

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1333

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012

POLICY FOR DISPLACED PERSONS OF POWER PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) policy to provide employment to the persons/local dwellers displaced due to the setting up of power plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Chhattisgarh;
- (c) whether mostly cultivable/grassy land has been acquired to set up power plants in Chhattisgarh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to ensure proper resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced local people;
- (e) whether use of underground water, illegal mining and land encroachment are being carried out by developers of such power plants; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) have formulated a National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (NRRP) 2007 vide F.No. 26011/4/2007-LRD and published in the Gazette of India, extraordinary Part 1, Section 1 dated 31st October, 2007, which under para 713.1 includes the necessary provision for providing employment to affected families.

In regard to employment and other facilities to the affected people, the NRRP stipulates preference to affected family (at least one person per nuclear family) in providing employment in the project, subject to the availability vacancies and suitability of affected person for the employment. The policy stipulates arranging training, offering scholarships and other skill development opportunities to the eligible persons among the affected families. The policy also stipulates giving preference to willing landless labourers and unemployed affected persons while engaging labour in the project during the construction phase. This Policy has been adopted by all CPSUs. The State Governments including Chhattisgarh are at liberty to give additional benefits to project affected family.

Further, as per the New Hydro Policy 2008, an additional 1% free power (in addition to 12% free power) from the project would be provided and earmarked for a Local Area Development Fund, aimed at providing a regular stream of revenue for income generating and welfare schemes, creation of additional infrastructure and common facilities etc. on a sustained and continued basis over the life of the project. In addition, 100 units of electricity per month would be provided by the project developer to each project affected family for a period of 10 years from the date of commissioning of the project.

(c) & (d): Power projects are mainly site specific where the acquisition of land is governed by the 'Power Potential Studies' for hydro power projects and availability of water, raw materials, infrastructural facilities like transport (especially Railways) etc. for thermal power projects, rather than on any other consideration.

All Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) issues pertaining to Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in respect of Hydro and Thermal Power Projects are proactively addressed during land acquisition and project construction stage itself. A Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP) is formulated through extensive consultations process involving PAPs, Head of Panchayats of the affected villages, people representatives and the District and State Administration etc. The RAP, thus prepared on a consensual basis is then approved for implementation. The duration of RAP implementation varies from project to project and this is normally completed by the end of project implementation. However, despite the best efforts, if some R&R issues are left unresolved or they crop up after the completion of the project, they are addressed in due course of time.

(e) & (f): Information with regard to use of underground water, illegal mining and land encroachment is not compiled in the Ministry of Power. However, such activities are required to be addressed by the concerned State Government as per the extant Acts and Rules.