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Title: Need to expedite implementation of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2006 with regard to development of land oustees affected by ongoing project of Indian Oil Corporation Limited in Paradip, Odisha.

SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI (JAGATSINGHPUR): I would like to draw the attention of Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas that in the year 2000 Indian Oil Corporation Limited acquired land for its Oil Refinery Project at Paradip, Odisha and provided compensation to the land oustees as per the guidelines of Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy set by the Corporation. However, in 2006 the State as well as the Central Government adopted a new Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy. It may be stated that as per guidelines of Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2006, if the acquisition of land by any Public Sector Undertakings Project has taken place prior to 2006 and the project is still under construction then the compensation or any other benefits due under the Act will be provided to the affected people. As construction of Oil Refinery Project at Paradip is still going on, the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2006 by State/Centre is applicable to the Refinery Project of IOCL at Paradip, Odisha.

In view of Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2006, a Rehabilitation and Periphery Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC) was formed to implement Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2006 in order to develop the affected villages in Paradip, Odisha. In this regard, meetings of RPDAC were held twice in 2009 and 2010 under the Chairmanship of RDC, Cuttack and in these meetings clear-cut decision was taken to implement Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2006 as early as possible. In spite of a circular by the state Government mentioning instruction to provide temporary as well as permanent employment to displaced people, educated youth and land losers, no comprehensive action with regard to the implementation of the above said policy has been taken by the Authority. The most important point to be mentioned here is that the displaced persons have not been provided Houses even after completion of 12 years of their displacement. It may be further stated that more than 30000 people have been working at the construction sites of refinery projects in Paradip. But the land losers and displaced persons are not getting employment due to interference of some middlemen controlling the contractors, officers of Refinery Project and local administration. The Ombudsman deployed is also not taking any responsibility for development/employment of affected people.

In this connection, I would like to seek your kind intervention in order to implement the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2006 and to order the IOCL and local administration to give employment to the land losers and displaced persons in ongoing Refinery Project of IOCL at Paradip, Odisha.