOPE FOR INNOVATION

The institution of private property and the right to own, enjoy, and dispose of any immoveable property have been subjects of great political ideology over the centuries in many countries. To what extent the state should grant this right to private citizens and protect that right against intrusion, encroachment, forcible eviction by others and its succession from one generation to the next — have been matters of legal debate and political battles.

On the one end of the extreme, Communist countries by and large do not grant unlimited and absolute right to property to their citizens. In those countries all lands and immoveable property belong to the state and it can use it for any purpose and take it away whenever necessary for any public purpose from the persons or organisations allowed to hold it. Payment of price or compensation to such persons is generally not an issue at all. On the other end of the extreme, liberal democracies grant right to citizens to own, enjoy, dispose off, or bequeath any property. In such countries, dispossession of citizens from their property is a serious legal issue fraught with complicated procedures, delays, intervention by courts, and involves payment of compensation or market price even when the land or buildings are required for genuine public purposes.

In India, we follow the latter system where all Indians enjoy the right to private property. For more than two decades, Right to Property was a Fundamental Right under the Indian Constitution, which after a long turmoil and debate was reduced to a simple right in the 44th Amendment and it continues to be so.

Once the state grants the right to private property, any one who owns a property can enjoy it, bequeath it to anybody, sell, mortgage, lease, gift or otherwise dispose it as one likes. In the normal circumstances **a buyer cannot force the seller to sell his/her property when he/she does not want to sell** it at all. Willingness to

sell the property is the first precondition for any sale of property in the free market. Given the willingness to sell, **the price at which the seller agrees to sell to a willing buyer is a point of next importance** although the price level itself could be a major factor affecting the decision to sell or not to sell. But in the case of **compulsory acquisition of properties, the willingness of the owners to part with their property is not a point of consideration at all** since the property of a non-willing owner can also be taken over even when he refuses to hand it over. It is this **compulsory** nature of acquisition of private property by the state which introduces all the complications, namely — organised protests against acquisition, litigation in courts of law, demands for alternate lands, bigger compensation, and costly rehabilitation programmes and so on.

Compulsory acquisition of land or building is an exclusive prerogative of the state only. No private organisation or person has such right or power to force owners of property to compulsorily part with it. When the government takes away private property, it pays compensation to its owners for their loss. But compensation is different from price in that the price is a value of the property arrived at through a free exercise of choice and discretion by the parties involved in the transaction. Such freedom is not available to owners of property when it is compulsorily acquired by the government.

Poor Quantum of Compensation

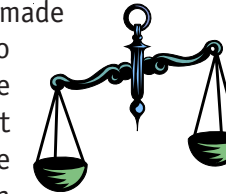
Another disturbing factor is **the unilateral process of determining the quantum** of compensation for the acquired properties. Determination of compensation is done strictly according to the procedure established by law. The legal procedures and prescriptions are not often sensitive to the fast changing circumstances affecting the property values, nor can they always accommodate all the demands and claims, reasons and justifications of the land owners to determine compensation levels which would satisfy them. The only

remedy left for the land owners is to approach the courts of law seeking enhancement of compensation for their lands covered under compulsory acquisition.

The Constitutional and Legal Ba

Since the deletion of Article 19(1) (f) of the Constitution of India (in 1979), the Right to Property is no longer a Fundamental Right for the protection of which the land owners can knock at the doors of the Supreme Court. The insertion of a new Article 300-A, in the 44th Amendment to the Constitution has made it only a legal right. It simply says that “No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law”. The land owners can at the most approach the High Courts under the general writ jurisdiction. Further, the deletion of Article 31 as it originally stood and as it was amended in the First and Twenty Fifth Amendments (in 1955 and 1971 respectively) **does not exactly make the right to compensation a uniformly enforceable right in all cases of land acquisition.**

The 44th Amendment has however, retained the Second proviso to Article 31A (1) which lays down that “..it shall not be lawful for the State to acquire.....unless the law relating to the acquisition of such land, building or structure, **provides for payment of compensation at a rate which shall not be less than market value thereof. This provision relates exclusively to the owners of lands cultivating it personally the extent of which is within the limit of ceiling applicable to them.** Another provision for compensation in the Constitution is in Article 30 (1-A) which stipulates that “In making any law providing for the acquisition of any property of an educational institution established and administered by a minority referred to Clause (1), the State shall ensure that the amount fixed by or determined under such law for the acquisition of such property is such as would not restrict or abrogate the right guaranteed under that clause”. This provision is relevant only when the State acquires properties of minority educational institutions.



The provision for compensation can only be found in the law providing for land acquisition. **These laws lay down specific dos and don'ts in determining the compensation. For instance, Section 23 of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 prescribes six conditions which should be taken into account while section 24 specifies eight conditions which should not be considered while determining compensation to be paid for the acquired property. Four of the eight forbidden conditions are seriously questioned by the land losers in almost every case of land acquisition.** Efforts to make the law more liberal and practical so that it takes into account the prevailing market conditions and general circumstances under which lands are acquired have assumed Herculean proportions.

The Court Decision

Notwithstanding the shaky provisions relating to claims of compensation under the Constitution of India as it stands today, the Honorable Supreme Court in Minerva Mill's case has upheld the land owners' right to fair and reasonable compensation on par with market value. **But there is no single definite and satisfactory method to calculate “the market value” which can satisfy owners of property in all cases of acquisition. Almost every method suffers from some major defect or the other in arriving at the “fair and reasonable” market value since what is ‘fair’ and what is ‘reasonable’ are subject to highly personal and subjective interpretations and no single set of criteria can adequately cover enormously varying factual and situational conditions in each case of acquisition of private property.**

No wonder therefore, most of the cases of compulsory land acquisition invariably land up in

civil courts claiming enhancement of compensation. The increasing burden of land acquisition cases in the civil courts has virtually defeated the very purpose because of the enormous delay in obtaining the judicial decisions. This delay causes multiple negative impacts.

First of all, for no fault of the acquiring authority the government is forced to pay interest at 15 per cent per annum on every day of the delay in the courts. Secondly, the capitalisation method used by the courts to calculate



the compensation can be easily manipulated in respect of assessing values of factors such as input costs, output quantities, prevailing market prices of commodities, and highly fluctuating prices of urban real estate and so on.

Thirdly, the multipliers used are highly arbitrary and can be questioned on several counts. Fourthly, the cost of court fee, the burden of lawyers' fees, the time and money spent on attending the court hearings take away a considerable chunk of the enhanced compensation, if it is enhanced. Finally, the time gap between receiving the original compensation and the amount enhanced by the courts is so long that during the pendency of the case in the court the original compensation is generally spent away, and out of whatever remains in the enhanced amount, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to buy any equivalent replacement asset. The persons thus losing their property in the compulsory acquisition end up site less, landless, or houseless as the case may be.

The Amendment to LA Act

Knowing the negative consequences of the unilateral fixing of the compensation by the land acquiring authority, the law makers while amending the Land Acquisition Act in 1984 have provided for negotiated settlement of compensation for the acquired properties. The Land Acquisition Act, 1894, is the law (a saved legislation amended from time to time), which establishes the authority of law as provided under Article 300-A of the Constitution for **compulsory acquisition of private property for public purposes**.

Several other laws providing, among other things, for the acquisition of private lands enacted by the state legislatures and the Parliament have also more or less followed the basic framework laid down in the LA Act, 1894 though they differ in respect of

(i) Time intervals at various stages allowed for filing of objections and claims by the persons having interest in the property;



(ii) Designation of competent authority to acquire lands;

(iii) Arbitration authority in cases of disputes over



quantum and apportionment of compensation etc.

CONSENT AWARD

In respect of determining the compensation in general, sections 23 and 24 of the LA Act clearly prescribe conditions which must be taken into consideration and the conditions which should not be considered while determining the compensation. But **Sub Section (2) of Section 11 of that Act makes a major exception for negotiated settlement of compensation. It states that "Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), if at any stage of the proceedings, the Collector is satisfied that all the persons interested in the land who appeared before him have agreed in writing on the matters to be included in the award of the Collector in the form prescribed by rules made by the appropriate government, he may without making further enquiry, make an award according to the terms of such agreement."** Sub section (3) further states that **"The determination of compensation for any land under subsection (2) shall not in any way affect the determination of compensation in respect of other lands in the same locality or elsewhere in accordance with the other provisions of this Act."**

The Merits of Law

The above cited provision in the LA Act is very broad in scope. It does not prescribe any rigid conditions for negotiations between the Collector and the land owners. **The contents of the agreement, the manner of conducting the consultations, the principles on the basis of which compensation should be determined are left open which give enormous freedom to the Collector and the land owners to determine compensation in free, fair and reasonable manner which satisfy both the Collector and the persons having interest in the land.** It thus provides enough scope for innovative methods of arriving at a fair and reasonable compensation. The pain of parting with the



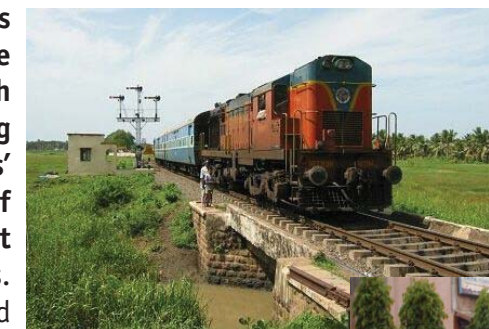
property in the compulsory acquisition process can be mitigated to some extent by the satisfaction of free discussion and the resulting fair price for the lands. It thus empowers the land owners to bargain the price they should get in the form of compensation with greater confidence and bargaining power.

Secondly, **it also prevents avoidable and prolonged litigation leading to waste of time and cost over runs** in the acquisition process. This is good both to government and the land losers. The development projects can be completed without much of cost over runs.

Thirdly, **it saves the burden of interest payment by the government for the long waiting periods during which the enhancement cases would be pending in the courts.** Often the interest amount far exceeds the amount of enhanced compensation.

Fourthly, it also **helps the land losers to save a good amount which they would be paying as court fee, lawyers' fees, and cost of attending the court hearing several times.**

The leakages in the old system would thus be plugged through consent award.



Fifthly, the role of the **middlemen, agents and touts in the general acquisition procedure would disappear.** It thus makes the system much more transparent and open compared to the somewhat secretive manner the middlemen used to exploit the land owners.

Sixthly, the **land losers would be able to buy replacement assets since they get entire compensation in one single installment** without having to incur other expenses like court fee, lawyers' fee etc., at the earliest.

Seventhly, the peaceful manner in which the compensation is negotiated **creates considerable good will between the land losers and the project authorities** which will help greatly in a cooperative manner while implementing the R&R programmes for the affected people.

Finally, a good amount of compensation paid in one single sum without any hassles and delay would be **an excellent antidote to all kinds of motivated agitations commonly seen in many places.** It will help the affected people to a large extent in their efforts at resettlement and rehabilitation.

The Context

In the era of globalised world, privatised infrastructure development, and fast expanding private industrial sector projects the need for land is increasing enormously. The proliferation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in hundreds all over the country, the influx of foreign and local Multi-National Corporations particularly in the steel, coal, bauxite, and other mining sectors in the mineral rich areas such as Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have been the major causes of concern for the farmers fearing loss of their lands.

In the urban real estate boom visible in metropolitan areas such as Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, and Hyderabad and Class II cities like Pune, Vizag, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Bhopal, Coimbatore the fears of land owners in the urban



and peripheral areas are genuine and serious about losing their precious lands under compulsory acquisition for a number of urban infrastructure projects. Suddenly the Indian cities seem to have

woken up to the needs to develop airports, national highways, power projects, solid waste management, water treatment projects, power transmission lines, railways, metros, super bazaars, and public housing projects through private-public partnership arrangements.

Farmers agitations against compulsory acquisition of their lands are not only getting better organised but they are also forming networks regionally and nationally. The violent agitations and political overtones of incidents like Kalinga Nagar in Orissa and Singur and Nandigram in West Bengal are influencing farmers and their organisations almost all over India. It is in this context that the old and outdated colonial systems,

concepts and laws of land acquisition have to change keeping in tune with the changing ethos of the times if they have to be successful.

Major Initiatives in Karnata

In Karnataka, a variety of innovative methods of acquiring lands with the use of negotiated settlement of compensation have been developed and used over the last few years. The Karnataka Housing Board for instance has been able to directly negotiate and purchase more than 17000 acres of land for the housing projects. The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board likewise has successfully acquired more than 40000 acres of lands for the industries. In Upper Krishna Irrigation Project more than 140,000 acres of land and about 50000 houses and other structures have been acquired using consent awards. The Bangalore Development Authority, and some SEZ units are also resorting to different types of innovative consent awards.

Amendment to Land Reforms La

Keeping in tune with the general trends in the state, the Revenue Department in Karnataka amended the Karnataka Land Reforms Act 1961 (Section 109) to allow the investors in housing, industries, horticultural research farming, educational and religious institutions buying agricultural lands for these non agricultural purposes upto specified limits. This action has avoided the unpleasant process of compulsory land acquisition.

Encouragement to Direct Purchas

Further, the Revenue Department has also issued certain guidelines to fix prices for direct purchase of lands for



certain purposes such as establishment of electric stations and substations for power transmission, road expansion, housing societies and Housing Board. Generally, any price twice the amount determined by way of sale statistics method using the statistics of sales in the relevant place during the preceding three years is allowed as a reasonable price of a given land. Beyond that limit the purchasing body

should seek prior approval of the government. This



has helped the Housing Board, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation, and the Karnataka Road Development Corporation.

General Trends

For several other purposes, the Revenue Department has been consistently insisting upon and largely successfully implementing the general system of consent awards while acquiring private lands. In the last four years the progress achieved in this approach is shown in the table below. These cases pertain to those acquisition proposals where the total value of acquisition exceeds Rupees one crore or more which require approval of the government. Awards costing less than one crore of Rupees are approved by the Regional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in Karnataka at the present.

Progress in the Consent Award Systems in Revenue Department

(Excluding UKIP, Housing Board, KIADB, urban development cases)

Year	General Awards	Consent Awards	Total	Percentage
2004	01	04	05	80
2005	06	19	25	76
2006	07	16	23	74
2007	17	35	52	70
Total	31	74	105	68

The Purposes of Acquisition

In the above given data the purposes for which the compulsory acquisition was started were highly varied. Railway projects were 25 followed by road projects 24, whereas drinking water supply and underground drainage systems in urban areas as well as shifting of seepage affected and flood affected villages were 16

each. A total of 12 acquisition proposals were for big construction projects and 22 proposals were for various other purposes like constructing new tanks, power stations, canals, house sites, etc

The Extent of Land Acquired under Consent

In respect of the data furnished above, the extent of land acquired through consent awards and the extent acquired by resorting to sale statistics based awards reveal very interesting trends. Of the 2271 acres acquired totally over the last four years, 941 acres were covered under consent system whereas 1330 acres were paid compensation as per sale statistics, the former constituting about 42 per cent and the latter 58 per cent. This is surprising since 68 per cent of all acquisition proposals were covered under consent awards.

The detailed analysis shows that just seven proposals covered under sales statistics method comprised of 1245 acres of land all of which were in urban areas and the remaining area was only 85 acres in 24 projects of small size most of which was also in urban area.

It is our common observation that: (i) wherever the land acquisition covers huge chunks of land running into hundreds of acres, the negotiation process becomes more difficult since the number of farmers is generally more. Larger number of farmers means greater bargaining strength and they tend to take tough stands in the negotiations which would fail. Further, some lawyers also strike deals with farmers by paying some advance amount promising the farmers to obtain their compensation enhanced in the civil court several times more than the consent price.

Wherever large extent of land is involved in compulsory acquisition, the lawyers' presence and conspiracy of sorts is frequently noticed. Moreover, urban land prices being highly volatile and sensitive to many factors which cannot be easily predicted make the negotiation process for moderate price levels difficult. Land Acquisition officers would not like to take heavy risks in raising the level of compensation lest their superior officers suspect them of dishonesty in the process. Besides, the negotiation skills of Collectors and SLAOs (Special Land Acquisition Officers) need to be fine-tuned to deal with the difficult situations of persuading

reluctant parties to agree to the compulsory acquisition at moderate price lines. Another general observation is that in highway projects, railway projects, and other linear acquisition the extent of lands involved is generally small and people do not take it seriously. Consequently the consent award works better there.

Amount of Compensation under Consent System

In the small data examined here, it is also observed that the difference between the amount of compensation determined by negotiation and that decided on the basis of sale statistics is not really striking. The consent based compensation is higher by 3 per cent to 97 per cent. It has been made clear that the government would consider favorably any addition of upto double the amount in consent awards compared to the sale statistics based system. However, the Deputy Commissioners and SLAOs still seem to be quite conservative and hesitant to concede to pay higher amounts of compensation in the negotiation process.

It has been fairly established that in most cases of general awards based on sale statistics the land owners either on their own initiative or at the behest of greedy lawyers apply for enhancement of compensation in the courts. The average waiting period for obtaining decrees from civil courts varies from three to five years. The interest burden on the government at 15 per cent per annum itself would be 45 to 75 per cent of the compensation that may be enhanced. General trend is that the courts enhance compensation from 3 to 5 times the original compensation decided by the Collector/SLAO. In this view of the things, the government eventually ends up paying nearly five to six times more compensation in the litigation process.

Further, a considerable part of the enhanced amount indeed is knocked off by the lawyers and middlemen leaving about a half to the harassed land owners. It is therefore in



the interest of the government and the land losers that the initial compensation level itself should be so fixed in the negotiation which would not cost too much to the government while at the same time the land losers would not be forced to approach the courts.

Preconditions for Consent Award System

The introduction of consent award requires basic changes in the whole approach to compulsory acquisition. These are summarised below:

- Government should show sufficient concern to safeguard the interests of the land losers, dependents on the land though not as owners but as tenants, laborers etc.
- A system of standard procedures, delegation of powers with sufficient safeguards to prevent misuse of authority in negotiating, and authority structures at different levels should be set up.
- More participatory and transparent process should be established in such a manner which ensures that neither land losers nor government functionaries exploit or dominate each other.
- For a successful system of consent award, it is essential the system must be flexible enough to take into account enormously varying circumstances in each case of land acquisition.
- The most common government orders for consent award specifying an increase of compensation by a fixed percentage, say 25 per cent or 50 per cent or 75 per cent over and above the value arrived at by following sales statistics method would NOT work in every case especially in respect of urban lands, irrigated



and garden lands.

- There must also be frequent revision and review of the systems of consent award.

Wherever consent award systems have succeeded there is evidence to show that political will to change impractical systems and to help land losers without harming development projects and to introduce innovations in administration existed.

Conclusion

The general reluctance of the governments to encourage consent awards seems to flow from the fear that the officers responsible for negotiation may misuse the discretion and indulge in dishonest deals to make unlawful gains for themselves. There are

some such cases reported in the past. But it is possible to develop systems which would be transparent and less open to manipulations for corrupt purposes. The wisdom lies in devising such systems rather than condemning the golden path of negotiation in determining the compensation.

While direct purchase of lands envisaged in the new SEZ law is a right step in removing the serious bottlenecks in obtaining the lands for development purposes, there still will remain a considerable need for compulsory acquisition since some persons always and every where would like to exploit the opportunity either for their political ends or satisfying their greed. The need for land for a variety of development projects is increasing enormously. The delay in acquisition is holding up many development programmes. Further, the farmers' agitations all over the country are turning violent since acquisition of large extents of lands is causing massive displacement. It is therefore appropriate to devise more participatory, transparent, and practical methods of determining compensation acceptable to land owners and not at the same time heavily overburdening the government with excess valuation of lands either by courts or by the negotiation process.

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National Consultant, UNDP



National Seminar on Rehabilitation and Resettlement Issues in India

7th - 8th August, 2008

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie

The Centre for Rural Studies, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie with financial support from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, organised a two-day National Seminar on 7th and 8th August, 2008. Sub themes of the seminar included the following:

- Revisiting National Policy on Rehabilitation and Resettlement
- Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and R&R issues
- Participatory development and the role of NGOs in rehabilitative mechanisms
- R&R aftermath natural calamities
- Administrative experiences on R&R in Indian states
- Socio-cultural and livelihood issues pertaining to R&R

Besides deliberating on several significant aspects of land acquisition, displacement and R&R, the participants from all across the country presented state level experiences. The Seminar focused on the theoretical, institutional and impact assessment dimensions of R&R mechanisms and arrive at a workable, pragmatic solutions.



National Seminar on "Development, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Challenges & Opportunities"

20th - 21st September, 2008

Rourkela Institute of Management Studies, Rourkela, Orissa

A seminar on "Development, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Challenges & Opportunities" was organised jointly by Rourkela Institute of Management Studies (RIMS) and Indian Economic Association (IEA), during the month of September



in Rourkela. Present during the occasion was noted economist and member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister Prof. G. K. Chhadha who said that development inevitably entails some adverse effects and no effort should be spared to lessen the human sufferings. In the wake of country's rapid progress on land-based projects, Chaddha touched upon the contentious issue of displacement and consequent violent protests.

Stating that the Indian Economy is heading for a land-based development, in which displacement is inevitable, he noted: "Nobody disputes the necessity of development. But we must also ensure crisis like displacement, threats to environment and food security are handled well." He said that development must be less painful, socially responsive and lead to inclusive growth. Director of NIT, Rourkela, Prof. S. K. Sarangi said that price of land should be commercially high for profitable projects.

Consultation on Development Induced Displacement & Women: A Case Study of Orissa, India

25th October, 2008, Bhubaneswar

A consultation was organised on **Development Induced Displacement and Women** by Gender Research Organisation, Sansristi, at Bhubaneswar on 25th Oct 2008. The objective of the Consultation was to share preliminary findings of a study to analyse the impact of development induced displacement on women. The study covered affected women of HAL, Sunabeda, Koraput; TATA Steel in Jajpur District; Vedanta in Kalahandi district; Posco in Jagatsinghpur; Hirakud dam in Sambalpur and Jharsuguda districts.

The participants included representatives from civil society organisations, academicians and displaced and affected persons. Prof Malini Bhattacharya, Chairperson, State Commission for Women, West Bengal, presided over the consultation and Prof Asha Hans, President,

Sansristi, gave a brief overview and back ground of the Study and the purpose of the consultation. Mr B.N. Das, former Director, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Govt of Orissa was the Chief Speaker during the occasion. Also present during the consultation meet were displaced persons who narrated their experience during pre and post displacement situations.



The preliminary findings of the Study, was presented before the participants for their inputs, comments and suggestions. Some of the suggestions included the following:

- The Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) Policy must give special focus to women categories and their children. It must ensure adequate healthcare and education in the relocated places.
- The amount of compensation must be uniform everywhere irrespective of sex, gender, caste, creed and economic status
- The National R&R Policy provides for a percentage of profits of the project or industrial setup that caused displacement to be used for socio-economic development of the areas.

Impact of Industrialisation on Tribals in Orissa

An international seminar on 'Myths and Superstition vis-a-vis Tribal Society' was organised at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar recently. Speaking on 'Impact of Industrialisation on tribals in Orissa,' speakers said that not only compensation for land, but corporates displacing locals, especially tribals, should plan to formulate their rehabilitation and resettlement policies on 'replacement value.' A socio-economic resources mapping and infrastructure survey must be conducted by an independent agency identified by the State Government to ensure proper benchmarking, they added.



As Orissa is on the threshold of industrialisation, there are still issues to be addressed. However, social communication and mobilisation, direct dialogue and negotiation and setting up of Public Information Centres (PICs) should be priority, felt speakers at the Seminar. Speaking on "Tribals: Damned by Dams," a speaker said that in case of many irrigation projects, no proper surveys were done in advance on project affected persons (PAPs). As a result, in many cases 'major sons' of the oustees, who have been displaced, have not been recognised as PAPs.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, DISPLACEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

India is one of the countries which are signatories to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations 1957. According to Article 12 of the Convention, the populations concerned shall not be removed without their free consent from their habitual territories except in accordance with national laws and regulations relating to national security, or in the interest of national economic development or of the health of the said populations. It is a fact that most of the



displacements have been justified in India on the ground of economic development.

However, Article 12 (2) of the Convention mentions that such people shall be provided with lands of quality at least equal to that of land previously occupied by them, suitable to provide for their present needs and future development when relocation of such people are considered necessary as an exceptional measure. In cases where chances of alternative employment exist and where the populations concerned prefer to have compensation money or in kind, they shall be so compensated under appropriate guarantees. The persons thus removed shall be fully compensated for any loss or injury.

Experiences since 1957 and prior show that, India's effort to expedite development to

improve the living conditions of its masses of poor, had significant impacts on the lives and conditions of tribal people. The tribal areas being rich in mineral, hydrologic and other resources, many development projects have got located there, adding new pressures on the local population. Their grounds were dug up for minerals, their rivers dammed for power and irrigation, their soils ploughed for commercial agriculture, and their forests felled for timber.

Several empirical research tell us that displacement has hurt the tribal people disproportionately despite our tall claims. They have been evicted from their homes and lands often with little or no compensation on the ground that they lacked rights on land and in forests, even though they had been living there for generations. Another lesson learnt relates to the inadequate management capacity to address resettlement issues basing on proper understanding of the lives and culture of tribal people. As is being witnessed increasingly, as a consequence of such failings, the affected people supported by activists groups are now becoming





assertive, in some cases, even hostile to the establishment of new development projects which they expect to do nothing but ruin their lives, leaving them in the worst forms of poverty.

Land is central to tribal people's culture and lives. For most tribal people, land is not a commodity that can be bought and sold for monetary considerations. It is the basis for their economic survival, their spiritual well-being and their cultural identity. Loss of ancestral lands, threaten their very survival as a community and as people. As a resource, land is owned by the entire community, to be used according to both its present and future needs. The judicious use of Common Property Resources (CPRs), on which the tribal people depend a great deal, is part of their way of life.

The compensation packages received by the tribal people were utterly inadequate to compensate for the loss of land, livelihoods, and importantly, the break-up of their communities and culture. The resettlement literature is replete with cases where ignoring the customary rights of the tribal people and treating them as illegal occupants of government land has



only led to the impoverishment of once settled communities, just the opposite of what development stands for. The trauma of resettlement is also exacerbated for tribal communities because of their strong spiritual ties to their land and their apprehension that once they move, their way of life will be lost forever.

The ILO, of which India is a founder member, replaced Convention 107 by a new Convention numbering 169 in the year 1989, which is yet to be ratified by the Government of India. This is rated as the foremost international legal instrument which deals specifically with the rights of the indigenous and tribal people, and whose influence extends beyond the number of actual



ratifications. This recognises self-identification of indigenous and tribal peoples as a fundamental criterion.

As a basic principle, the new Convention has placed high priorities on consultation and participation as basic requirements to any development activity concerning tribal people. It states that indigenous people should not be removed from their land. However, should relocation have to take place, it should be only as an exceptional measure, with their free and informed consent. The Convention outlines an appropriate procedure in case relocation is considered necessary and when tribal people do not agree. This includes public hearing or investigation, provision for return of the people to their original place after the reason for their leaving not remaining any more valid, and full rehabilitation & resettlement. Whenever the tribal people are resettled, they must be provided with lands of equal quality and with same or better legal title as the lands they have lost. If only the tribal people so wish, then they can accept other forms of payment for their lost lands and with full compensation.

The Convention provides space for the tribal and indigenous people to negotiate with authorities to protect their rights by acknowledging their rights to impact assessment studies on social, spiritual, cultural and environmental impacts, rights to decide the kind of development projects, rights to participate, and rights to control their economic social and cultural development. The tribal people shall have the rights to participate in the benefits of exploration and exploitation of minerals as well rights to receive full compensation for their relocation.

The above International Convention, the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of Samatha vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and the announcement of the Central Government about the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) are expected to raise the just and



appropriate aspirations of the indigenous and tribal people of the country. The CMP of the Central Government puts great emphasis on development, R&R issues of the tribals. It states that "The Government will immediately review the overall strategy and programmes for development of tribal areas to plug loopholes and to work out more viable livelihood



strategies. In addition, more effective systems of resettlement and rehabilitation will be put in place for tribal and other groups displaced by development projects. Tribal people alienated from land will be rehabilitated. ...Eviction of tribal communities and other forest-dwelling communities from forest areas will be discontinued. Cooperation of these communities will be sought for protecting forests and for undertaking social afforestation. The rights of tribal communities over mineral resources, water resources, etc as laid down by law will be fully safeguarded."

Ratification of the ILO Convention 169 and keeping the promises made to the people though the above announcement would essentially minimise the conflicts in the path of national development. Should equity and empowerment be made fundamental to the development process, the resistance from affected tribal groups would lessen over time.

Bishnupada Sethi, IAS

Director,
Fisheries & Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Orissa



As per provisions in the Orissa R&R Policy 2006, rehabilitation grants have been revised by the Government as per the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). The order for the 'biennial revision of the rehabilitation grants in monetary terms was issued by the Revenue & Disaster Management Dept. Vide letter No. R&REH - 124/08-36358/ R&DM dated the 21st August, 2008.

LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSE

The state periodically invokes its power of eminent domain and acquires private lands for public purpose. Where the acquisition is for projects such as roads there is little conflict. It is quite different where lands are compulsorily acquired to help private enterprises. Events in the recent past have raised fresh questions regarding the definition of public purpose and nature of compensation. The existing Land Acquisition Act, 1894, is inadequate to address these concerns. In this context, the recent report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee that reviewed the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2007, has raised lot of expectations. To its credit, the Committee has discouraged attempts to unreasonably favour private companies and suggests that the clauses which give scope for inconsistent interpretation and misuse be removed.

These recommendations are to be welcomed, but what is overlooked is the core issue — should the state get involved in acquiring land for private companies? Is it not best left to the market forces as in the case of real-estate companies which on their own have created large

When it comes to compensation, the proposed legislation continues to view it only in monetary terms.



Consequently, the only challenge it takes on itself is to arrive at the fair value of land acquired. Since the records with the registration department do not reflect the correct market value, the Committee has suggested that land values spread over three years preceding the date of notification be considered for this purpose. It also recommends that independent experts could also be involved. These are definite improvements over existing methods. But the question how to expand the notion of compensation to include other social costs such as loss of livelihood remains to be addressed. The Committee suggests the solatium be raised to 60 per cent of the land value from the current 30 per cent. Will this make up for the losses? Alternative forms of compensation such as employment and pension are envisaged only under the proposed Resettlement and Rehabilitation Bill 2007. Even this is applicable only where 400 or more families (in plains) are affected en masse by land acquisition. Where the number of people displaced is lower, the families have to settle for what the Land Acquisition Bill offers. This anomaly needs to be addressed and non-monetary forms of compensation provided for.

(Courtesy: Editorial from *The Hindu*)



land banks exceeding at times hundred of acres? Where acquisition for private companies becomes inevitable, at least excessive land acquisition should be checked. Neither the Bill nor the Committee attempts to resolve this question.



DISTRICT FOLLOW-UP

Sambalpur

The RPDAC (Rehabilitation and Periphery Development Advisory Committee) Meeting for Aditya Aluminum Ltd, Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd, MCL and Rathi Power & Steel Ltd was held on 10. 07. 08 at the DRDA conference hall, Sambalpur which was chaired by the RDC (Northern Division).



The Hon'able Speaker of Orissa Legislative Assembly also reviewed the R&R progress of M/s Aditya Aluminum Project in the district.

Free health camps were recently organised by MCL and M/s Hindalco Industries. An additional free mega mobile health camp was also organised by M/s Aditya Aluminum, Project at Lapanga High School, Lapanga, on 5. 12. 08 which was inaugurated by RDC (Northern Division) and Sambalpur Collector.

Village level meetings on Orissa R&R Policy 2006 were conducted in the villages and investment counseling was also done during disbursement of compensation.



Angul

The sub-committee meeting of the second RPDAC of Angul district was held on 27. 9. 08. Issues relating to approval of R&R sites, R&R plan for industries/mining projects of Angul district and approval of the list of Displaced Families — were among the important things discussed during the Meeting. The sub-committee Meeting was chaired by the Collector and District Magistrate, Angul.



The second sub-committee meeting was held on 13. 10. 08, which was chaired by the Collector. The Collector apprised that various components of the Orissa

R&R Policy-2006 have been indexed with effect from 01.04.08, which should be taken as the common minimum yardstick. All the members of the sub-committee and the representatives of all participating companies present unanimously agreed to it. It was also decided that all companies should furnish R&R related information in the official website of the government through NIC, Angul.

A total of eight village-level meetings on the Orissa R&R Policy 2006 were conducted.

Dhenkanal

A three-day training programme on R&R policy 2006 was conducted for Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) members in Dhenkanal district between 25-27 November 2008, under the chairmanship of ADM, Dhenkanal. Approximately 30 participants including sarapanchs, nayab sarapanchs, from 16 Gram Panchayats attended the programme.

Jajpur

The 3rd RPDAC meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Sri Sailendra Narayan Sarangi, RDC (Central Division) at Kalinga Nagar Integrated Industrial Complex (KNIIC) in the presence of Hon'ble Minister Finance, Hon'ble Minister Women & Child Welfare and other members.



Resumption of unused surplus land allotted in favour of industries, employment, unauthorised use of ground water by the industrial units, review of periphery development activities — were among some of the important issues discussed during the RPDAC meeting.

A capacity building training of PRI members on R&R was organised from 1-3 September 2008 in Jajpur district. "This programme created an opportunity for the PRI members of project-affected areas to sit together and think on the issues of resettlement and rehabilitation," said Mrs. Ranjita Rout, president, Zilla Parishad, Jajpur.

Jharsuguda

A meeting for verification of age of PDFs, who have opted for one-time cash assistance in lieu of employment, was organised on 28. 11. 2008 at DRDA conference hall, Jharsuguda. A total number of 55 PDFs have opted for one-time cash assistance in lieu of employment at Vedanta Aluminum Ltd (VAL). It was earlier decided in the last RPDAC meeting that all displaced persons up to the age of 40 years must go for employment.



A review of R&R issues of Vedanta Aluminum & Sterilite Energy Limited Jharsuguda was chaired by RDC (Northern Division) on 1.12.2008



Keonjhar

Gram sabhas were conducted by Arcellor Mittal Steel India Ltd. at Raikala, Baliapasi and Nuakhama villages in Keonjhar district. Additional gram sabhas were conducted by Uttam Galva Steel Limited and Sterilite Iron & Steel Co. Ltd at Saraskela and



Tikarpada villages respectively.

A total of nine village-level consultation workshops were held.

The RPDAC meeting of Kakudiamba Irrigation Project in Keonjhar district was held 24. 10. 2008. Mr. Jamil Ahmed Khan, RDC (Northern Division) presided over the meeting.

A review meeting on R&R implementation in Keonjhar district was organised by the R&R Directorate on 24. 10. 2008 at the Durbar Hall, Keonjhar Collectorate. The status of R&R implementation of six industries were reviewed during the meeting presided by Mr. Jamil Ahmed Khan, RDC (ND).

Balangir

A review of R&R issue of Lower Suktel Irrigation Project (LSIP) Balangir, was undertaken by Director, R&R Dept. of Water Resource on 10. 08. 08. Village committee members of 10 affected villages also participated in the meeting. In another additional meeting, the RDC (ND) also reviewed LA and RR issues of LSIP on 20. 08. 08.



A capacity building training programme on R&R for PRI members was organised from 23-25 October. A total of 29 PRI members participated from different Gram Panchayats of the district. A similar training was organised for NGO/CBO representatives of Balangir district from 10-12 November.

Rayagada

The third RPDAC Meeting was held on 5. 1. 09 in Rayagada district. It was decided during the meeting chaired by Mr. Satyabrata Sahu, RDC (Southern Division) that Utkal Alumina plant in Kasipur block would pay an additional compensation of Rs 60,000 per acre to the displaced provided they call off their stir and allow the Company to resume work. The meeting was attended by various members, including representatives of agitating displaced groups.



Mayurbhanj

A capacity building training programme for the PRI representatives of the project affected areas of the district was organised during 10-12 September 2008 at Baripada. Another capacity building training of NGO & CBO representatives of the district with focus on the affected areas, was organised from 16-18 October 2008 at Baripada. A total of 26 NGOs and 9 CBOs participated in the programme inaugurated by the district Collector.

A total of 14 village consultancy workshops on the Orissa R&R Policy 2006 was organised in Mayurbhanj. The village meetings were organised in the project affected areas of Jambhira Reservoir and Haladia Reservoir under Subarnarekha Irrigation Project.



IMPACT OF UNDP-DFID-GOVT. OF ORISSA PROJECT ON RESETTLEMENT & REHABILITATION IN ORISSA

UNDP-DFID undertook a Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Project which provided inputs to the Government of Orissa (GoO) in formulating a comprehensive policy - the Orissa Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy, 2006. **There is a strong focus on the modalities of implementation in the present Policy, thus making it a vibrant instrument for promoting sustainable development in the State.**

It has been widely acknowledged that the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy, 2007 has adopted some provisions from the Orissa Policy. For the first time, GoO identified a nodal department - Revenue & Disaster Management Department and assigned the task to look at R&R concerns for all projects. Earlier, respective departments were in charge of handling concerns related to R&R.

Creation of the Directorate of Resettlement & Rehabilitation within the Revenue & Disaster Management Department has provided a single-window system to address issues related to R&R for all projects at the state level. Several high level committees (SLCRR, PEG, PAC) have been formed for the first time which has led to effective reviewing, monitoring and implementation of the R&R Policy. A synergy has been created between various departments like Water Resources, Industries, Revenue, Steel and Mines, Energy etc for addressing R&R issues.

In addition, R&R cells have been created in nine districts having high R&R prominence and Project Director, R&R have been appointed to look into R&R concerns. Infrastructural and human resource support at the district level has led to strengthening of the capacities of concerned stakeholders thereby increasing the pace of work. This has also led to effective monitoring of R&R activities in districts. Uniform Socio Economic Survey (SES) guidelines have been formulated which are being followed by the industries and irrigation projects.

Regular review of industries by the Directorate of R&R has led to increased accountability on the part of industries towards displaced people and the government.

MoUs are now being redrafted and redesigned with adequate R&R budgetary funds. Inclusion of R&R cost as part of the total budget cost is being emphasised upon.

Standard training modules have been developed for various stakeholders, which has helped in imparting training to various groups. Frequency of interaction between government authorities, project officials and displaced/affected people has increased due to review, village meetings and capacity building trainings at both state and district level.

Grievance Redressal Cells have been set up at the three divisional levels and grievances have started coming to the government authorities.

A training institute — SC/ST Research and Training Institute (SC/STRTI), Bhubaneswar — has been identified and strengthened to impart capacity building training to various stakeholders including police officials/government officials/project authorities. For the first time



senior police officials are being trained to handle R&R issues.

An Impact Assessment Study to understand socio-economic issues related to R&R for selected projects has been undertaken by the Government.

With policy awareness and increased access to information related to R&R the displaced/affected people's participation in the R&R process, land acquisition process, finalisation of PDF/PAP list, etc. has increased. Appropriate utilisation of compensation money for asset based rehabilitation by displaced families is taking place due to interaction with the displaced/affected population.

With the constitution of project level RPDAC, issues and concerns not included in the Policy are being addressed and decisions taken at the RPDAC level.

In addition, formation of R&R committees at the village level, especially in the irrigation projects, has led to effective monitoring of R&R assistance towards construction of house building, undertaking livelihood and other relevant activities. The committee plays an important role in collective grievance redressal.



R&R Information

News Which You Can Use



Courses



Post Graduate Diploma in Participatory Management of Displacement, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (PGDMRR)

The Post-Graduate Diploma in Participatory Management of Displacement, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (PGDMRR) is a proactive initiative of the World Bank and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for building the skills of resettlement and rehabilitation officers, field staff, desk staff and technical experts in participatory methods of managing the concerns and issues of displacement and working for satisfactory resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) of those displaced by development projects.

The programme is of use to those who are engaged in R&R divisions of development projects of the government, private sector as project officers, technical experts, field staff or desk staff and those working with the NGOs, industrial establishments and other agencies involved in R&R of those displaced by development projects. The programme consists of 11 courses listed below:

- ◆ Understanding development-cased displacement
- ◆ Role of participation in sustainable development
- ◆ Participatory planning of Resettlement & Rehabilitation
- ◆ Participatory Implementation and monitoring of R&R
- ◆ Theoretical perspectives on R&R
- ◆ Illustrative R&R case studies from different development sectors
- ◆ Economic planning of R&R and implementation
- ◆ Socio-cultural and infrastructural planning and relocation
- ◆ Economic rehabilitation of PAPS
- ◆ Monitoring and evaluation of R&R
- ◆ Project work to be completed by the learners

This programme is available through the Internet as well as print mode. For online mode please check the website <http://www.ronline.ignou.ac.in>

Programme Details:

Programme Code: PGDMRR

Eligibility: Bachelors of Arts or equivalent degree

Minimum age as on 1st January of the Academic Year:
No bar

Duration: Minimum 1 year & Maximum 4 years

Programme Fee: Rs 5,100, including registration fees

Medium of instruction: English

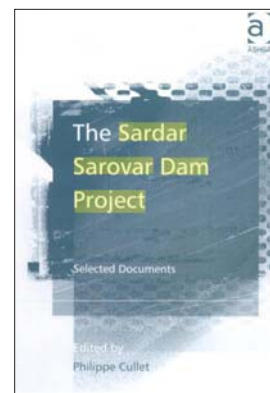
Admission Details:

Admission notification is generally released in May/June and the last date for submission of filled-in application forms will be September 30 for January session and March 31 for July Session. However students are requested to check with the official admission notification for the exact dates related to admissions.

Last date of receiving application for admission to the PGDMRR course for January-June session of each year is 30th November.

Last date of receiving application for admission to the PGDMRR course for July-December session of each year is 30th May.

Books



The Sardar Sarovar Dam Project: Selected Documents By Philippe Cullet

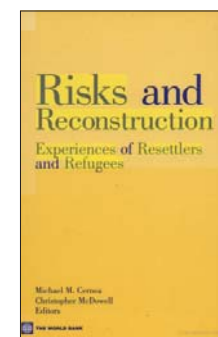
The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) has been one of the most debated development projects of the past several decades at the international level and within India itself. Such is the complexity of the project that it

has acquired symbolic status in development debates. This volume brings together all the key documents relating to the Project. This includes those pertaining to World Bank loans, the judicial pronouncements of the Supreme Court and documents relating to specific local level issues, in particular environment and rehabilitation. The volume also contains a number of documents unavailable in the public domain.

The work includes an introductory section focusing on the history of the Project, the involvement of the different actors, the impacts on the local population, and a general analysis of the controversy surrounding it. The volume is completed by a comprehensive bibliography. This compilation provides an easily accessible source for all the main documents relating to this landmark project. It will be a valuable resource for researchers and policy-makers working in the areas of International Environmental Law and International Development Law.

Details

Published by Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 2007
ISBN 0754649105, 9780754649106
472 pages



Risks and Reconstruction: Experiences of Resettlers and Refugees By Michael M. Cernea, Chris McDowell

The study of involuntary population movements within and across national boundaries is a relatively new and underdeveloped area in sociology. This large volume, co-sponsored by the Social Development Department of the World Bank and the Refugee Studies Programme at the University of Oxford, is a timely contribution to that scholarship. As the editors put it, the volume aims to bridge a two-fold gap in the literature: (a) between refugee research and resettlement research; and (b) between the displacement and reconstruction segments of either research branch. The strategy proposed in regard to the first gap is a comparative analysis of two displaced populations, i.e. refugees, including internally displaced persons, and involuntary resettlers uprooted by development-inducing programmes. Given the previous attention directed to the negative effects of

displacement, a deliberate emphasis on the reconstruction of livelihoods is seen as the way to bridge the second gap.

Details

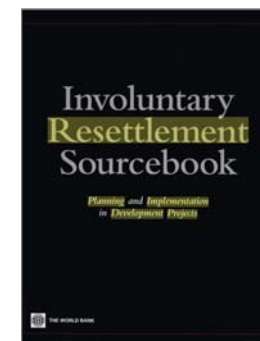
Published by World Bank Publications, 2000
ISBN 0821344447, 9780821344446
487 pages

Involuntary Resettlement: Planning and Implementation in Development Projects

Clarifying many policy and technical issues that confront resettlement policymakers and practitioners, this title provides guidance on resettlement design, implementation, and monitoring, and discusses resettlement issues particular to development projects in different sectors.

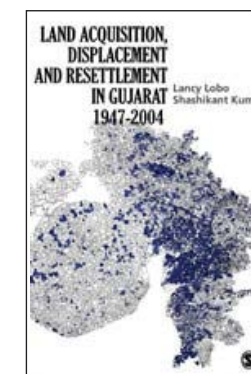
Details:

Publisher: World Bank Publications
ISBN: 0821355767
EAN: 9780821355763
No. of Pages: 400



Land Acquisition, Displacement And Resettlement In Gujarat: 1947-2004 Lancy Lobo & Shashikant Kumar

Land Acquisition, Displacement and Resettlement in Gujarat: 1947-2004 is the first ever detailed analysis of the land acquired for development projects and its impact on the displaced and project affected persons of Gujarat from 1947 to 2004. Part of a national study on the DIDR (Development Induced Displacement and Resettlement) in India, it has based its findings on gazette notifications issued by Government of Gujarat and covered 139 development projects. The authors debate the meaning of the term 'development' and focus on the negative connotations which it arouses. They focus on displacement, marginalisation and impoverishment as direct consequences of admittedly debatable methods of



progress adopted in Gujarat in the name of development, and question the very need for undertaking these projects.

The book presents a comprehensive account of land acquired for water resources, industries, transportation projects, and urban development projects and focuses on the people (especially tribals and dalits) displaced and affected by them. Additionally, it pays special attention to the legislative hurdles in rehabilitation and compensation procedures which follow displacement, analysing the behaviour of officials towards people, role of village leaders and the impact on people, specially women, children and the 'backward' castes.

The book also discusses the current and future state of land acquisition as far as the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Gujarat is concerned by undertaking a detailed analysis of the necessity as well as the consequences

of SEZs. This is of immense topical interest at a time when questions are being raised over the necessity and utility of SEZs.

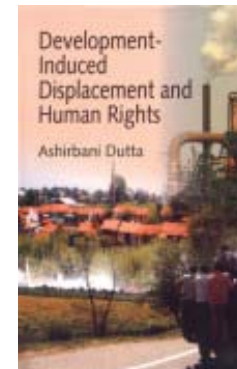
Details:

Pages: 348
Imprint: SAGE India
Price: Rs 895
ISBN: 9788178299389

Development-Induced Displacement and Human Rights by Ashirbani Dutta.

Details:

Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi.
Pages 248
Rs 750.



R&R POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jharkhand Govt approves R&R policy

The Jharkhand Government approved a new Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy which makes it mandatory for investors acquiring land in the state to provide job to



one member of each displaced family and also give money to the displaced families for 30 years. The Policy approved by the Jharkhand cabinet in July, 2008 states that the investors should give Rs 1,000 per month to the displaced families for 30 years.

It also gives the displaced family an option of investing 50 per cent of the amount earned for the land in share or debenture of the company which acquires it.

Any affected family owning a house which has been acquired or lost may be allotted a house site free of cost to the extent that the actual loss of area of the acquired house is no more than 10 decimal of land in rural areas and five decimal in urban areas for each family.

The project authorities should give a one-time compensation of Rs 50,000 to such families who have a small business but no land in the area acquired by the company. They should also provide basic amenities and infrastructural facilities at the resettlement areas.

Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy of Coal India Ltd

- Coal India Ltd (CIL) announced its Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy in May 2008. Only proper R&R will elicit the cooperation of project affected people and make it possible for Coal India to acquire the land it needs, the Policy says. While Coal India's basic philosophy for compensating land losers and other project affected people remains substantially unchanged, the Policy emphasises the need to cultivate and maintain good relationships with the people affected by Coal India's projects starting as early as possible.



- As per the Policy, land losers not eligible for employment shall be offered cash compensation at the rates prescribed in the R&R Policy notified by MoRD. Compensation for shifting etc shall be as per the rate prescribed in the MoRD R&R Policy. The CIL R&R Policy has provisions for sharecroppers, landless tenants, day labourers, landless tribals and tribals dependent on forest produce.

R&R Success Stories

Volunteering to Help Resettle Families

Twenty-six-year-old Chakradhar Patra from Orissa's Mayurbhanj district is a active young man. Having studied up to Intermediate level, he is aspiring to help people in Orissa who were displaced from their villages to rebuild their lives elsewhere in the area. Chakradhar along with his family was displaced when his ancestral land was acquired for the Subarnarekha Irrigation Project in Mayurbhanj district. The family received rehabilitation assistance according to the Orissa Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Policy, 2006. His family opted for receiving Resettlement & Rehabilitation Assistance in cash that include assistance



for homestead land, house building assistance, allowance for temporary shed, agricultural land and transport

allowance. He has now resettled in the village Sampura, an area close to his old village.

Having been uprooted and resettled himself, Chakradhar was acutely aware of the angst and insecurities experienced from the lives of people displaced by development projects such as dams, industries and railways. But he was unsure as to where and how to address the concerns of displaced people.

When the Government of Orissa and UNDP organised an R&R Capacity Building Training for Community Volunteers in Mayurbhanj district, it turned out to be the perfect opportunity for Chakradhar to voice his concerns. The training, which is part of the "Capacity

Development to Operationalise Orissa R&R Policy 2006," Project aims to build the capacity of various stakeholders including community volunteers, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and non-governmental organisations/community based organisations.



"The training programme brought an understanding of the whole process of R&R provisions in the Policy," says Chakradhar. "It also provided a platform for people like me to interact with officials, political representatives and experts for the first time. This, along with several village level meetings, also enhanced my knowledge on land acquisition and the resettlement and rehabilitation process."

Armed with this knowledge, Chakradhar and his fellow community volunteers now want to spread awareness about the benefits and entitlements of the R&R Policy to other affected people. With growing knowledge about livelihood options, he expects to go for pisciculture in the dam reservoir.

Through his activities Chakradhar has become an important support for the district officials. He helps them to better communicate with the displaced families.

He has become a volunteer in the true sense and guides displaced families in different ways. He helps Displaced Families in identifying homestead plots, processing papers for the purchase of the same, shifting to new location etc. "Along with the officials, I am also motivating displaced people in my area to use compensation amount and rehabilitation assistance judiciously," he says proudly.

Resettling for a Better Life

Tarulata Chachhan, 30, is a resident of Maa Samleswari Colony — the resettlement colony of Vedanta Aluminium Limited in Jharsuguda district. Tarulata is a displaced person from the erstwhile village of Baghiamal.

Tarulata is happy with the support and infrastructural facilities that she and her



family received post displacement. Her child goes to the school at Brundamal village after passing from the school in the resettlement colony. According to her, they now enjoy better education and health facilities in the Colony along with the houses, drinking water, toilets and roads provided in the colony. "Our old village was surrounded by dense forest

and a small stream. So we faced a lot of difficulties during medical emergencies. But nowadays we receive health benefits within the colony itself," she says.

Her husband, Kailash Chachhan, is now undergoing a training programme conducted by Vedanta Aluminium Limited. He is happy with the training programme and also with the Rs 2000 stipend that they are provided. Earlier, Kailash used to work in a rice mill in Brundamal.

Kailash has also purchased two cows with the compensation money. The family gets a good income by selling milk. Tarulata has started an attractive kitchen garden with a small investment of about Rs 2000. She has planted tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, leafy vegetables, banana etc in her kitchen garden. The garden not only produces vegetables for her entire family, but also for sale in the local market. Tarulata is also a member of Maa Samleswari SHG formed in the



resettlement colony. She is now undergoing training in SHG formation, accounting and management. "I want to gain more knowledge on kitchen garden and the methods through which I can plant new vegetables and get more benefit," she reveals.

Tarulata says that when they received the 4(1) Notification initially, they had felt helpless. "But after shifting to the new location we realise we have several benefits here," she says.

The village level meetings conducted by Government of Orissa and UNDP on the Orissa Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy, 2006 have also significantly helped her and others. "We used to hesitate speaking to government officials. But after interacting with them on the same platform we gained confidence to question them about our rights, entitlements and benefits," she says proudly. Several displaced persons like Tarulata now visit the Jharsuguda district office to lodge their grievances.

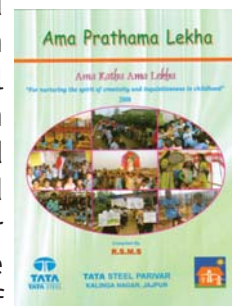
Ama Prathama Lekha



A recent book published by Tata Steel Parivar (rehabilitated families of Tata Steel's upcoming Orissa Steel Plant at Duburi, Jajpur) scripts the changes happening in the lives of the rehabilitated families.

The book titled 'Ama Pratham Lekha' narrates the experiences of students and teachers involved in the Sishu Bachan Kendra. Sishu Bachan Kendra is a module developed by Tata Steel Rural Development Society to create interest in studies for smaller children as well as boys and girls of upper age. The Society has started several such centers in various Tata Steel Parivar colonies around Duburi. The centers are managed and run by the tribal members of displaced families.

Says Naguri Jamuda, a teacher in the Danagadi Center, "Earlier, I used to do household work only. Now I am teaching the students in Sishu Bachan Kendra and I really enjoy it. We all play, sing and dance together." Sharing her experience of the initial period, Jamuda says, "It was difficult in the beginning. We met the parents and persuaded them to send their kids to the school. Gradually, the hesitation in coming to school disappeared."



Sifa Rani Mukhi, a student and resident of Gobarghati says, "I only knew a few alphabets when I was studying in my village. Here, I have started learning arithmetic. I have been trying hard along with my teacher to study better."



The children of Tata Steel Parivar have also narrated their day-to-day life vividly in the book. The Kalinga Nagar area used to be prone to Malaria. "We used to take bath in the nearby pond and drink from the well in our old village. After coming to Trijanga, we received safe drinking water through pipeline connection. There is no more water logging and we are not facing the problem of mosquitoes and malaria," says Dasharathi Hembram of Trijanga.

"Our life would be better if we get filter water." He adds.

The students of Sishu Bachan Kendra have been provided with infrastructure facilities including bus facility to commute to school. "After the initial schooling we are being sent to Ashram Schools in various parts of the State. I'm now getting up early at 4 am to study harder so that I can go to a better school," says Sridhar Teu of Gobarghati.



NEWS & VIEWS



90% job reservation for unskilled labour

Following the footsteps of Maharashtra, the Orissa Government has decided to reserve jobs for locals in the upcoming industries in the State.

In the semi-skilled and unskilled category, the reservation will be 90 per cent. In the jobs requiring skilled manpower, at least 60 per cent vacancies will be filled up by locals. Maharashtra had recently announced reservation of 80 per cent jobs for locals in the industries operating in the State.

Similarly, a minimum 30 per cent of the supervisor and managerial posts will be filled up from locals, though the appointment of senior executives will be on the basis of merit.

Industry is seen as a major avenue for job creation, particularly when the state is on the threshold of rapid industrialisation and tops the list of states in attracting new investments with over Rs 6 lakh crore worth of projects in the pipeline.

(Source: Business Standard)

IR Battalion in Kalinga Nagar soon

The Orissa government will set up an India Reserve (IR) battalion in Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex soon to address the issues pertaining to industrialisation, displacement and rehabilitation. Director General of Police (DGP) Manmohan Praharaj said this while addressing the 15th annual function of Jajpur Haviladar and Constable Association at Panikoi. Praharaj said Kalinga Nagar has emerged as a major industrial hub of the state giving rise to a number of problems relating to displacement, rehabilitation, pollution, industrial law and order, labour and employment daily.

(Source: The New Indian Express)

No farmland for industrial development in Uttarakhand

The much-awaited agricultural policy of the Uttarakhand Government, which was recently redrafted, has decided not to allow Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and other industrial projects on the farmland.

"The draft farmland policy clearly states that there should be no industrialisation on agricultural land in Uttarakhand," confirmed Agriculture Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. However, the draft policy would shortly be sent to Chief Minister B. C. Khanduri before it is put before the State Cabinet for final approval.

(Source: Business Standard)

CII wants Govt to help firms in land acquisition

Industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said it wants the government to reconsider the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2007, which if passed would leave the private sector 'fend for itself' in land acquisition for industrial projects. According to the Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha last year, the state will step in to help acquire land after the industry has bought 70 per cent of the allotted site.

(Source: Business Standard)



Singur aftermath

A time-bound solution was needed to address the Singur imbroglio, which arose due to a blend of political compulsions, administrative constraints and a misplaced emphasis on what was already done rather than what was to be done. The Singur platform provided an excellent opportunity for a solution in which the definition of sufficient compensation for land-providers could have been evolved, and an agreed policy on land acquisition and compensation formulated for future industrial expansions.

N. K. Sinha

Make displaced people partners in development

It's ironical how so called 'development' projects like industries and dams do little for the development of the people who are displaced for such projects. It is high time the government and private project authorities realise that unless and until the displaced people get a share of this development, unrest and agitations will not cease. People no longer want to give their land for public good at a throwaway price. They should be offered attractive compensation for their lands and other benefits to make them partners in development and not merely as beneficiaries.

Soumya Mohanty

Document impact of displacement

Although several lakh people have been displaced in Orissa due to irrigation, mining and industrial projects it is unfortunate that till today we do not have any record on them. Neither do we know the actual number of people who have been displaced and affected nor do we have any indication of the impact of such displacement and any resettlement thereafter. It is worthwhile to know their status so that government and

private parties improve their policies dealing with displaced people.

Pratip Das

Singur episode: A lesson

Though the pullout by the Tata Motors from Singur looks quite disturbing and ominous for the future of industrialisation in West Bengal, it will not have been in vain if it can be used as an opportunity by the states to

review their approach to industrialisation.

K. S. Subramanian

Indiscriminate Mining

The pathetic saga of tribals of Sukinda who have been exposed to polluted air and water due to indiscriminate mining in Jajpur district of Orissa is cause for serious concern. The industrialisation must match the socio economic development of the region by way of providing better education, imparting job-oriented skills, protecting drinking water and giving good healthcare.

S. Lakshmi

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