

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2977
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
FOREST ENCROACHERS IN A & N ISLANDS
Shukla Smt. Karuna

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds sanctioned to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration by the Union Government as a package to the Post-1978 forest encroachers indicating the date and year of its sanction;
- (b) whether the said amount has been disbursed by the administration to the encroachers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the present status of those 4000 encroacher families and their means of livelihood?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) In order to rehabilitate the families identified to be evicted from the forest lands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in pursuance of the order of the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India, the Union Government decided to extend to them, in addition to allotment of alternative land subject to its availability, the following facilities-

- (i) one time financial assistance of Rs. 75,000 per family to enable the encroachers to shift to the new sites,
- (ii) supply of ration at the rate of 12 kg. per head per month over a period of six months,
- (iii) employment of one person from each family consisting of a maximum of five members and of two persons from each family consisting of more than five members for a maximum period of two years at the rate admissible to a Daily Rated Mazdoor (DRM), and
- (iv) payment of hostel fee at the rate of Rs. 400 per month per head for two school going children per family.

Formal sanction of expenditure for supply of ration for an amount of Rs. 0.94 crore was issued vide letter dated 07.03.2003 of the Ministry of Home Affairs. This was subsequently augmented to Rs. 2.02 crore on 10.10.2003. Besides this, financial sanction of Rs. 48.84 crore for incurring expenditure on other items of the rehabilitation package was issued on 13.05.2003.

(b)&(c) While steps were being taken by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to implement the rehabilitation package, the Local Borns` Association and Others filed a Special Leave Petition before the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India challenging the said rehabilitation package. The Hon`ble Court has stayed the implementation of the rehabilitation package, and therefore, the package has not been implemented so far.

(d) The encroacher families are still staying in the forest area in absence of any alternate arrangement for their stay in the revenue area. They are surviving by alternate livelihood measures, such as, fishing, agriculture and agriculture labour.