

## **JABGAON – DISPLACEMENT WITHOUT REHABILITATION**

### **THE CASE STUDY OF A VILLAGE TO BE AFFECTED BY THE INDIRA SAGAR PARIYOJANA**

(Prepared by Manthan Adhyayan Kendra, Barwani)

#### **Need for the study**

Indira Sagar Pariyojana (ISP) has been under planning and construction since decades. Work on the project has gained momentum in the last decade. Since then, the construction has been on and off depending on the availability of funds. On 24 April, 2002, an announcement was published both in Nai Duniya and Dainik Bhaskar<sup>1</sup> stating that the village Jabgaon would be inundated with water in the coming monsoons owing to the increase in the height of the dam. The village was being asked to evacuate the area by 20 May, 2002. In March 2002, with the release of funds from the Center to the Narmada Hydro Development Corporation, a decision was taken to increase the height of the dam to 212 m by June 2002. In fact since October 2001, there was a sudden spurt in announcements of the Section 4 notices of land acquisition in the regional Hindi newspapers making it evident that the project would soon be underway again. Meanwhile there had also been reports in the press that the rehabilitation had been lagging behind.

*Manthan Adhyayan Kendra*, which had been following the events in the history of the construction of this dam, decided to attempt to bring to fore the ground realities regarding the status of resettlement and rehabilitation of villages affected by this project. This is an on-going study and this is a preliminary report. It was thought that the situation would be analysed at 3 points in time: pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon. Accordingly, 2 visits to this village had been undertaken: the first in the first week of May and the second in the third week of August. There have been less than normal monsoons this year and therefore while the village has not been submerged, some farms had been flooded.

The *Kendra* is a centre set up to monitor, analyse and research water and energy related issues, with a special focus on the latest developments resulting from the liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation of the economy. The Centre is located at Badwani, a district town in Madhya Pradesh five kilometers from the banks of Narmada. While the focus of the work is on water and energy issues, this will be in the larger context of equitable, just and sustainable development.

#### **Limitations of the study**

This survey covers only one village in the submergence zone. No door to door survey was conducted. However, two village meetings was held where a range of issues were raised by the villagers. The team also had extensive discussions with people from various caste and class backgrounds like the farmers, the landless labourers, people from the fishermen community. Papers, which were available to the team like government notices, press releases and letter to the government by the village, were scrutinized.

#### **Background of the project**

The Indira Sagar Pariyojana is a multipurpose project. It is a part of the Narmada Valley Development Project and is one of the 30 large dams to be built on the river Narmada and its tributaries. The dam is being built at the village Punansa, East Nimar, Madhya Pradesh. The height of the dam is to be 92 m (level of the dam from sea level is to be 262.19m). The stated benefits accruing from the project are:

1. 1.23 lakh hectares to be irrigated in Khandwa and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh.
2. Installed capacity of 1000 MW of electricity. There are to be 8 subsurface power house units with a generating capacity of 125 MW each.

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<sup>1</sup> Both are regional Hindi newspapers.

The following is an overview of displacement, which will follow the construction of the dam.

1. 249 villages are to be submerged by the dam.
2. Total population to be displaced is 80572.<sup>2</sup>
3. Total number of families to be displaced is 30739.
4. Total area to be submerged 91348 ha.
5. Total forest land to be submerged is 41111 ha.

### **The village Jabgaon**

Jabgaon is one of the 249 villages to be submerged by the reservoir which is to be the largest in the country. This village which is 150 years old was settled by a zamindar family. There are 600 households in the village with a total population of 3000. This is a caste village with the presence of Brahmin, Mahajan, Rajput, Bhilala, Lobhansi, Gowli, Korcu Thakur, Namdev Darji, Kahar castes and the Muslim religion. The total agricultural land in this village is 4000 acres. The village has its own Panchayat. There was a school, balwadi, post office, a bank, a ration shop, health center and veterinary hospital in this village. **The Government claims that this village is fully rehabilitated.**

The Government has never bothered to inform the villagers about the project or involve them in any manner. The villagers knew that a dam was to come up which would submerge their homes and lands only in the late 1980s. Since the mid-1980s, the Jabgaon and other villages have raised issues regarding the costs and benefits of the dam. These villages the submergence area were active in the formation of the Narmada Sangharsh Samiti during 1987-88. They have on several occasions voiced their concerns on being resettled and rehabilitated in a just manner. They have constantly reported to the government about the lapses in the rehabilitation process. They have on occasions consulted the Narmada Bachao Andolan on the steps that could be taken so that they may receive just rehabilitation from the state government. When their voices were not heard, they retaliated to the construction of the dam and their following displacement, by embarking on rallies, dharnas and even hunger strikes. In 1994 surveys were conducted in the village. Notices under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act were issued to the people in 1995. The process of distribution of compensation began in 1996. However, neither has the compensation been adequate, nor has there been any process of rehabilitation worth the name. Therefore only 150 families of the 600 affected families have shifted out of the village. This is a clear indication that this village has not been resettled.

In May 2002, with imminent submergence a few weeks hence, the people were firm in their demand for just and fair rehabilitation and are determined in their decision to face the waters and continue their struggle for their rightful rehabilitation. The government had issued an order in March 2002, stating that strict action would be taken by anyone who ploughed their fields in the monsoon season. Despite this, the people have ploughed their fields even in the face of the uncertainty due to possible submergence. They have declared to the government in the press release issued in response to the evacuation notification that they will not move until they are given what is justly theirs.

### **The Rehabilitation Policy**

The rehabilitation policy has evolved over the years owing to pressures from the World Bank, the people and due to the influences of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award (NWDTA). While the policy, in the form it is in right now, has certain progressive provisions, it has completely ignored some other factors and has on the whole remained unsatisfactory. The stated intention of the policy is that the Project Affected People (PAP) should eventually increase or least regain their standard of living. It defines every adult son and adult unmarried daughter as a separate family. The underlying fundamental principle of this policy is "land for land". According to the policy, the Government will provide a minimum of 2 ha of land to all landed. The policy

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<sup>2</sup> These are official government figures, which are gross underestimates of the number of people who are to be submerged.

clearly discourages the distribution of cash as compensation. This policy also has provisions for the compensation of house and house plots. While there has been an increase in the Rehabilitation Grant to be given to those from the landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, let alone increasing the standard of living of the people, it seems that even maintaining their present standard of living will be difficult. A more important aspect is that there is no provision which caters to the special needs of those involved in other traditional occupations like the Kevats, Kahars and fisher families. Some of the important provisions of the policy are listed in Annexure A.

In 1998, a Special Rehabilitation Package was announced, which amounted to an increase in the compensation for acquired land provided the PAP did not insist that the Government provide it land for land.

## **What Actually Happened**

### **Introduction**

The team found that inadequate as the policy is, there have been gross violations and innumerable lapses in its implementation. The people have repeatedly reminded the government of its responsibility and role in the rehabilitation process. And yet there remain cases of gross violations, which have not even been attempted to be corrected by the government and therefore raises the question of the government's true intentions. It appears that the Government has washed its hands off from responsibility in the whole process. The key findings of the team on various aspects of the rehabilitation process are as follows

#### **➤ Erroneous PAP lists**

The surveys conducted to ascertain the number of families and adult children in the village, which form the foundation of the resettlement process, have been faulty. Around 150 names have not been included in the final list. Adult sons and daughters have been left out of the list, while children who are minors have been included. The village has repeatedly written to the concerned officials regarding the same. However, there is no response. In the period May-August 2002, about 100 names of minor sons and daughters have been deleted from the list. However, the names of the adult sons and daughters, which had not been included in the list (about which the people have constantly written to the government), have not yet been added to the list.

The policy itself is unclear with regards inclusion of women who have been widowed. In another peculiar situation, the adult grandchild of a displaced person has not been considered as one eligible for compensation and therefore the grandchild and his family has been depicted as being a dependent and has therefore no entitlement to any separate compensation.

There has been an increase in the amount of the Rehabilitation Grant that is to be paid to the families. A new list has therefore been released. Several names have been left out of this list.

#### **➤ Land for Land**

The rehabilitation policy states explicitly that there will be an offer of land to the people. The Government would retain 50% of the compensation due to them under the Land Acquisition Act to purchase the land due to the people. The remaining 50% is regarded as an interest free loan, which is, recovered over 20 installments. There is also a provision of this amount being treated as a rehabilitation grant. Initially the people were offered some patches of land, which were of extremely low quality. The people refused to accept this land. The people were then told by the Government that it had no land to give them. Thus, it is very clear that the Government was carrying out a ritual of showing the land, so that it could claim that it had fulfilled the provisions of the policy. From the descriptions given by the villagers, it is clear that even this was done in a half-hearted manner, and was soon abandoned. It was after this that cash compensation was offered. Till 1998, the village kept demanding that the Government provide them land for land, and refused to take the cash compensation offered. In 1998, some of the rich landlords who did not depend on

agriculture for their sustenance, accepted cash. This triggered apprehensions in the people and it was only after this that the people started accepting cash compensation. Still, they continued to confront the government with regards the amount of compensation.

Problems with the Sauda Chitthi Process: A few years ago, the policy was amended to include a process whereby the people could purchase land of their choice through a document called the 'Sauda Chitthi'. According to this process, the people could find their land on their own, and would be entitled to receive the full compensation (as against 50% to be retained by the government if land was to be offered by the Government) on presenting of the land purchase transaction papers (the Sauda Chitthi). In the absence of sufficient cultivable land in the non-submergence villages of the area, several families were forced to present fraudulent Sauda Chitthi's so that they may at least receive the remaining amount of compensation. The land acquisition officers also encouraged this and used this as another opportunity to milk the people off their money. It seems very clear that this provision was a planned move by the Government to abdicate its responsibility in identifying and making available land for resettlement and push their responsibility on the people themselves.

Low valuation of agricultural land: All the villagers spoken with during the visit mentioned that the market price of irrigated land in the adjacent (Harda) command area is between Rs. 80,000 and 1,00,000. Yet, the compensation declared for unirrigated land is Rs. 40,000 and that for irrigated land is Rs. 60,000. It is therefore evident that the land in the submergence zone has been undervalued. The quality of the land has also not been taken into consideration while valuing the land. Those, whose lands are of higher quality have been paid as much compensation per acre as those whose lands are of inferior quality.

Another phenomenon that took place was that when a large number of farmers started looking for land to be purchased, the prices of the land went up. This combined with the low compensation meant that the lands were out of the reach of the farmers. The direct fallout of this is that the people have been unable to purchase land which equals their present holdings in quantity or quality. They have either been able to buy less land than they have at present or have been forced to purchase land of much lower quality. The market price of the low quality land being lower than cultivable land, some people have bought more land than they owned in the original village. However, only parts of these lands are presently cultivable. The people said that it would take all of 10 years to make the remaining the arable. The people say that they preferred purchasing low quality land since even if it took several years of hard work to make the land arable, they would at least have viable units of farm land at a future date. The people also believe that it is far more sensible to spend the money on purchasing land rather than letting the money received not languish in the banks, be spent on inconsequential expenses and then vanish one fine day! Those who have bought arable land have not been able to purchase as much land as they owned in the original village.

Due to the non-availability and the high costs of the land, only about 40% of farmers in the village have been able to make arrangements in terms of purchase of land outside the submergence area. Since all these lands are presently unirrigated, the people have dug wells or made tubewells in order to make cultivation possible even in the non-monsoon months. In a majority of the cases, this activity has yielded no positive results, even after spending large sums of money. While, according to the policy, the state government was to support the farmers in provision of irrigation. However, this has not been done. Therefore here is another instance when the government has not responded to the needs of the people and has in fact violated the provisions as stated in their own policies!

#### ➤ **Community Resettlement**

According to the Statement No. 8 of the 'Principles for the rehabilitation of the displaced family', laid down in the Rehabilitation Policy, the village community as it is, should not be disturbed and the village should be resettled as a community. However, the government has not been able to acquire agricultural land near the rehabilitation sites. Some families have purchased some amounts

of land with the amount of compensation received. They have however not been able to purchase land equal to the amount that they presently own. Nor have they been able to purchase land as a community since there is no region where such land is available as would accommodate the entire village. Therefore the village is bound to be eventually dispersed and fragmented. A sample survey had been conducted during the second visit made to the village. Out of the 80 families who have purchased land, 24 families were surveyed. According to this survey, land has been purchased in 17 villages! Here is another example of the government committing absolute violation of their own policies.

➤ **Landless Labourers**

The only relief for the landless people is cash compensation consisting of rehabilitation grant, subsistence allowance and grant for productive assets. This package is higher for the landless than for the landed families. However a number of people who own some tiny patch of land and are *de facto* landless labourers have been treated as landowners. The resulting compensation they have received makes it simply impossible to buy even 1 acre of land or any worthwhile asset for making a living. The rehabilitation grant being lower for landowners, this group of people do not seem to have any way out. Further, the government has discriminated against the various classes of landless labourers. While people involved in the traditional occupations of ironsmith, barber, blacksmith etc. have been considered as landless labourers, those involved in more contemporary occupations like tailors, cycle shop owners and paan shop owners have not been considered as landless labourers, but as conducting business. The outcome of this is that, those who have been this second group are not eligible to the compensation due to the landless labourers and are on the other hand being taxed for conducting business!

➤ **Irrigation pipelines not compensated**

The river Chota Tawa borders the village on one side. Those whose fields are on the banks of the river have installed pipelines for lift irrigation. These irrigation pipelines in the village have not even been surveyed, much less being compensated for. The policy does not seem to mention any compensation for the pipelines. The electricity for these have however been disconnected and the reason given by the government for this is that the farmers have been compensated for the land and therefore cannot be allowed to plough the land anymore. In fact the farmers continue to receive electricity bills for their pipelines.

➤ **Distribution of compensation in installments proves unviable**

This has been a persistent complaint of the villagers. Since the people received money in a few tens of thousands at a time, they were unable to utilize the sum to purchase agricultural land or house plots. The situation of the landless labourers was especially grim. The total compensation due to them was in itself not a very large sum (Not even Rs. 1 lakh for most). Even this was received in installments. With no opportunities to receive additional monetary support in the form of loans etc. the people were unable to purchase even a house with this money. The money ended up being spent on day-to-day expenses and the repayment of loans. This has been the case even with the land owning farmers. One of the major demands of the people has been that whatever the compensation be due to them, it should be given in one comprehensive installment. They have also mentioned this in the recent letter and list of demands to the Prime Minister of the country.

Many people have also taken loans during the course of the years for various reasons from the scheduled banks. The balance payments due to the banks are also deducted from the compensation amount. It is due to these factors that many have spent the compensation amount to purchase motorcycles, tractors, pay off past loans and other recurrent expenses. The people now find that they have spent all the money and are back to the same position, where they started from.

➤ **Compensation for house and house plot**

The villagers say that after the surveys were conducted during the year 1994, there was no cross checking that was done. The surveys of the houses have been done in an arbitrary and ad-hoc manner, where only the length and the breadth of the house was measured. The number of rooms

in the house, the wood and the materials used for the construction of the house has not been valued. The monetary appraisal of the houseplot has also been done in a similarly capricious manner. Due to these reasons, the price of the houses has also been grossly undervalued. Houses, which are similar in structure and kind, have also been valued differently. Therefore while brothers of a family living in similar houses on similar sizes of plots have received varying compensation.

Since the house-plots have been undervalued, people have had to invest their own money to purchase land for the house-plot. As a result, the people do not have any money to build their houses on the house-plots. The situation of the landless labourers is particularly precarious in this regard.

➤ **Discontinuation of government services in the village**

A year ago, the *Panchayat* received notices announcing the closure of the village school, the village post office and the bank in the village. The notice also mentioned that all funds to the *Panchayat* was being terminated. The village was no more to receive funds for the repairs of roads, construction of houses under the Indira Awas Yojana and other developmental works like the deepening of the village tank. The electricity supply to the village has been terminated at some point of time in the period May-August 2002.

'True to their word', (which in other cases, the government is not) the school and the post office was shut down a year ago. The children now have to go to the neighbouring village Jalwa which is 4 kms. away. There are the Chota Tawa and 2 seasonal streams on the way to this village. During the rains, the streams are in complete flow and there is a fear of the children being washed away if the levels increase suddenly. In fact in one such episode on 15 August, 2001 while 17 children were going back home from school, a there was a flash flood in the river causing 4 of the children to drown. The fears of the families are therefore not misplaced at all.

The village had received the notice for closure of schools in May 2001. In the month of July 2001, the village staged a massive agitation against this. Some 400 children gathered on the banks of the Chota Tawa, which borders the village and decided to take Jal Samadhi, if their demand for the continuation of the school was not accepted. As a token, the fathers of 2 of the children carried them and stood in the water. Approximately 10,000 people from the other villages in the region had also gathered. Responding to this demonstration the government ordered that the school be operational for the 2 monsoon months of July and August 2001. However, the school was once again shut down within just a month. Now the children leave at 7.30 am in the morning (since that is when the only bus, which passes through this village arrives) for school which begins at 11.00 am. The children therefore spend the 3 hours near the school whiling away their time. They then have to walk back the entire distance when school leaves at 4.00 pm. (which includes a patch of the jungle therefore making it even more dangerous). Thus the children spend the entire day away from home. When the children used to go to the village school, the parents were able to keep track of whether the children were really at school or not. Several of the parents voiced their concern regarding the safety of the children and truancy. Like one of the parents said '*Kya pata school jaten hain ya phir jungle mein ber khate baithe hain?*'

In a state which has invested so much on the '*Padhna Badhna Andolan*', one really wonders about the commitment the government has towards the education of these children today. The younger children can no longer go to school since the journey back from school is too tiring and dangerous. Also those labourers whose children play a major role in the functioning of the household and who still were able to attend school in their own village, are no more able to send their children to school. Their education has been sacrificed! The future of an entire generation is now at stake.

The closing of the post office means that the people now experience difficulty in keeping in touch with relatives from other villages which are far away. The post office used to have a telephone connection making it convenient to contact relatives in times of crisis. Now the post office under

which their village is included is 15 kms. away at Baladi. The post man never comes to the village to deliver the mail, nor do they hand it over to villagers who visit the post office in Baladi.

The bank has been shut down. There used to be a branch of the MPEB, which has also been since closed (though power supply had not yet been discontinued). The ration shop and the health center are the only two government services that have not been discontinued. Though during the visit to the village in May, it was found that the village continued to receive electricity, there was a definite likelihood that this would also be discontinued this year since it has been declared that the village will be affected in the coming monsoon months. This is exactly what happened a few months hence. By the time the second visit, was made to the village, the villagers reported that their electricity supply had been disconnected. Subscriber to the 3-phase connection however, continued to receive electricity bills, even after they were cut off from electricity supply! The villagers collected a pool of money, purchased the requisite amount of wire and have reconnected themselves to the electricity supply!

### ➤ **The Rehabilitation Sites**

The government has been flippant about resettlement and rehabilitation since the inception of the project. There was no process of consultation with the people before the planning of the rehabilitation sites was done. The location of the sites, the facilities to be provided at the sites etc. was decided by the government with no consultation with the people. Since none of the sites are still equipped with any of the civic amenities that are to be provided, it appears that government seemed to have not even planned for this!

Presently, the state says that the people could receive house plots at the Bhangarda rehabilitation site, if they so desired. Since the government has not acquired any agricultural land near the site and has disposed of its responsibility of looking for suitable agricultural land on the farmers themselves, the farmers do not want to shift to this site. Also, there seems to be no operational village unit near the site and therefore there are no income sources for the landless labourers. It is therefore no wonder that no one in the village really wants to settle at the rehabilitation site! Even if any of the villagers did choose to opt for a plot at the rehabilitation site, the site is not equipped with the required facilities like water, electricity, health facilities etc. This clearly indicates that even the government does not take its offer of plots at the rehabilitation sites seriously! Now, it is also offering Rs. 20,000 in place of houseplots, thus further abdicating its responsibilities.

### ➤ **Corruption**

Corruption has been reported to be rampant throughout the process of rehabilitation right from the stage of the surveys. In 1996, when the distribution of compensation actually began, the number of cases of corruption simply exploded. A number of smaller issues, and individual grievances were also reported to the team by the people.

## **Conclusion**

There are 2 issues come up in the analysis of the situation.

### **1. Inadequacies in the policy itself**

Some of the inadequacies in the policy are as under:

- a) The entire onus of resettlement and rehabilitation is effectively on the people as the policy plays around heavily with words and discharges the government from all responsibility except the payment of cash.
- b) There are no provisions for the Kevat and Kahar castes (fisherpeople) and other families who are involved in other professions like the tailors and small shop owners.
- c) The compensation offered to the landless labourers and small and marginal farmers does not address the predicament that they find themselves in.
- d) The process of compensation in the form of installments completely defeats the purpose of compensation since the amounts received do not make the purchase of land, house or equipment viable.

- e) The creation of the process of the Sauda Chitthi itself proves that the government by creating this system had in effect absolved it self of the responsibility of identifying and purchasing land for the farmers.
- f) The policy makes no provision for the consultation and involvement of the people in the rehabilitation process.
- g) It does not provide for a clear linkage between the completion of rehabilitation and the construction on the dam.

## **2. Implementation of the policy**

If one looks at the process of the implementation of the policy, it seems the government, right from the start, had no serious intention of resettling and rehabilitating the people in just manner. They seemed to merely want to dispose off with the people. The government constantly uses the policy as a protective armour and an instrument to prove their 'good intentions'. However, it is only when one delves into the processes actually adopted that one realizes how the government has been lax both in letter and spirit. Their only design has been the construction of the dam at all costs and the government has had no qualms in bypassing the interests of the people. They have shown no scruples in the entire process, be it the implementation of the policy or even the attitude of the officials towards the people. The one stark fact that stared in the face of the team was that not one person spoken to during the visit mentioned that the entire process had been implemented in a correct manner. There was not one person in the village who had not challenged the government at some point of the process or the other regarding lapses on the government's part.

## **Summing Up**

The conclusion that stares starkly in one's face is that there has been a process of complete abdication of responsibility by the Government in Jabgaon. The resettlement and rehabilitation process is in shambles. For most of the people, there is no place to go if they are evicted from the village. For most of the people, there are no means of livelihood when their village will submerge. The cash compensation provided will not enable to them to acquire either proper housing or means of livelihood including land. Those who have been able to purchase land have done so wherever it was available and the village will be definitely fragmented in the future. On the other hand, the Government seems to be determined to make living impossible for them in their own village by discontinuing and withdrawing various amenities and facilities. Clearly, the future of the village is bleak, and this is a clear case of gross violations of basic human rights and the fundamental Right to Life guaranteed by the Indian constitution under Article 21.

## **'We Will Not Move!'**

The people today, even in the face of imminent submergence reaffirmed their stand to this team. Despite the fact that every time the people have challenged the government they have been faced repression, the people firmly told the team that they would not leave the village till all their demands had been met and they were satisfactorily rehabilitated. In a recent episode when a senior representative of the government visited the village, he told the people that violence would be let loose on them if they did not leave the village. And yet, the villagers are unequivocal when they say that they will not move until they receive what is rightfully theirs. But as Bhagvat Darbar says 'Let them bomb the village or fill it with water, that is the only way to wipe out this village!'

## **Postscript**

According to a recent High Court judgement, the Grievance Redressal Authority chaired by Shri. Ravindra Sharma is to look into the matter of resettlement and rehabilitation. This is a positive move and we hope that the fundamental problems of the people will be solved.

Due to less than normal rains this year, the village has not been submerged. However, water had entered some farms and the crops were destroyed. Manthan aims to continue to monitor the situation with the collaboration of other organizations.

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## ANNEXURE A: SOME IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF THE REHABILITATION POLICIES

1. Any person who has been ordinarily residing or carrying on any trade or vocation for his livelihood for atleast one year before the date of publication of notification under section 4 (this date is April 1, 1995 in the case of Jabgaon) of the Land Acquisition Act or has been cultivating land for at least 1 years before the date of such notification in an area to come under submergence of the project, or the canal or the colony will be considered as an affected person.
2. As mentioned earlier, the guiding principle of the rehabilitation policy is land for land. The responsibility of the identification and purchase of the land lies with the government.

Two figures are taken into consideration while determining the value of agricultural land. The value of land in the nearest command area is ascertained as well as the value of land in the non-submergence villages of the tehsil in which the village is situated. The higher of these two will be the baseline for determining the value of land submerged.

While compensating for land, the family will initially receive 50% of the compensation amount. The government retains 50% of the amount in order to purchase the land that is due to the family. The responsibility of the identification and purchase of the land lies with the government. The difference in the actual cost of the land purchased and the amount retained is considered as an interest free loan to the person affected, with some provision of treating this as a rehabilitation grant. In case a person chooses to purchase land in a place of his/her choice, the person would have to provide a proof of purchase of land in the form of a Sauda Chitthi.

In the event of a family preferring the compensation in the form of cash, the head of the household would have to apply for the same in due procedure. This procedure includes the attesting of the application by the wife and all the adult sons and daughters, the Sarpanch of the village and the *Punarvas Sathi*. The application will then be verified by the Collector and only then would it be approved. In fact the policy also mentions that cash compensation would be given only under exceptional circumstances (*'Apavad Swaroop'*).

3. The house of the project-affected person will be compensated in terms of the replacement value. While, the land on which the house is built is to be valued as per the terms stated in the Land Acquisition Act. Each family is entitled to a house plot in the rehabilitation site that will be developed for them. A detailed list of amenities that are to be provided at the rehabilitation site has been mentioned in the policy.
4. Wells are to be compensated in terms of cash. Trees are to be compensated with such amount, which will equal the earnings (fruit and energy) from the tree in a specific time period.
5. Landless labourers and labourers of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are to be given a livelihood grant which is supposed to facilitate them to purchase capital goods or equipment which would help in income generation.

### The Rehabilitation Grant

In the year 1992, the rehabilitation grant that is to be paid to the displaced family was amended. This was further amended in the year 2000. The following are the provisions of the grant:

1.

Sr. No.	Category	Old Amount	Amount after amendment
1	Landless farm labourers.	11,000	18,700
2	Families from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are landowners or otherwise.	11,000	18,700

3	Small and marginal farmers	11,000	18,700
4	Other landowners.	5,500	9,850

The Rehabilitation Grant is to be given within a year in appropriate installments.

2. Transportation assistance will be give to the families and in the event of the family making their own arrangements, they will be paid a sum of Rs. 5000.
3. A 5400 sq. mt. plot will be made available, free of cost, to each family, at the rehabilitation site. If a family decides to arrange for a house plot elsewhere, a sum of Rs. 20,000 will be given as a grant.
4. If along with possessions, the value of a home is less than Rs. 20,000, the difference will be given to the family as a grant.
5. Farm labourers and landless harijan, tribal families with be given a subsistence allowance and a grant for the purchase of productive assets to the tune of Rs. 49,300, while other landless families will Rs. 33,150 in 2 installments.

There are separate, though similar provisions for the resettlement of the people displaced from the urban areas in submergence (e.g. Harsud town).

**ANNEXURE B: DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE**  
(As given in a letter to the Prime Minister in the beginning of 2002.)

1. The entire village should be resettled as a single unit in a place, which has all the facilities that they are entitled to including agricultural land and opportunities for the labourers to find employment.
2. The names of the adult sons and daughters who have been left out of the list should be included.
3. The names of 155 people have been left out of the Special Rehabilitation Grant list. They should be included in the list.
4. People who are not original residents of the village like government officials have been included in the list and those who are original residents have not been included in the list. This should be corrected immediately. A method of recovery of compensation give to those who have thus received compensation, when they are not eligible, should be created.
5. The grandchildren of the head of the household should be entitled to similar compensation as an adult son or daughter is.
6. 40 people have been left out of the Award that has been passed for the compensation of homes. These 40 names should be included.
7. 30 wells in the village and 100 trees have not been excluded from the property list. These should be included and compensated for.
8. 400 acres land which are irrigated have been shown as unirrigated land. This should be corrected and the difference in compensation should be made to the concerned families.
9. There are 2 village temples the compensation of which has been deposited in the joint account of the Collector. This amount should be removed from there and be given to either the people who manage the temple or to the priest. Thus the land of the temple and the installation of the same are yet to be done.
10. The valuation of homes has been done incorrectly. There has been no difference made between *Kachha* and *Pucca* buildings and there has therefore been no basis for the determination of their compensation. This should be corrected.
11. The closure of the civic amenities has lead to disturbance in the lives of the people. This should be immediately corrected and the facilities should be renewed again.
12. The Land Acquisition office for the village is in Harda, which is 50 kms. away. This makes it difficult for the villagers to go there every time they need to visit the office. Instead, the office should be shifted to Harsud, which is 10 kms. away.
13. Initially the compensation for land was much lower than the amendment made in the year 1999. The difference in the amount was distributed only in the year 2000. Thus the villagers should be given an interest on the amount for 12 months.
14. The village has received no official notification regarding the increase in the Special Rehabilitation Grant. They therefore have no way of verifying the basis on which they have been compensated. They should receive immediate notification of the same so that they will be able to report anomalies that might have been there.
15. The houseplots have been compensated at the rate of Rs. 30 per sq. mt. While the neighbouring village has been compensated at the rate of Rs. 100 per sq. mt. This discrepancy should be enquired into and the necessary rectification should be made.
16. There are presently 300 people who are living in the village who have serious problems with the compensation received. But the land acquisition officer and the Collector have declared that the village should be emptied.
17. In the year 19 in an indefinite fast staged by the villagers one person had expired. Legally speaking the family of the deceased should receive a compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs, but have actually received only Rs. 2000. The family should be given the remaining sum of money.
18. The villagers have repeatedly approached the land acquisition officer, the Collector, the Chief Minister and even the Prime Minister with regards these issues but their grievances have never been addressed.

## ANNEXURE C: SOME EXPERIENCES OF THE PEOPLE

- Gulsher is a resident of Jabgaon and a tailor by profession. The family of his late brother Gulab has been included in his family and has been shown as being dependents. Since his brother, if he were alive would qualify as a major son and as an independent person entitled to be compensated, the compensation due to him should be transferred to his immediate successor i.e. his wife. In another peculiar situation, the adult grandchild of a displaced person has not been considered as one eligible for compensation and therefore the grandchild and his family has been depicted as being a dependent and has therefore no entitlement to any separate compensation.
- Arjun Singh owns 18.84 acres of land. Of this, 5.80 acres is irrigated. However the Section 12 notice he has received mentions the amount of his irrigated land as 4 acres only and he has been compensated accordingly. He has the requisite papers for the 5.80 acres, but the officials have not yet made the change in the Section 12 notice and don't seem to have the intention to do so.
- Dhansingh, the Sarpanch of the village has refused to take the compensation that has been deposited in the bank in his account. He owns 10 acres of land and a well on his field. According to Section 12, he has been paid a compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs in which he has been given only Rs. 2900 for his well. But according to him the compensation for the well should be far higher. He says he refuses to take the money until he is paid what is due to him.
- Mansaram Babulal is the *Kotwal* of the village. He does not own land in the village. In the PAP list he had been shown as a labourer and had received compensation for his home and the house plot. However, when the new lists for the Rehabilitation Grant were declared, he had been shown as a land owning farmer. The amount mentioned in the Rehabilitation Grant for the labourer is higher than that for the farmer. The rehabilitation grant package therefore announced for him is far lower than what he is entitled to. Mansaram has applied several times for a change in status, but the change has not yet been made. Today he says, '*Gaon ka rakba 4000 acres hai. Maine sarkar ko keh diya hai, muje 4000 acre ki muavza do, mein yahan se chala jaoonga. Akhir unhone hi to muje list mein kisan darshaya hai.*'
- Malai Bai and her son's name have not been included in the Rehabilitation Grant list. She received a total of Rs. 32,454 in 2 installments. Today her she has a nil balance in her bank account. She could be entitled to an amount of approximately Rs. 76,850.
- Ashoksingh Parmar who had applied for a post in a government department received his interview call letter 10 days after the date of the interview and was therefore unable to attend the interview due to the post office being relocated.
- The children are now attending school in the neighbouring village of Jalwa. 2 streams flow past the approach road from Jabgaon to Jalwa. On August 15, 2001, there was a flash flood in one of the streams. 17 children were walking back home at that point of time. 4 of these children were washed away in the floods.
- Bhagvati Amarchand Rathor's husband expired after the first installment was given. Subsequent applications have not been processed and the necessary changes have not been made to the list despite continuous efforts by her. 5 years after the distribution of the first installment she has not yet received her due. Infact she has been explicitly told that she will not receive the remaining amount in its entirety and that she will receive only 50% of the amount. The records however will be shown as having been made in full. It is therefore obvious that this is a case of serious corruption since the remaining 50% will be kept by the bank employees and the rehabilitation officer in question.

- Parvati Anokhilal's home has been valued at Rs. 731 and is entitled to a total compensation of Rs. 1082. While her husband's brothers who have similar sizes homes and house plots have received varying compensation. One of the brother's has received Rs. 33,000, another has received Rs. 19,000 and yet another brother has received Rs. 13,000 as compensation. Her brother-in-law Ashok was not married at the time of the survey and he and his mother were living together. While he was eligible for compensation as an adult son, he was refused to be included in the list since he was not married and was considered a dependent of his mother. His status has been changed only in the Rehabilitation Grant list.
- Brijlal s/o Murar Harijan, who is a resident of village Jalwa and also a teacher in the village school. His house and land are both to be submerged. He is therefore eligible for cash compensation and the special rehabilitation package, which he has already taken. When he asked for the transportation assistance that is entitled to all families, leaving the village, he was denied the assistance on grounds that he was a government employee and therefore not eligible for the compensation that he had already received. Not only would he not be provided the transportation allowance, but the compensation that he had accepted would have to be returned to the government.

**ANNEXURE D: SURVEY OF FAMILIES WHO HAVE PURCHASED LAND IN OTHER VILLAGES**

Sr. No.	Name of the affected person	Total land in the original village		Name of the village where land has been purchased	Total land purchased	
		Irrigated	Unirrigated		Irrigated	Unirrigated
1	Bapusingh Haresingh (Rajput)	13		Mandi(Nasrulaganj) Dist. Sihore	10	
2	Bhavarsingh Nathusingh (Rajput)	40		Bhamgadh (Khandwa)	16	
3	Shrajendra Kamalsingh		24	Bhamgadh (Khandwa)	7	
4	Lalsingh Kamalsingh		12	Bhamgadh (Khandwa)	12	
5	Narayansingh Kamalsingh		27	Bhamgadh (Khandwa)	10	
6	Vijaysingh Shersingh		40	Kannaud Dist. Dewas	5	
7	Kallusingh Madansingh		25	Rampura (Khandwa)	30	30
8	Nathusingh Madansingh	30	30	Rampura (Khandwa)	30	30
9	Anoopsingh Madansingh	20		Mandi (Narsulaganj)	14	
10	Gulabsingh Bhilala		7	Amalpura (Khandwa)	3.75	
11	Kallusingh Nayansingh	30	30	Sikandar (Mundi)		16
12	Bharatsingh Motisingh	20		Bijora (Near Purni)	7.5	7.5
13	Sadarsingh Chensingh	75		Badwah	20	
14	Atmaram Budya Gavli	12.5	12.5	Punasa		10
15	Mulsingh Sodansingh	40		Mandi	18	
16	Babusingh Kalu (Bhilala)		7	Richphal (Punasa)	7	
17	Babusingh Bikaji (Bhilala)	17.5	17.5	Bhurlai (Near Mundi)	10	
18	Gendalal Mulchand (Lohvanshi)		20	Gopalpura Dist. Harda		10
19	Sardasingh Khusiyalsingh	5		Pipalda (Near Kannaud)		10
20	Mangu Battu (Chamar)	0	0	Telyamal Punasa		5
21	Indersingh Khusiyalal		6	Piplani (Narsulaganj)	8	
22	Amarsingh Khusiyalal		4	Piplani (Narsulaganj)		8
23	Banesingh Mangusingh		20	Ridhvad (Narsulaganj)	5	

