

The Times of India, Mumbai, 28 Jun 2008



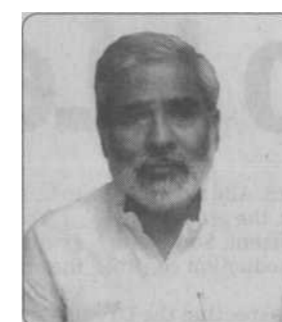
Smt. Suryaakanta J. Patil
Minister of State for
Rural Development



Smt. Sonia Gandhi
Chairperson, UPA



Dr. Manmohan Singh
Hon'ble Prime Minister



Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
Minister for Rural Development



Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
Minister of State for
Rural Development

For the protection of land owners' interest
"National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2007"
 has been implemented throughout the country
 from 31st October, 2007

The National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2007

SALIENT FEATURES

1. Resettlement and rehabilitation policy to be given statutory status for the first time by bringing R&R Bill 2007.
2. Policy to be applicable not only to the persons affected by acquisition of land for projects of public purposes, but also to the involuntary displacement of a permanent nature due to any cause.
3. Beneficiaries of R&R Policy are not only those whose land and property is acquired but also the families whose source of livelihood is adversely affected, i.e., any tenure holder, tenant, lessee, agricultural and non-agricultural labourers, landless persons, rural artisans, small traders, etc.
4. Social impact assessment by independent multi-disciplinary expert group made mandatory in cases of displacement of 400 or more families in plain areas and 200 or more families in tribal and hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the V & VI Schedule of the Constitution.
5. Involvement of stakeholders in R&R through R&R Committee at project level comprising of representatives of SC/ST and women of the affected area along with representatives of NGOs working in the area, banks, PanchayatiRaj representatives.
6. Effective monitoring arrangement for timely rehabilitation and resettlement.
7. Amendment in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 proposed to incorporate the consequent amendments as a result of Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy 2007.



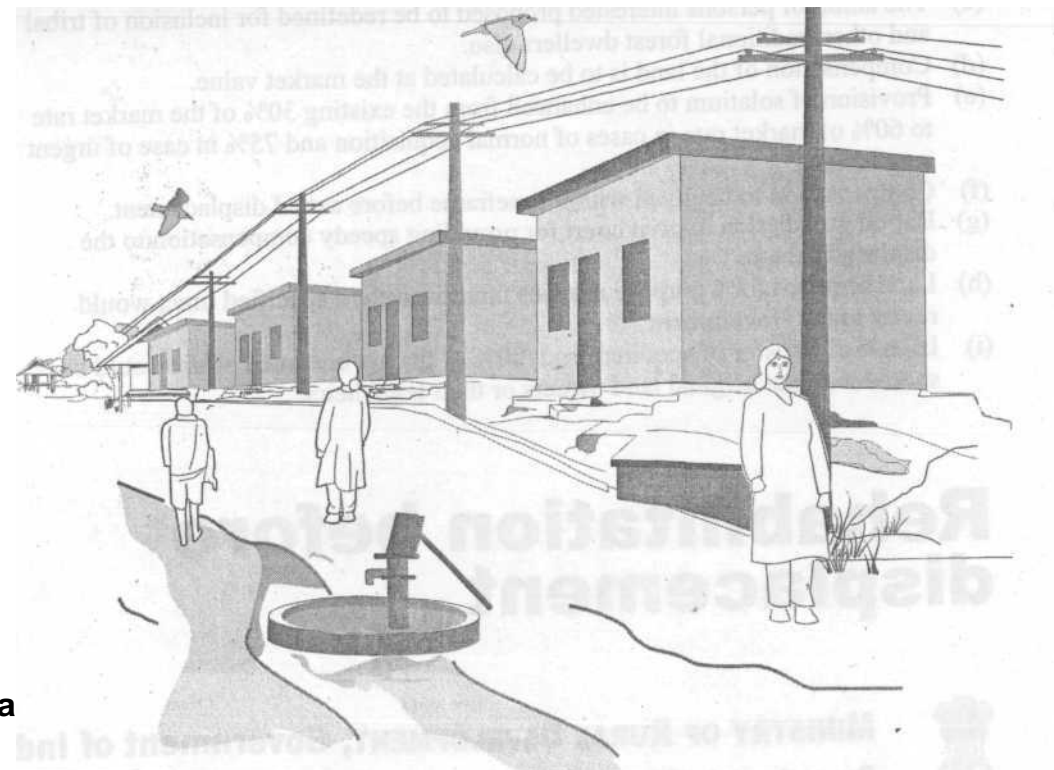
REHABILITATION & RESETTLEMENT BENEFITS TO THE AFFECTED FAMILIES



1. Free house site to the affected families whose house has been acquired or lost.
2. House for affected displaced BPL families without homestead land residing in affected area for over three years.
3. Land for land to the extent of availability of Government land.
4. In cases where land or employment is not provided to the project affected families, then rehabilitation grant equal to 750 days of agricultural wages to be provided, part thereof, may be in the form of shares or debentures.
5. In case of land development projects, developed land or built up space to be given to the project affected families.
6. Preference to be given to the affected families in allocation of land in command area of irrigation or hydel power projects.
7. Fishing rights in the reservoir to be offered to the project affected families on priority.
8. In case of allotment of wasteland in lieu of acquired land, development grant shall be a minimum of Rs.15, 000/- per hectare.
9. In case of allotment of agricultural land in lieu of acquired land, a minimum of Rs 10, 000 to be given for agricultural production.
10. Cost of registration of allotted land to the affected families is to be borne by the requiring body.
11. Land or house allotted is to be in the joint name of the wife and husband of the affected families.
12. Cattle owner families to get minimum of Rs.15, 000/- as grant for construction of cattle shed.
13. Project affected families to be given a minimum of Rs.10, 000/- as transportation charges for shifting the belonging from the project affected site to the rehabilitation site.
14. Project affected self-employed family to be given a minimum of Rs.25, 000/- as one-time financial assistance for construction of working shed or shop.
15. Preference by the requiring body to project affected families in providing livelihood support in project jobs.
 - Employment to at least one person from project affected family subject to availability of vacancies and suitability.
 - Provision for skill upgradation training for project affected families.
 - Preference to the affected families in various economic opportunities, including outsourcing of contracts, engagement of labourers, etc.
 - Scholarships to the eligible persons of the affected families.
16. Monthly subsistence allowance equivalent to 25 days minimum wages for one year from the date of displacement to each affected family.
17. Monthly pension to the vulnerable affected persons subject to minimum of Rs.500 per month.
18. In case of linear projects, project affected family shall get a minimum of Rs.20,000/- as ex-gratia grant in addition to the compensation and other benefits.
19. In case of ST oustees, at least one-third of compensation amount due to the project affected families shall be paid at the outset and the rest before taking over the possession.

IN CONSONANCE WITH THE POLICY, FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED IN THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, 1894 :-

- (a) Provision for acquisition of land for companies to be deleted.
- (b) Government shall acquire land for private companies only when private requiring bodies acquire at least 70% of the land requirements through direct purchase, then only Government will acquire remaining 30% area.
- (c) The ambit of persons interested proposed to be redefined for inclusion of tribal and other traditional forest dwellers also.
- (d) Compensation of the land is to be calculated at the market value.
- (e) Provision of solatium to be enhanced from the existing 30% of the market rate to 60% of market rate in cases of normal acquisition and 75% in case of urgent acquisition.
- (f) Compensation to be given within timeframe before actual displacement.
- (g) Bar on jurisdiction of civil court for providing speedy compensation to the displaced person.
- (h) Land acquired for a purpose remains unutilized for a specified time, would revert to the Government,
- (i) In case of transfer of acquired land, 80% of the net unearned profit would be shared with the original land owners or their legal heirs.



Rehabilitation before displacement

