

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(2025-2026)**

24

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES)**

**RIGHT TO FAIR COMPENSATION AND TRANSPARENCY IN LAND ACQUISITION,
REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT ACT, 2013 - IMPLEMENTATION AND
EFFECTIVENESS**

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT ACT, 2013 - IMPLEMENTATION AND
EFFECTIVENESS**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2025



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2025 / Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PANCHAYATI RAJ (2025-2026)**

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- Chairperson

Lok Sabha Members

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3. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
4. Shri Raju Bista
5. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
6. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
7. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
8. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
9. Shri Jugal Kishore
10. Dr. D. Ravi Kumar
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12. Shri Imran Masood
13. Shri Janardan Mishra
14. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
15. Shri K. Radhakrishnan
16. Shri Ramashankar Vidharthi Rajbhar
17. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh Alias Pavan Rajenimbalkar
18. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala
19. Shri Devendra Singh Alias Bhole Singh
20. Shri Ganesh Singh
21. Shri Vivek Thakur

Rajya Sabha Members

22. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
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24. Dr. M. Dhanapal
25. Shri Samirul Islam
26. Shri Iranna Kadadi
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28. Smt. Rajathi
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30. Shri Sant Balbir Singh
31. Smt. P.T. Usha

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- | | | |
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| 1. Shri D. R. Shekhar | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri V.K. Shailon | - | Director |
| 3. Smt Rashmi Roy | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. Shri Atul Singh | - | Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (2025-2026) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Twenty-Fourth Report on 'Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 - Implementation and Effectiveness' of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources).

2. The Committee held briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) on 17th December, 2024.

3. The Committee held further briefings by the representatives of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development), Non-Government Organizations, experts and other stakeholders, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti) [with regard to land acquisition for Ken-Betwa Link Project and Polavaram Irrigation Project], Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) [with regard to land acquisition for Roads and Highway projects], Ministry of Railways [with regard to land acquisition for Railways], Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) [with regard to land acquisition for Metro Rail projects] on 07-01-2025.

4. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development), Non-Government Organizations, experts and other stakeholders regarding issues of land acquisition on 03-03-2025 and 27-05-2025.

5. The Committee also took oral evidence of the representatives of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Tribal Affairs on the subject "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 - Implementation and Effectiveness" on 14-07-2025.

6. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 16 December, 2025.

7. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officials of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources), Non-Government Organizations, experts and other stakeholders, Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation), Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Civil Society Organisations for placing before them the requisite material and their considered views in connection with the examination of the subject.

8. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI
17 December, 2025
26 Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)

SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Rural Development &
Panchayati Raj

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

PART – I

NARRATION ANALYSIS

A. Background of RFCTLARR Act, 2013

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act, 2013) was enacted on 26th September, 2013. The objective of the Act is to ensure, in consultation with institutions of local self-government and Gram Sabhas established under the Constitution, a humane, participative, informed and transparent process for land acquisition for industrialisation, development of essential infrastructural facilities and urbanisation with the least disturbance to the owners of the land and other affected families and to provide just and fair compensation to the affected families whose land has been acquired or proposed to be acquired or are affected by such acquisition and make adequate provisions for such affected persons for their rehabilitation and resettlement and for ensuring that the cumulative outcome of compulsory acquisition should be that affected persons become partners in development leading to an improvement in their post-acquisition social and economic status and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The RFCTLARR Act, 2013 has been operational from 1st January, 2014. It contains 13 Chapters with 114 sections, and 4 Schedules.

Objective

1.2 RFCTLARR Act 2013 has provisions to provide fair compensation to those whose land is taken away, bring transparency to the process of acquisition of land, to setup factories or buildings, infrastructural projects and assure rehabilitation of those affected.

B. Application of the Act

1.3 The “appropriate Government” for implementation of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 is the State /UT Governments. The provisions of the Act relating to Land Acquisition, compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement apply when appropriate Government acquires land for own use, hold and control including PSUs and for public purpose, such as:

- For strategic purposes
- For Infrastructure projects

- Project for project affected families
- Project for housing for income groups as specified
- Project for planned development
- For PPP projects
- For Private companies for public purpose

1.4 The Act stipulates that:

- At least 80% of affected families must provide consent for private companies.
- At least 70% of affected families must consent for public-private partnership projects.

C. Land Acquisition Laws in India (1894–2013)

1.5 The first legislation in respect of acquisition of land was the Bengal Regulation of 1824. Many amendments were promulgated at various times for Madras, Bombay and for other regions under British India. Eventually, a Land Acquisition Act was passed in 1894; this legislation continued with several amendments even after independence. The Land Acquisition Act of 1894 specifically mentioned that the acquisition of land would take place for public purposes where the —Statell (central, provincial or local, societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and the cooperative societies established under the Cooperative Societies Act) would acquire land from government agencies or individual owners. The act of 1894 defined public purpose for land acquisition as those pertaining to the establishment of educational institutions, rural planning, housing, establishment of government offices, health or slum clearance schemes. The Land Acquisition Act, 1894 went through many amendments: in 1914, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1933, 1938, 1951, 1984 and 2007. But even after several amendments, its original nature remained intact. Land was leased and purchased by successive governments as —eminent domain. ll Governments also purchased land from individuals and farmers to fulfil private demands for land. In the two and a half decades after neo-liberal and market reforms were initiated, land acquisitions for public and private purposes have increased manifold, drawing criticisms and protests across the country. Such public furore forced the government to pass a new land acquisition act— The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act, 2013) which replaced the century-old 1894 act.¹ The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013 has shaped a distinguished land acquisition management categorized by market-linked reimbursement, socioeconomic appraisal and proper rehabilitation and resettlement ways for affected people. Since its enactment, it is found to be vital, in the

interest of the sustainable land procurement framework for manufacturing and infrastructural projects.

D. Brief Comparison between Land Acquisition Act of 1894 and RFCTLARR Act 2013

1.6 Prior to RFCTLARR Act 2013, the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 governed land acquisition. A brief comparison between the two Acts is given in Table below:

Item	Land Acquisition Act 1894	RFCTLARR Act 2013
Compensation		
Market Value of Land	Average value of last three years registered transactions	Average value of 50% of highest value transactions registered in last three years.
Multiplying factor	Not available	Between 1-2 (from urban to rural)
Solatium	30% (60% urgency)	100% after multiplying factor
Total Compensation	1.3 times the Market value	2-4 times the Market value
Payment of compensation	Not necessary before dispossession	Necessary before dispossession
Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R)		
Enforceability of R&R	Not binding	Binding
Inclusive of Project Affected Families	Compensation to only those whose land is acquired	Compensation to those whose land is acquired, labourers and artisans
Land for land	No provision	Essential in case of irrigation project
Infrastructural Facilities and Basic Minimum Amenities		
Amenities	No provision	Roads within the resettled villages and an all-weather road link to the nearest pucca road, passages and easement rights, Proper drainage as well as sanitation plans, Assured sources of safe drinking water, Fair Price Shops, Panchayat Ghars, Village level Post Offices, Burial or cremation ground, Drinking water and grazing land for cattle etc.

RFCTLARR Act 2013 LA Act 1894



S. No.	Item	LA Act 1894	RFCTLARR Act 2013
1.	Market Value	Average value of last 3 years registered transactions	Average value of 50% of highest value transactions registered in last 3 years
2.	Multiplying factor	Not available	1 to 2
3.	<u>Solatium</u>	30% (60% urgency)	100% after multiplying factor
4.	Total Compensation	1.3 times the Market value	2-4 times the Market value
5.	Enforceability of R&R	Not binding	Binding
6.	Inclusive of PAFs	Compensation to only land losers	Compensation to land losers, <u>labourers</u> and artisans

RFCTLARR Act 2013
LA Act 1894



S. No.	Item	LA Act 1894	RFCTLARR Act 2013
7.	Employment	No provision	Statutory provision (II Schedule)
8.	Land for land	No provision	Essential for irrigation project
9.	Payment of compensation	Not necessary before dispossession	Necessary before dispossession
10.	Time limit for R&R	No time limit	18 months
11.	Special provision for weaker section	No such provision	Provided in Section 41 & 42

E. Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

1.7 The RFCTLARR Act makes necessary for the appropriate Government to undertake a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study before any land acquisition. This process aims to evaluate the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed project. The SIA must:

- Engage with affected communities.
- Analyse potential risks and benefits.
- Propose measures to mitigate adverse effects.

While undertaking a Social Impact Assessment study, the appropriate Government shall, amongst other things, take into consideration the impact that the project is likely to have on various components such as livelihood of affected families, public and community properties, assets and infrastructure particularly roads, public transport, drainage, sanitation, sources of drinking water, sources of water for cattle, community ponds, grazing land, plantations, public utilities such as post offices, fair price shops, food storage godowns, electricity supply, health care facilities, schools and educational or training facilities etc.

F. Return of unutilized land

1.8 When any land acquired under this Act remains unutilized for a period of five years from the date of taking over the possession, the same shall be returned to the original owner or owners or their legal heirs, as the case may be, or to the Land Bank of the appropriate Government by reversion in the manner as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government.

G. Implementation of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013

1.9 Land is a State Subject and each State has its own specific revenue Laws to deal with 'Land' and its administration. This Department though administers the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, the provisions of the Act relating to Land Acquisition, Compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement are being implemented by the "appropriate Government" i.e. the State / UT Governments.

Also, the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 allows the Central Government to direct that certain provisions of the Act apply to land acquisition under 13 Central Acts specified in the Fourth Schedule of the Act. The provisions that can be applied must be beneficial to the affected families. Any exceptions or modifications must not reduce the compensation or dilute the Act's provisions.

In these 13 Central Acts, the provisions of the Act relating to Land Acquisition, Compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement are being implemented by the respective Ministries / Departments such as Ministry of Coal for "The Coal Bearing Areas Acquisition and Development Act, 1957", Ministry of Railways for "The Railways Act, 1989", Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for "The National Highways Act, 1956" etc.

1.10 In their written submission, the Department has stated the rationale behind this Act as under:

"The provisions of the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 were found inadequate in addressing certain issues related to the exercise of the statutory powers of the State for involuntary acquisition of private land and property. The Act also did not address the issues of rehabilitation and resettlement to the affected persons and their families. The RFCTLARR Act seeks to rectify these issues by providing a more equitable framework for land acquisition and addressing the needs of displaced individuals and communities"

H. Evidence of different Ministries and Departments on Polavaram Irrigation Project, Ken-Betwa Link Project and Railway Projects

In order to understand the effective implementation of the RFCTLARR Act, on 07 January 2025, the Committee had a briefing on the subject 'Right to Fair Compensation

and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 - Implementation and Effectiveness' from:

- (i) Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti), with regard to land acquisition for Ken-Betwa Link Project and Polavaram Irrigation Project.
- (ii) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) with regard to land acquisition for Roads and Highway projects.
- (iii) Ministry of Railways with regard to land acquisition for Railways.
- (iv) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) with regard to land acquisition for Metro Rail projects

1.11 With regard to land acquisition for **Polavaram Irrigation Project, the representatives of Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti)** submitted before the Committee:

“Polavaram Project is a multi-purpose reservoir project contemplated across the river Godavari near Ramayyapeta village, Polavaram Mandal in Eluru district (erstwhile West Godavari District) of Andhra Pradesh. The Project is under construction in accordance with the provisions of Inter-State Agreement, dated 02.04.1980 concluded among co basin States and the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) Award 1980. All the requisite clearances have been obtained from various agencies of Government of India.”

1.12 In their written note to the Committee the Department submitted as under:

“Polavaram Project – Salient Features

Polavaram Project is a multi-purpose reservoir project contemplated across the river Godavari near Ramayyapeta village, Polavaram Mandal in Eluru district (erstwhile West Godavari District) of Andhra Pradesh. The Project is under construction in accordance with the provisions of Inter-State Agreement, dated 02.04.1980 concluded among cobasin States and the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) Award 1980. All the requisite clearances have been obtained from various agencies of Government of India.”

1.13 **Main Components of the Project include:**

- 2467.50 m length of Earth-Cum Rock Fill (ECRF) dam / Concrete dam in three gaps (Gap-I: 564m, Gap-II:1750m and Gap-III: 153.50m)

- 1121.20 m long spillway to cater a design flood of 50 lakh Cusecs (1,41,535Cumec).
- 182km long Left Main Canal (LMC) and 178.81 km long Right Main Canal (RMC)
- The reservoir with a gross and live capacity of 194.60 TMCft and 75.20 TMCft respectively at FRL of +45.72 m (+150 ft)

1.14 **Benefits of the Project include:**

- Irrigation to 2.91 Lakh ha with Annual Irrigation of 4.36 Lakh ha
- 23.44 TMC of Drinking and Industrial Water supply to Visakhapatnam
- Domestic water supply to 28.5 lakh population in 611 villages
- Stabilisation of Godavari Delta of 9.51 Lakh ha
- Diversion of 80 TMC of water to Krishna River as per GWDT Award
- Hydro power with installed capacity of 960 MW (12 x 80 MW).
- Sharing of 5 TMC and 1.5 TMC water with Odisha and Chhattisgarh Respectively from reservoir

1.15 **Polavaram Project Authority (PPA)**

The Government of India, recognizing the importance of the Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP), declared the Project as a National Project vide Section-90 of A.P. Reorganization Act, 2014 and declared that it is expedient in the public interest that the Union should take under its control the regulation and development of the Polavaram Irrigation Project for the purpose of irrigation. It also specified that the Central Government shall execute the project and obtain all requisite clearances including environmental, forest, rehabilitation and resettlement norms.

Accordingly, Government of India constituted the Governing Body to Polavaram Project Authority and the Polavaram Project Authority to perform the mandated functions vide the Gazette Notification No.129 dated 28.05.2014.

1.16 **Inter State Issues**

The Project is under construction in accordance with the provisions of Inter-State Agreement, dated 02.04.1980 concluded among co-basin States and the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) Award 1980. Major part of submergence area of the project (i.e. 97%) falls in the state of Andhra Pradesh and remaining area is in the states of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. As per GWDT Award, 1980, to protect the lands above +150 feet in the territory of Odisha and Chhattisgarh likely to be affected due to Polavaram Project, the respective states can opt either for protection embankments with adequate pumping arrangements and /or drainage sluices or for compensation towards all buildings with their appurtenant lands on the same pattern as below +150 feet at the project cost. Accordingly, WRD, GoAP made necessary provision for construction of protection embankments in both the states in the project DPR.

WRD, GoAP, PPA, MoJS continuously pursuing with Odisha and Chhattisgarh states for conducting public hearing as per EIA notification, 2006, which are yet to be carried out by the respective states.

1.17 Current status of the Project:

Overall Progress of project as per WRD, GoAP is as under:

Sl.No.	Description	% Total Progress upto 30.11.2024
1	Head Works	74.27
A	Main Dam Package	75.60
B	Connectivity Packages	61.68
i	Left Connectivity	51.46
ii	Right Connectivity	77.89
2	Left Main Canal	72.62
3	Right Main Canal	92.75
4	Total Project	76.79
5	LA and R&R	22.66
	Overall Project	53.47

1.18 About the current status of Land Acquisition (LA) and Rehabilitation & Resettlement(R&R), the Department updated:

"The State Government has assessed that due to construction of Polavaram irrigation project, there will be submergence of 371 habitations in 222 revenue villages in ASR District (erstwhile East Godavari) and Eluru District (erstwhile West Godavari) of Andhra Pradesh. Besides 371 habitations, one habitation in LMC and one in RMC will also get displaced due to the alignment of canals passing through these habitations (Total affected habitations 373). GoAP assessed the total Project Displaced Families (PDFs) due to the project in Andhra Pradesh as 1,06,006 and the demographic details are given below:

Sl. No	Total PDFs		PDFs shifted so far	District wise Shifted PDFs	
				ASR District erstwhile EG	Eluru District erstwhile WG
1	STs	56,504	8,589	3910	4679
2	SCs	7,180	827	264	563
3	Others	42,322	3,381	1490	1891
Total		1,06,006	12,797	5664	7133

The Central and State Governments are committed to complete Land acquisition as per parameters laid down in Schedule-I of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 in respect of Polavaram Irrigation Project. The Central and State Governments are committed to rehabilitate the PDFs as per provisions of RFCTLARR Act, 2013. The necessary action is being taken to protect rights of the tribes as per PESA Act, 1996. The R&R is programmed in such a way that the entire Page 5 of 7 R&R activities of the project will be completed well before the actual impoundment of water in the reservoir.”

1.19 Land Acquisition

The Central and State Governments are committed to complete Land acquisition as per parameters laid down in Schedule-I of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 in respect of Polavaram Irrigation Project. The details of land required and acquired up to November, 2024, as reported by GoAP, for the project as a whole is tabulated below:

Description of item	Required in Acres	Cost in Rs. Crore	Acquired in Acres	Cost in Rs. Crore	Balance land to be acquired in Acres	Balance Cost in Rs. Crore
Land Acquisition	167765.13	12096.24	113124.17	5534.52	54640.96	6561.72

1.20 As per 141st meeting of Advisory Committee for 2nd RCE, assessed the land requirement for the project excluding Government and forest land as 1,55,465 acres. The Revised Cost Committee constituted by MoJS in its report of March 2020 assessed the land requirement as 1,27,262.79 acres. As informed in the earlier paragraphs, to accrue the early benefits from the project, the project is being implemented in two Phases viz. Phase-I (Water Storage up to El +41.15m) and Phase-II (water storage up to FRL EL +45.72 m). The details of land required and acquired up to November, 2024 for the Phase-I of the project, as reported by GoAP, is tabulated below:

Description of item	Required in Acres	Cost in Rs. Crore	Acquired in Acres	Cost in Rs. Crore	Balance land to be acquired in Acres	Balance Cost in Rs. Crore
Land Acquisition	100099.58	6233.62	83659.10	3853.35	16440.48	2830.27

The Revised Cost Committee (RCC) constituted by MoJS for the Phase-I of the project vide its report of March 2024 assessed the land required for the Phase-I of the project as 65,205.62 acres excluding Government and forest land.

1.21 Rehabilitation & Resettlement

The Central and State Governments are committed to rehabilitate the PDFs as per provisions of RFCTLARR Act, 2013. The necessary action is being taken to protect rights of the tribes as per PESA Act, 1996. The R&R is programmed in such a way that the entire R&R activities of the project will be completed well before the actual impoundment of water in the reservoir.

1.22 R & R Benefits as per RFCT LARR Act, 2013 is listed below:

Choice of annuity or employment per family (One-time payment) (Rs.)	Subsistence grant for a period of 12 months @ Rs 3000 pm		Transportation cost for each family (One-time payment) (Rs.)	Artisan/ Small traders and others grant, If any (One-time payment) (Rs.)	Additional support to cattle sheds/ petty shops (Rs.)	One time Re-settlement allowance for each family (Rs.)	Total (Rs. in Lakhs)
	For all families (Rs.)	Additional for SC & ST (Rs.)					
5,00,000	36,000	50,000	50,000	25,000*	25,000*	50,000	6.86 L To 6.36 L

**Applicable to Artisans/Small Traders/Cattle shed owners as per their eligibility.*

1. On an average, each SC/ST PDF receives Rs. 6.86 lakh; Other than SC/ST category PDF receives Rs. 6.36 lakh.
2. As per Second Schedule of the Act, 2013, the SCs & STs land-losers will be provided land equivalent to land acquired (or) 2.50 acre, whichever is less.
3. In addition to the above entitlements, a housing unit (plot extent 5 cents or 243.6 sq. Yards) as per IAY specifications will also be provided to each eligible Project Displaced Family as part of R&R colony with 24 amenities as per the Act.

1.23 R&R Physical & Financial Status:

The status of R&R works implemented up to November, 2024 for the Phase-I as well as overall project as reported by GoAP is as follows:

Phase	TOTAL		COMPLETED		BALANCE	
	Physical (in PDF's)	Financial (Rs. in crore)	Physical (in PDF's)	Financial (Rs. In crore)	Physical (in PDF's)	Financial (Rs. in crore)
<i>Phase I -upto 41.15m</i>	38,060	6665.95	12,797	1922.68	25,263	4743.27
<i>Phase II - above 41.15</i>	67,946	14,708.25	0	133.25	67,946	14575.00
Total	106,006	21,374.20	12,797	2055.93	93,209	19,318.27

1.24 R & R Implementation mechanism at the state and national Level

Following Committees exist at State level under provisions of “Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013” to monitor the implementation of R&R works of the project:

- District Collector of the concerned District for proposed land acquisition;
- Commissioner (R & R), Andhra Pradesh for supervising formulation of R & R schemes or plans and proper implementation of such schemes or plans; is also the chairman of the State Level Grievance Redressal Cell.
- GoAP has appointed Project Administrator and Ex-Officio Joint Collector to expedite the LA &RR works with office at Rajamahendravaram. All officers related to R&R brought under single line control of the Project Administrator.
- A Monitoring Committee for Rehabilitation and Resettlement works of the project with Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India as its Chairperson has been constituted on 12.09.2017 to oversee the implementation of Land Acquisition and R & R works.
- National Monitoring Committee had been constituted on 2nd March 2015 to provide under section 48 of Right to fair compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act 2013.

1.25 Completion Schedule

The works of PIP with water storage up to +41.15m is scheduled to be completed by March 2026, however, in view of technical challenges inherent to the project, provision for one year extension with the approval of MoJS is made in the latest cabinet approval.

1.26 During the course of evidence on 07-01-2025, the representative from Department of Water Resources submitted as under:

“The project is being executed as per the Inter-State Agreement dated April 1980 and as per the GWDT Award, 1980. Around 97 per cent of the submergence area is situated within Andhra Pradesh only and only 3 per cent is spread over Odisha and Chhattisgarh. जीडब्ल्यूडीटी एवॉर्ड के अंतर्गत, वॉटर लेवल एबव एफआरएल के लिए ओडिशा और छत्तीसगढ़ के पास भी दो ऑप्शंस हैं। The provisions were included in the DPR for construction of the protection embankments for both the States to avoid any submergence. ओडिशा और छत्तीसगढ़ पब्लिक हियरिंग नहीं कर पाए हैं। GoAP as well as PPA are consistently pursuing with both the Governments for conducting public hearings for these protective embankments”

1.27 Regarding R&R settlement of the project, the ministry further stated:

“R&R implementation mechanism is at the State level. Basically Commissioner (R&R), Andhra Pradesh is looking after all the R&R plan. He is the implementing authority as well as the Chairman of the State level Grievance Redressal Cell. The GoAP has created one Project Administrator, especially for the Polavaram Project, who has been aligned with LA and R&R officers so that it can be done in a seamless fashion. The Government of AP has created one website e-LARRM. Now, they are carrying out all the LA R&R activities in a digitalised fashion through it. A public notice for around 1,250 acres has been issued through this website.”

1.28 On being asked about since the Government of Andhra Pradesh is executing the PIP on behalf of the Government of India, including land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement work, what will be the provisions for other two states i.e. Chhattisgarh and Odisha? Whether, this will only be specific to Andhra Pradesh only?, the representative of the Ministry stated as under

“जैसा कि इनीशियल स्लाइड में बताया गया है, जो टोटल सब्मर्जेस एरिया है, वह 97 परसेंट आंध्र प्रदेश में है, जिसके बारे में यह पूरी स्लाइड प्रेजेंटेशन प्रस्तुत की गई है। तीन

परसेंट छत्तीसगढ़ और ओडिशा में है। सर, जो तीन परसेंट एरिया है, उसमें एक फंडामेंटल इश्यू ओडिशा की साइड से उठाया गया है। One is normal submergence which will be there because of FRL, that is, when the reservoir is at FRL. Then, the Government of Odisha has raised the issue of backwater. It says: What will be the area under submergence in case the project is at FRL and then a flood comes? That study has been done by the Central Water Commission and they have identified certain area which will get affected because of backwater. So, for that, a provision has been kept in the cost estimate that there could be protective embankments to protect that area against the backwater of flood. So, now that mechanism is not finalized, but we are following it with the Government of Odisha that you finalize the option. Based on the finalized option, either people can be rehabilitated or they can be provided with the protective embankment so that money can be transferred. Of course, within the State, the work will be carried out by the respective State. So, I am telling this based on the normal thing.

So far, a decision has not been taken as to who will implement that, but my understanding is that if some protective embankments are to be made within Odisha, it will be done by the State Water Resources Department and we will be funding for that.

They also submitted that: there is a second issue also. Odisha is saying that the flood which you are considering, it is lesser in intensity, and you should go in for a higher intensity of flood, which will further inundate certain area. On that, Central Water Commission has certain reservations. The Central Water Commission says, 'We never consider such high intensity flood for backwater study'. That issue is currently even under consideration of hon. Supreme Court also. The final thing is yet to be evolved for that."

1.29 While answering the specific query that "If you make a national project which affects three States, how is it only one State will drive the eventualities? Why are the stakeholders of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh not being considered?" the representative stated that:

"Actually, we have been writing to the State of Odisha and Chhattisgarh to undertake survey of the area likely to be affected and then carry out the public hearing, so that we can evolve the solution for that. But since Odisha is taking a stand that whatever studies you have done need to be revisited by considering higher intensity flood. So far that issue has not been resolved. The matter has been referred to the hon. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court initially directed the Central Water Commission to find a solution. The Central Water Commission also held several inter-State meetings under the chairmanship of Central Water Commission and they have also given their views. But still Odisha is not agreeable to that. The Central Water Commission has filed its affidavit stating the position Central Water Commission has taken. They have considered 36 lakh cusecs as the

flood for which backwater studies have been done and they are still insisting that that should be sufficient”

1.30 During the course of evidence, when asked about the issue of the environment clearance being granted without due process, and Environment Impact Assessment, the ministry submitted as under:

“Sir, basically in 2005, a study has been done. Accordingly, the MoE&F has given the environmental clearance. Sir. It has been started in 2004 itself. So, it has been continuing with that one. सर, इसमें बीच में एमओईएफ में यह बताया गया, तो प्रोटेक्टिव एम्बैंकमेंट करने के लिए ओड़िशा और छत्तीसगढ़ दोनों राज्यों से सम्पर्क किया जाए। We have been continuously approaching both the States stating that these are the embankments that we are going to construct and if these embankments are in position, then everything will be cleared and no submergence will be there. But we are not getting proper response from them. As I was saying, the discussion is going on and nothing is coming out.”

1.31 During the course of evidence, on the suggestion given by the Committee for conducting a Public Hearing and Survey in Odisha, the Department stated:

“सर, सर्वे के लिए भी हम लोग ओड़िशा और छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सरकारों को रिक्वेस्ट कर रहे हैं, and till now Odisha is not coming forth for the survey. I cannot get the survey done without their cooperation. छत्तीसगढ़ में एक ज्वायंट सर्वे हो गया था। We were able to establish certain amount of the foundation stones and they are doing their own survey whereas Odisha is not even accepting for a joint survey until and unless 36 lakh and 50 lakh cusecs get resolved. This is the major issue. Hence, we cannot come out with the figures also.”

1.32 With regard to land acquisition for **Ken-Betwa Link Project, the representatives of Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti)** in their written reply submitted as under:

“Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) envisaged transfer of surplus water from Ken basin to Betwa basin to provide water to water deficit areas of Betwa basin keeping the needs of the in-basin requirements of Ken basin involving both the States of UP and MP for ensuring equity, optimization of water use and cost effectiveness. Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the first inter-linking rivers (ILR) project which is under implementation. The project will provide irrigation to about 10.62 lakh hectares of land in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, provide drinking water to 62 lakh population to both the States. All the statutory and technical clearances of the project have been obtained. A tripartite MoA amongst the States of MP and UP and Union

Government for implementation of the Ken-Betwa link project has been signed on 22.03.2021 in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister. Further, Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority has been constituted along with Steering Committee for overall execution of the project vide Gazette Notification dated 09.02.2022. As per the provision under para 8.0 of MoA, the Rehabilitation and Resettlement(R&R) of Project Affected Families(PAFs) and Land Acquisition for the project within their territorial jurisdiction would be carried out by respective State Government in a time bound and transparent manner as per the Right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act,2013 or as per the respective State policy and as per approved Environmental Management Plan. Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid foundation stone of Ken-Betwa Link National Project on 25.12.2024 at Khajuraho, MP."

1.33 During the course of evidence, briefing the Committee about the project, their official submitted:

“महोदय, केन-बेतवा लिंक प्रोजेक्ट मुख्यतः दो नदियों के बीच में वॉटर ट्रांसफर करने की परियोजना है, जिसमें से केन बेसिन के अन्दर जो सरफेस वॉटर है, उसको बेतवा बेसिन के पारीछा बैराज से ऊपर वॉटर ट्रांसफर करना है। इसी के साथ-साथ उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार और मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के भी प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, जो पहले इससे हट कर चल रहे थे, लेकिन अब उनको भी इसमें शामिल किया गया है, जैसे मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के बीना नदी पर मड़िया डैम, चकरपुर डैम, और बेतवा नदी पर कोठा डैम है। हमारा जो मेजर लिंक प्रोजेक्ट है, वह केन नदी पर है। वहां से एक 220 किलोमीटर की कैनाल है, जो बरुआ सागर होते हुए, पारीचा में पानी को ड्रॉप करेगी। केन-बेतवा लिंक प्रोजेक्ट के अंतर्गत कमांड एरियाज दिखाए गए हैं। प्रोजेक्ट्स के जो अलग-अलग कंपोनेंट्स हैं, उनकी स्थितियों को प्रदर्शित किया गया है।”

(Verbatim: 070125 pg 75)

1.34 Regarding the current status of the project, the official further submitted:

“This brief status of the Ken Betwa Link Project with the allocation of budget under R.E., the implementation of the project has started. The Government of India wide Gazette Notification dated 9th February, 2022 constituted a Steering Committee and KBLPF for implementation of Ken Betwa Link Project. The Greater Panna Landscape Council was also constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh on 27th February, 2023. Its first meeting was held in Bhopal on 5th September, 2023. Along with this, a Monitoring Committee for R&R was also constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary D.O.L.R, M.O.R.D., in February 2023. Initial focus is on land acquisition and R&R. There is a stipulation of 80 per cent land acquisition before making expenditure on any component. All statutory

clearances, stage-II forest final approval, environment, wildlife and technical clearances have been obtained. दौधन डैम के कंस्ट्रक्शन इसकी सहायक संरचनाओं की निविदा के लिए स्वीकृति पत्र दिनांक 18 नवंबर, 2024 को इश्यू कर दिया गया है। इस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने 25 दिसंबर, 2024 को खजुराहो में आधारशिला रखी है।”

1.35 With regard Status of Land acquisition and R&R, the Department, in their reply, have submitted as under:

“Land acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) works are involved in two districts of Chhatarpur & Panna only. The LA, R&R works are being undertaken by respective Collectors as per RFCTLARR Act, 2013. The progress is as given below. a) Total private land 1223.637 ha (Chhatarpur-529.507 ha &Panna- 694.130 ha=1223.637 ha) has been acquired and mutated in favour of MP Forest department and notified under section -29 of Indian forest Act-1927. b) In addition, Award have been passed for 1384.310 ha private land under submergence of Dam and the same has been mutated in favour of MP, WRD. c) A total of 22 villages have been affected. Out of this, 9 villages of Bijawar Tehsil, District Chhatarpur are under submergence (7 fully submergence +2 partial). 5 villages of Chhatarpur and 8 villages of Panna are being displaced (relocated) out of PTR to compensate affected forest land of 6017 ha.”

1.36 Regarding Rehabilitation and Resettlement, the Department in their written submission stated as under:

“All the PAFs of the 22 villages are under PTR and to be shifted/displaced entirely only after development of R&R colony with all amenities as per RFCTLARR Act, 2013 or as per Special Package as may be opted by the PAFs. In view of the needs and aspirations of local people the Government of MP has approved Special Package on 13.9.2023 for Project Affected Families of Ken-Betwa Link Project. Based on Survey data, the total no. of PAFs have been worked out as 7193 (5228 Chhatarpur +1965 Panna). Total Population have been worked out as 16515. SC & ST population have been worked out as 1565 (1527 Chhatarpur +38 Panna) & 10187 (5947 Chhatarpur + 4240 Panna) respectively. In view of the needs and aspirations of local people the Government of MP has approved Special Package on 13.9.2023 for Project Affected Families of Ken-Betwa Link Project.

Collector, Chhatarpur and Collector, Panna has completed the land acquisition process as per the RFCTLARR Act,2013 and Notified in the Gazette of MP. After completing the valuation of 22 villages (14-Chhatarpur + 8- Panna) through respective Departments of the State Government as per RFCTLARR Act, 2013, the Awards have been

passed by the respective Collectors of Chhatarpur & Panna districts on 20-09-2023 and 27-09-2023 respectively.”

1.37 With respect to Gram Sabha Meetings and Consent of PAFs, they further submitted in writing:

“During the Gram Sabha meetings, all PAFs were informed about the provisions made for compensation in the Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan and Special Package approved by the Govt. of M.P. All the affected families of Panna District (1965) have given their consent for adopting Special Package approved by Government of M.P. In respect of Chhatarpur district, about 4772 affected families (Out of 5228) have given their consent to opt for Special Package approved by Government of M.P. and 65 have given their consent for R&R colony.

After disbursement of entire compensation to the PAFs of 22 villages, as per LA, R&R Act, 2013 or as per Special Package of Govt. of M.P. as may be opted by PAFs, the PAFs will be displaced before submergence of dam.”

(ken betwa bried pg 4)

1.38 During the course of evidence, in response to issue regarding inadequate monetary compensation to affected families, the official of the department replied as under:

“सर, उसमें बहुत लोगों के पास जमीन नहीं होगी। रीसेटल्ड लोगों का नंबर अलग है। उसमें वयस्क पुरुष भी फेमिली की परिभाषा में आ जाते हैं। यह इस वजह से है। उस ट्राइबल एरिया में ट्रांजैक्शन नहीं होता है, क्योंकि वहां ट्राइबल टू ट्राइबल ही बेच पाएंगे। इस वजह से वहां ट्रांजैक्शन नहीं होता है, इसलिए गवर्नमेंट ने स्पेशल पैकेज घोषित किया। जो कंपैरिटिव चार्ट यहां दिया है, यह इसी को दर्शाता है। सपोज कलेक्टर गाइडलाइन प्लस इस एक्ट के अंतर्गत भू-अर्जन करते हैं तो 1,942 हेक्टेअर के लिए 156.95 करोड़ रुपये आते हैं। स्टेट ने स्पेशल पैकेज अनाउंस करके उसको 267.68 करोड़ रुपये दिए हैं। जो स्पेशल पैकेज है, इसमें सपोज भू-अर्जन अधिनियम के अंतर्गत न जाकर स्पेशल पैकेज में जाते हैं तो प्रति हेक्टेअर 12 लाख रुपये शासन देता है। वहां की लैंड वैल्यू बहुत कम है, इसलिए 12 लाख रुपये प्रति हेक्टेअर स्वीकृत किया है। वहां समस्त लोगों ने जो पैकेज लिए हैं, वह स्पेशल पैकेज से ही जमीन दिया है।”

1.39 During the sitting, with regard to **land acquisition for the Railways**, **representatives of the Ministry of Railways** submitted that:

“Railways are undertaking procurement of land under “The Railway Act 1989” and “The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR)” for creation of assets for new lines, multi-tracking, etc. It has been observed

that as per the procedure laid down in the Railway Act, 1989, it takes around 27 Months for Land acquisition as against 47 - 50 months as per “The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR). Ministry of Railways has issued instructions to Zonal Railways stating that all Doubling, Gauge Conversion and only important new Line projects should be declared as Special Railway Projects and land acquisition should be done as per Railway Amendment Act, 2008. The authority to declare any project as “*Special Railway Project*” vests with General Manager of Zonal Railway.”

Land acquisition through Railways Act,1989

- To be done for Railway projects which have to be completed in a specified time frame
- **Clause 37 A of Railway Act 1989** :To invoke provisions of Railway Act, 1989, Project to be declared as “**Special Railway Project**” by Zonal Railway
- CAO issues Gazette Notification declaring a project as “**Special Railway Project**” with the approval of GM
- **Clause 7A of Section 2 of Railway Act 1989** : CAO of the Zonal Railways to issue notifications of nomination of Competent Authority for Land Acquisition (**CALA**)

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No. 2010/LML/12/8

New Delhi, dated 21.02.2020

**The General Managers,
All Indian Railways.**


Sub: Acquisition of land for Railway Infrastructure Projects for public purpose.

Ref: Railway Board's letter of even number dated 22.11.2017.

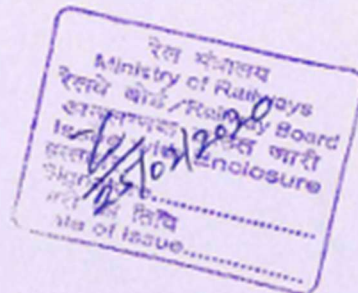
In supersession of Railway Board's letter of even number dated 22.11.2017, following instructions are issued:-

It has been found as per procedure laid down in the Railway Act, 1989, it takes only 27 months for acquisition of land against 47-50 months as per "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013". As such, it is desired for all such railway infrastructure projects which have to be completed in a specified time frame, the land should invariably be acquired through the provisions of Railway Act, 1989 by declaring them "Special Railway Projects". This is within the competence of the Zonal Railways as per Railway Board's letter of even number dated 19.12.2014.

This issues with the approval of Board (ME).


(Ajay Sharma)
Executive Director/L&A-I
Railway Board.

कृपया लक्ष्मी करे
24/02



9C

1.40 Comparison between RFCTLARR Act 2013 & Railways Act,1989

Item	RFCTLARR Act, 2013	Railway Act, 1989
Acquiring Agency	State Govt.	Center Govt. through Railway
Social Impact Study	Applicable under Section 4 - 9	Not Applicable
Intention to acquire land	Section 11	Section 20A
Declaration of Acquisition	Section 19	Section 20E
Award By Collector	Section 23	Section 20F
R&R Award	Section 31 to 37	Section 20 (O)
Average Time Taken for complete Process	47-50 months	27 Months

1.41 During the Course of evidence, the CEO Railway Board submitted before the Committee:

“Land acquisition, basically it is done through two modes. Either it is done by the Railways Act 1989 or it is done through the RFCTLARR Act. So, if you see the distinction, basically whenever we require new projects, line upgradations, or new railway lines, there, we are going by the Railways Act, 1989 and for other cases we are going by the second provision. Largely, we are doing the land acquisition as per the Act of 1989. So, as per the Clause 37A of the Railway Act 1989, we have to invoke the provision of Railways Act 1989. Under that, we declare that project as a special railway project. It is because those are the projects which are for the large public use and they have to be expeditiously sanctioned and expeditiously executed. So, what happens is this. The Chief Administrative Officer, which is one in each Zonal Railways, issues a Gazette notification declaring those projects as the special railway projects. जनरल मैनेजर के अप्रूवल के बाद वे उसको जारी कर सकते हैं। यदि आप क्लॉज 7ए देखें तो जोनल रेलवे का जो सीईओ होता है, वह लैंड एक्विजिशन के लिए कंपिटेंट ऑथोरिटी नोमिनेट कर सकता है। वह रेवेन्यू ऑफिसर होता है। यह उस डिस्ट्रिक्ट के हिसाब से होता है।

यह केवल एक लेटर है, जिसके माध्यम से सभी रेलवे जोन को बताया गया है कि आपको किस तरह से रेलवे लैंड का अधिग्रहण करना है। This is a letter. Whenever there are

new projects, we go by the special projects. That is a direction to all the Zonal Railways which come under the Railway Board. So as far as the competent authority is concerned, largely they are the Revenue Officials. When we write to the District Magistrate, he identifies one of the SDMs or Tehsildars. He is nominated at the CALA. Basically, we make a request to the State Government, and once he nominates it, then we notify it in the Gazette.”

1.42 In response to query regarding absence of Social Impact Assessment provision in the Railways Act 1989, and suggestion to use RFCTLARR Act, 2013 for compensation at Market value and rehabilitation, the official replied as under:

“Sir, only social impact analysis is not followed, otherwise the rates and all the other things are followed by this Act only through Section 26. If you see the rates, they will be same whether we do by this process or that process क्योंकि जहां तक रेट की बात है, शेड्यूल-1 के सैक्शन-26 में, जहां एसडीएम को यह पावर दी गई है। उसका सेट रूल है, उसके दो-तीन नियम हैं। It is highest of those values.”

1.43 With regard to land acquisition for the **Metro Rail projects, representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** submitted that:

“Metro Rail Companies across the country have built and are building huge infrastructure for providing clean and comfortable commuting services to the people. To meet its requirements of land, they have to resort to various options for land procurements as per the suitability in the particular situation. Metro Companies require land from Central and State Government Departments, agencies, autonomous bodies, statutory bodies as well as sometime private land. As per Metro Rail Policy, 2017, the cost towards land acquisition and related Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) are to be borne the State Government. Govt. Land for the metro rail projects is mostly provided by the State Govt. free of cost to the metro companies. Private land is being acquired under Land Acquisition Act. Prior to enactment of new act i.e. “Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013 land was being acquired under Land Acquisition Acts applicable in the respective States, since the land acquisition and related Rehabilitation & Resettlement are State subjects. As land is the State subject and most of the metro rail companies are on 50:50 equity partnership between Central Government and State Government, land acquisition and related rehabilitation and resettlement is done by the Metro Rail Companies and State Government concerned. The project affected persons are provided necessary rehabilitation as per the policy of the State Government by providing alternative residence, commercial shops/establishments or compensation etc.”

1.44 Raising issue with regard to delay in land acquisition under the Act, they also suggested modification in RFCTLARR Act, 2013:

“Metro projects are not required to seek Environmental Clearance under Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification for the purpose of land acquisition. Similarly, as the process of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is time consuming, it is proposed that in the Central Act, 2013 itself, the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for land acquisition in case of Metro Projects may be exempted since metro rail projects which are important infrastructure projects and are of linear nature”

1.45 With regard to **land acquisition for Roads and Highway projects, representatives of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** submitted that:

“The amount of compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement entitlements are determined by the Competent Authority for Land Acquisition (CALA). Provisions of First, Second and Third Schedule of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (RFCTLARR), 2013 are applicable for acquisition done under NH Act w.e.f. 01.01.2015. Sections 26-30 of the RFCTLARR Act are the guiding Sections for calculation of compensation for land acquisition”

1.46 On the query regarding non-applicability of SIA in National Highway Projects; the official of the NHAI submitted during the evidence:

“सोशल इम्पेक्ट असेसमेंट आम तौर पर लीनियर प्रोजेक्ट्स पर नहीं होता है। एनएच एक्ट 1956 के प्रोसीजर्स काफी प्रोजेक्ट्स पर लागू नहीं होते हैं। इसके सैक्शन 3 में प्रोवीजन्स में सब प्रोजेक्ट्स लीनियर हैं।”

I. In order to understand the applicability of the LARR Act regarding land acquisition in tribal and forest areas, the Committee also took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 14-07-2025.

1.47 The representative of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** submitted before the Committee:

“This Voluntary Village Relocation Plan is currently underway, operating only in tiger reserves, and it's fully aligned with the Wildlife Act and our Recognition of Forest Rights Act. No relocation process can be initiated without a resolution from the Gram Sabha. I'd like to bring this to your attention again. Furthermore, Sir, another important point is that the provisions provided in Section 2B of the Recognition of Forest Rights Act recognize critical wildlife habitats, including national parks and sanctuaries. However, we haven't yet been able to implement this plan in national parks and sanctuaries because it requires a small amount of funding, which is a problem. Secondly, in the important core areas of Tiger Reserves, the process was accelerated a bit after the problems that arose after 2012-13,

but even then, only one-third of the people who came forward voluntarily have been relocated. This arrangement is completed only after keeping their rights fully in mind. One thing that becomes clear from this is that we do not resort to and do not implement the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 in our voluntary village relocation. It is a long-drawn process which involves seeking their mutual consent and then offering them the land and seeking their voluntary acceptance. Only after that we are able to do it.”

1.48 In their brief note submitted by **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, the Department stated:

“NTCA is not implementing the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013; The Act does interact with environmental concerns, especially regarding the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) which falls under the purview of MoEFCC for environmental clearances. A crucial component of the Act is the requirement for a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for every land acquisition project. This assessment, involves public hearings and community involvement, where environmental considerations are evaluated. MoEFCC plays a role in the environmental clearance process related to projects requiring land acquisition. While the Department of Land Resources is the lead agency for the Act, the environmental impact of land acquisition is a critical aspect that MoEFCC's environmental clearance process addresses, particularly through the SIA. regarding rehabilitation and resettlement mentioned in the LARR Act, even though it is not implemented, similar kind of rehabilitation and resettlement is taken up in case of voluntary village relocation as per guidelines issued vide F. No. 15-4/2010-NTCA (Part-III) by the National Tiger Conservation Authority is as per the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The guidelines issued by NTCA with respect to voluntary village relocation has to be implemented by the concerned State Government and its authorities as land is subject matter of the state. Therefore, the National Tiger Conservation Authority assists the tiger range states by hand holding and providing necessary funding support subject to availability of funds after duly scrutinizing the detailed proposal for voluntary village relocation submitted by State Government.”

(Bg Note: NTCA)

1.49 Regarding Forest Rights Act, 1980; the department submitted in their written reply:

“The Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 was enacted on 25th Oct 1980. It is a unique piece of legislation and a regulatory mechanism intended to protect the country's rich biodiversity and natural

heritage. It is regulatory in nature and not a prohibitory Act and permits unavoidable use of forest land for various developmental purposes.”

1.50 **Adhiniyam vis-à-vis Forest Rights Act, 2006 and LARR Act, 2013**

The statutory processes as envisaged under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 does not abrogate or infringe the sanctity of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

The Adhiniyam and Rules made thereunder do not bar or infringe upon the operation of other laws which mandate prior consent of Gram Sabhas, such as Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The said Act provides for acquisition of rights of land owners including persons granted rights under the FRA, 2006.

Cases which involve R&R of the villagers from the Protected Areas are dealt and disposed of in accordance with the order dated 28.03.2008 Hon'ble Supreme Court i.e. these proposals are exempted from the payment of NPV and CA.

1.51 During the course of evidence, the officials of the Department submitted before the Committee:

“फॉरेस्ट कंजर्वेशन एक्ट, जिसको वन संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन अधिनियम कहते हैं, उसके संबंध में यह प्रेजेंटेशन प्रकाश डालेगा। आप अवगत हैं कि जब किसी वन क्षेत्र से कोई लीनियर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर या निर्माण कार्य होना होता है, तो ऐसे वन क्षेत्र का डायवर्जन भारत सरकार की पूर्वानुमति से होता है। वन संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन अधिनियम के तहत प्रस्ताव राज्य सरकार से आते हैं और भारत सरकार समीक्षा उपरांत उनकी पूर्वानुमति देती है। इसमें कई बार ऐसा होता है कि जब यह विषय सामने आता है कि डायवर्जन होने से पहले जो फॉरेस्ट कम्युनिटी जंगल क्षेत्र को यूज कर रही है या उसके आस-पास रह रही है, उसके राइट्स का सेटलमेंट एफआरए के तहत हो जाना चाहिए।”

(proceeding 140725, pg 4)

1.52 The official further added:

“सर, वन संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन अधिनियम **1980** के तहत वर्ष **2022** व **2023** में वन संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन रूल्स आए हैं, जिनमें इस बात की व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित की गई है कि जब भी कोई डायवर्जन होगा, तो दो चरणों में होगा। डायवर्जन के स्टेज **1** में प्राथमिक अप्रूवल मिलता है और स्टेज **2** में फाइनल अप्रूवल मिलता है। रूल की धारा के उपधारा-7 में इस बात का प्रावधान है। मैं उसको पढ़ना चाहता हूँ-

“The State Government and the Union Territories administration as the case may be after receiving the final approval of the Central Government under

sub-Section 1 of Section 2 of the Adhiniyam and after fulfilment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribe and other traditional forest dwellers and recognition of Forest Rights Act 2006 shall issue orders for diversion, assignment of lease or de reservation as the case may be. सर, इस बात का पूरा ख्याल रखा गया है कि वन क्षेत्र की किसी भी भूमि का डायवर्जन करने से पहले फॉरेस्ट राइट के तहत प्रक्रिया पूर्ण होने व अन्य विधिक प्रक्रियाएं पूर्ण होने के बाद ही डायवर्जन, असाइनमेंट ऑफ लीज़ या डी-रिजर्वेशन राज्य द्वारा किया जाएगा। हालांकि डायवर्जन में एक्वीजीशन नहीं होता, लेकिन डायवर्जन में फॉरेस्ट राइट्स का पूरा ख्याल रखा गया है और विशेष व्यवस्था रूल्स में मेन्शनड है कि बिना उनके राइट्स सेटल हुए राज्य कोई भी डायवर्जन नहीं कर सकता है।””

1.53 In their power point presentation during the evidence, the Department submitted:

Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 vis-à-vis LARR Act



- Provisions of Adhiniyam do not abrogate or infringe the statutory process envisaged under:
 - The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
 - Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.
- In accordance with the provisions of the Rule 11(7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, the State Government is required to ensure settlement of rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 before handing over the forest land to the user agency.

1.54 During their presentation, in response to a clarification whether LARR Act is not applicable to Environment and Forest Ministry, or the National Conservation Authority, NTCA, why is the Land Acquisition Act not applicable, especially for compensation; the Department of Land Resources replied:

“In the RFCTLARR Act, Schedule 4, 13 Acts are listed. And it is mentioned that land acquisition related, these are the 13 central acts to which this act will apply. In that, these 13 Acts, they are not listed.

1.55 During the course of evidence, the **representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs** submitted as under:

“सर, हम लोग का काफी लिमिटेड रोल है। हम लोग सिर्फ पट्टा देने का रोल प्ले करते हैं, न कि लैंड एक्वायर करने का, इस संबंध में हमारा रोल बहुत लिमिटेड है। हम लोग सिर्फ राइट्स को एंशोर करने की कोशिश करते हैं।“

“(Sir, our role is quite limited. We only play the role of granting leases, not acquiring land. In this regard, our role is very limited. We only try to ensure rights.)”

J. Submissions by various Civil Society Organisation: Land Conflict Watch and other stakeholders affected by the alleged faulty implementation of this Act.

During the course of examination, Committee held discussions with various Civil Society Organisations and other stakeholders affected by the alleged faulty implementation of this Act.

1.56 During the course of evidence, one of the non-official witnesses representing '**Land Conflict Watch**' submitted before the Committee:

“The LARR is quite clear on land acquisition in Scheduled Areas—acquisition has to be the last resort, under Section 41 of the act. In the event that land has to be acquired, prior consent for acquisition must be obtained either from the Gram Sabha, the Panchayats or the Autonomous District Councils. Once such consent is granted only then can the authorities issue a “preliminary notification,” i.e. the official announcement by the government about its intent to acquire land. This preliminary notification is issued under Section 11 of the LARR. The PESA also mandates that the Gram Sabha or Panchayats must be consulted before any land acquisition in Scheduled Areas.”

1.57 Highlighting the September 2024 report on the Performance Audit of Land Management in Scheduled Areas of Odisha, the non-official witness stated that:

“CAG flagged 136 cases of land acquisition Odisha scheduled areas. In each of these 136 cases, state authorities bypassed multiple provisions of the LARR and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act of 1996 (PESA), to push through projects. The report, covering the period from 2017-2022, audits land management in Odisha’s Scheduled Areas—regions that fall under Schedule V of the Constitution, mainly inhabited by tribal communities, that get special protections for indigenous rights, culture, and land.”

1.58 The non-official witness also submitted that:

“Despite stricter legal safeguards for land in Scheduled Areas, land across the four districts of Kalahandi, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, and Sundargarh, was acquired “without conducting GS meetings, disregarding the views of the GS, obtaining consent of the GS without the required quorum, conducting GS meeting after issue of preliminary notification,” as per the CAG.”

District	No. of LA cases, where GS meetings were required to be held	No. of GS meetings actually held	No. of GS meetings not held	No. of GS meetings conducted, without required quorum	No. of cases, where land was acquired, disregarding the views of the GS	No. of LA cases, where GS meetings were held, after issue of preliminary notification u/s 11
Sundargarh	97	64	33	-	29	-
Koraput	93	59	34	24	-	10
Kalahandi	5	1	4	-	-	-
Mayurbhanj	39	37	2	-	-	-
Total	234	161	73	24	29	10

1.59 Regarding land acquisition without conducting GS meetings, he submitted that:

“In 73 cases of Land Acquisition involving 297.4886 acres of land in Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Kalahandi districts, consent of Gram Sabha has not been taken. These are for projects such as the Telengiri Major Irrigation Project (TMIP), the Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Link Project (TBRLP), the Ret Irrigation Project (RIP) and for roads and approach roads to bridges.”

District	Project	No. of LA cases	Area in acres	Period of land acquisition
Koraput	TMIP	34	37.36	2017-22
Sundargarh	Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Link Project (TBRLP)	29	247.64	November-December 2021
	For roads and approach road to bridges	4	4.1736	October 2018 to April 2022
Kalahandi	RIP	4	7.02	June 2017 to August 2018
Mayurbhanj	For roads and approach road to bridges	2	1.295	March to December 2021
	Total	73	297.4886	

1.60 Raising the issue of obtaining consent of GSs, without the required quorum, he presented before the Committee that:

“The audit further revealed that in 24 cases of land acquisition in the 4 districts, consent of gram sabhas were obtained without the required quorum. According to rule 17 of LARR’s Social Impact Assessment and Consent Rules of 2014, a valid quorum requires at least 50 per cent of the total Gram Sabha members, with at least one-third of the sabha’s total women members in attendance. Between April 2021 and July 2022, the collectors of Koraput and Nabarangpur districts issued preliminary notifications for 41 cases, involving 871.246 acres of land for the Jeypore-Nabarangpur and Jeypore-Malkanagiri Rail Link Projects. These notifications were based on GS consents. However, CAG found that in 24 of these cases, the gram sabha meeting attendance was just 0.30 to 8.80 per cent, and the participation of women members was also missing.”

1.61 Quoting from the CAG report he also pointed out following issues:

- (i) Issue of preliminary notifications, disregarding the views of the GS
- (ii) Conducting GS, after issue of preliminary notification

K. Non-official witnesses and experts from the State of Gujarat

1.62 During their deposition before the Committee on 03.03.2025, **a group of experts and stakeholders from Gujarat** submitted before the Committee as under:

“For land acquisition, public purpose, tourism should not qualify is our humble submission. If change of public purpose is changed, there should be some transparent process where affected people come to know on what has happened, why it has happened, and whether it is justifiable. I am making these submissions especially because these areas happen to fall under Schedule 5 areas. Schedule 5 areas should have some element, some level of autonomy. There is the role for Panchayat Extension Scheduled Areas law, PESA laws, autonomy, Gram Sabha, etc. The Gram Sabha has to be in the picture where any decisions affecting people's lives are made.

On land acquisition, my submission is that there is rampant violation of the Land Acquisition Act, whether old or new. For instance, there is the Sardar Sarovar project and there is a small weir, Garudeshwar weir. Garudeshwar weir has submerged lands of farmers without acquisition. This has happened since 2017-18”

1.63 Raising the need for notifications for land acquisitions to be published in local language also, they also submitted:

“The notification is only in English and Hindi languages. वहां के आदिवासी लोगों के लिए गुजराती भी उतनी ही फॉरेन लैंग्वेज है, जितनी की हिंदी या अंग्रेजी। मैं सब्मिशन कर रहा हूं कि हिंदी ओर अंग्रेजी में नोटिफिकेशन होगा तो अफेक्टेड लोग उसे कैसे पढ़ेंगे”

पाएंगे। मेरी लायबिलिटी या लिमिटेशन हैंडिकैप्ड के लिए बननी चाहिए। वहां के लोगों को हिंदी और अंग्रेजी में नोटिफिकेशन समझ में नहीं आएगा।“

1.64 One of the experts submitted:

“आदिवासी के सामने बहुत सारे इश्यूज, प्रॉब्लम्स और चैलेंजेज हैं। ये आजादी के बाद से चली आ रही हैं। There is a confusion regarding laws. फंडामेंटल जो इश्यूज हैं, confusion of laws regarding the administration and protection of the scheduled areas and Scheduled Tribes. The Constitution is very clear that the Scheduled Areas are protected areas for tribals. The administration and legal framework are governed by Article 244(1) – the provisions of the Fifth Schedule – for empowerment of these tribal communities for tribal-friendly, sustainable development, and progress and welfare. The FRA of 2006, PESA Act of 1996, and the Land Acquisition Act of 2013 are fundamentals for the protection and development of tribal communities in ensuring land rights and forest rights. But the ground reality is very different”

L. Submissions by various stakeholders and experts from the State of Odisha

1.65 During their deposition before the Committee on 03.03.2025, **a group of experts and stakeholders from Odisha** also deposed before the Committee raising concerns about faulty implementation of LARR Act. Their major submissions were as under:

“I would like to inform the committee members that there are several arbitrary processes have been adopted by the district administrations of Rayagada and Kalahandi in Odisha under the direction of the state government. The first being, with regard to the diversion of forestlands under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for Sijimali bauxite mines. The second being, diverting village common lands to Industrial Development Corporation of Odisha (IDCO) for creation of a land bank in Sijimali region. The third being, despite Sijimali being a Fifth Schedule Area under the Indian Constitution, the process of land acquisition is being undertaken without the knowledge and consent of the Gram Sabhas. The fourth being, the legal rights of affected forest-dwelling communities as enshrined under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been arbitrarily set aside by the district administration in the entire process of land acquisition.

- Fake Gram Sabhas for Diversion of Forestlands: *No Prior and Informed Consent of the People, Falsified Consent of Gram Sabhas*
- Diversion of Village Common Lands for IDCO Land Bank
- Land Acquisition Without Consent of Gram Sabhas
- Non-recognition of Rights Under FRA 2006
- Lack of Informed Consent
- Absence of Genuine Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

- Inadequate Compensation and Rehabilitation

M. Submissions by various stakeholders and experts from UT of Lakshadweep

1.66 During their deposition before the Committee on 03.03.2025, **various stakeholders and experts from UT of Lakshadweep** raised following issues before the Committee:

- ❖ Unsustainable levels of acquisition
- ❖ denial of fair compensation
- ❖ denial of equal partnership to natives STs in matters of development in the UT of Lakshadweep
- ❖ absolute denial of land compensation to native STs of Minicoy Island,
- ❖ alleged land grabbing by the administration resulting a total of 1250 acres of land is proposed to be grabbed and a large portion of grabbed land is to be handed over to non-tribals where private hotel/tent cities are being planned,
- ❖ lower compensation at the rate of 200% in place of 400% value of acquisition, lower compensation Rs. 350/sq. mtrs, for lands in more deserving areas and Rs 2500/sq. mtrs in other areas etc.

N. Submissions by various stakeholders and experts from UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1.67 During the course of evidence, one of the **non-official witnesses raising the issues of Land acquisition in Andaman Nicobar Islands** submitted that

“a proposal initiated under the aegis of Government of India, titled Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island, was proposed by the Niti Aayog and which is proceeding towards initiation by the Andaman Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) whereby forested land being de-notified from its status as a Tribal Reserved area for use in the commercial enterprise of the holistic development proposal and its diversion for non-forestry purpose; the said lands are specifically reserved (ANPATR 1956/7) by the Government of India for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of the Shompen Community, as well as the Scheduled Tribe (ST) of Nicobarese in Great Nicobar Island.”

1.68 The expert mainly raised following concerns:

“Forested lands reserved for the Shompen (PVTG) and Nicobarese (ST) communities are being de-notified for commercial use under the ‘Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island’ project and the acquisition violates the spirit and provisions of ANPATR and RFCTLARR 2013 applicable in Scheduled Areas. Great Nicobarese were displaced post-2004 tsunami and have repeatedly requested return to ancestral lands. Project components

are being planned on these ancestral lands without community consent, undermining their right to return and traditional livelihoods. Shompen habitats and foraging grounds near the East-West Road and southern Great Nicobar are under threat, risking cultural and ecological collapse. Flawed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) claims no human habitation in project zones, contradicting evidence of Shompen presence and Nicobarese dependence on these lands. Internal contradictions in the EIA acknowledge Shompen activity in Galathea but dismiss impact concerns. Also, the compensation mechanisms are inadequate and fail to consider socio-cultural, economic, and environmental needs of the tribes. The acquisition process lacked transparency, fairness, and meaningful consultation”

1.69 During the study visit of the Committee in **Sri Vijay Puram in November, 2025**, a **group of local civil society organisation** raised following concerns regarding the project:

- Over 131 sq km of forest land and 84 sq km of the Tribal Reserve will be destroyed, severely impacting the indigenous Shompen (PVTG) and Nicobarese (ST) communities.
- The project threatens one of the most biodiverse rainforests, posing risks to endemic flora, fauna, and marine ecosystems.
- The Shompen and Nicobarese Tribes live in the statutorily protected Tribal Reserve, notified under the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation (ANIPATR), 1956.
- Section 11 of ANIPATR prohibits any law violating its provisions, yet the project proceeds without proper consultation with the Tribal Council.
- The Andaman & Nicobar (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009 mandates consultation with the Tribal Council, which has been ignored.
- In November 2022, the Tribal Council withdrew its NOC, stating that the government had misled them about the project’s scale and impact.
- Despite this, the government proceeded with environmental clearances, making the Stage-I Forest Clearance invalid.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in April 2023 ordered a stay on the project and directed a High-Powered Committee to assess the environmental impact.
- The SIA study was conducted by Probe Research and Social Development Pvt. Ltd., a Delhi-based agency, with no expertise in tribal affairs.
- The assessment ignored the Shompen and Nicobarese tribes, despite their clear stake in the project’s impact.
- No anthropologists or tribal welfare experts were consulted, violating the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, which mandates evaluating effects on the entire local community.

- The 8.88 sq. km airport project area falls under deemed forest and Tribal Reserve, yet no consideration was given to its impact on tribals.
- Instead of restoring lost forests, the government proposed afforestation in Haryana, thousands of kilometers away, making a mockery of ecological compensation.
- This move benefits private developers while completely disregarding the ecological and livelihood loss of the indigenous communities.
- Scheduled Tribes Commission was not consulted, violating Article 338(9) of the Indian Constitution.
- The government ignored the Andaman administration's official Shompen Policy (2015), which prioritizes tribal welfare over large-scale projects.
- The Shompen, a nomadic hunter-gatherer tribe, will lose access to forests, food sources, and traditional living areas.
- The Nicobarese, a farming and fishing community, will suffer due to restricted land and coastal access.
- The project will force cultural assimilation, endangering the Shompen's isolation-based lifestyle, leading to potential extinction.
- The project violates constitutional protections for Scheduled Tribes, warranting a Presidential reference under Article 143 to the Supreme Court.
- Environmental and tribal rights laws are being bypassed under the pretext of "strategic" importance, setting a dangerous precedent.
- The NGT's stay order has not been complied with, raising concerns over judicial defiance.
- The proposed widening of existing roads and the construction of new ones will have catastrophic consequences for the Shompen. Contact with outsiders will become unavoidable, and the resulting social and ecological impacts will be irreversible. Such exposure will not only make the Shompen vulnerable to diseases for which they possess no immunity but also to exploitation, stigma, addiction, and ridicule. The trauma of witnessing the destruction of their forests and traditional lands will be immense. Additionally, the intrusion of non-tribal settlers will likely result in encroachment upon indigenous lands and intensify inter-band conflicts over scarce space and dwindling natural resources.

1.70 They also submitted:

"The administration's repeated claims that tribal communities will not be displaced by the Great Nicobar Project are entirely misleading and inconsistent with the ground realities of the island. Within the forested Galathea basin—an area directly included in the project zone—there exist three to four southern Shompen settlements. These lands encompass hunting and foraging grounds, as well as sacred spaces that are central to

their migratory traditions and cultural identity. Furthermore, the Great Nicobarese, who own land in the villages of Chingenh, Pulo Bha, Hingloi, Pulo-pucca, and Kokeon, have already become internally displaced persons. They now live in Rajiv Nagar and Campbell Bay, far removed from their ancestral territories. Thus, the official narrative of “non-displacement” is patently false.”

PART – II

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Strict Implementation of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR)

The Committee take note of the alleged faulty implementation of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act), particularly in Scheduled Areas governed by the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA). While the Ministry has outlined the statutory framework and reiterated the legal safeguards available under the Act, including those relating to fair compensation, multiple displacements, Scheduled Tribe protections, and procedural steps such as Social Impact Assessment (SIA), the Committee are of the considered view that the response is insufficient in addressing the core issues raised. The Committee is concerned that, despite the existence of these statutory provisions, there continue to be violations in practice like undervaluation of land particularly in Scheduled Areas where market transactions are restricted; delayed or superficial Gram Sabha consultations without proper documentation or availability of materials in the local language; exclusion of women and vulnerable groups from the consultation process; and mechanical issuance of compliance certificates without genuine engagement with affected communities. These practices substantially undermine the intent of the Act and dilute trust in the acquisition process. The Committee, therefore, does not endorse the Ministry's view that the presence of statutory safeguards is sufficient. It emphasize that the real challenge lies in their consistent and rigorous implementation, particularly in Scheduled Areas where constitutional protections under Article 244(1) and the Fifth Schedule, read with PESA Section 4, impose a special duty on the State to uphold peace, good governance, and participatory decision-making. The Committee recommend that every acquisition in Scheduled Areas must follow the full procedural sequence laid down in Sections 4 to 8 of the RFCTLARR Act. In particular, the Gram Sabha consultation mandated under PESA must be embedded

within the SIA process, not conducted separately or after key decisions have already been taken. The Committee recommend that the SIA, in its statutory scope under Sections 4–6 of the Act, must clearly identify all affected families as defined in Section 3(c), including livelihood-dependent households reliant on forests, commons, water bodies, and minor produce. The SIA must also include mapping of community resources, the loss of which would trigger entitlements. The Section 5 public hearing must fulfil the consultation requirement under PESA by ensuring that Gram Sabhas are provided with the draft SIA, proposed compensation framework under Sections 26–30, details of Rehabilitation and Resettlement entitlements under Schedules II and III, and special protections under Sections 41 and 42, in the local language and with adequate time for review. The Expert Group under Section 7 must record the influence of Gram Sabha inputs on its findings, and the Section 8 decision must explicitly apply the statutory tests: assessment of public purpose, evaluation of alternatives, benefits outweighing social costs, and confirmation that only the bare minimum land is being acquired. The Committee further recommend that compensation awards under Sections 26–30 must transparently disclose base market value, applicable multiplier, and solatium, with public display at the village level. No possession of land should occur until after the full Rehabilitation and Resettlement package is delivered or site-ready in accordance with Sections 37–38 of the RFCTLARR Act. This includes provision of land for land (Section 41(2)) of the Act wherever feasible, with reasons recorded where not feasible; subsistence and shifting allowances; housing or housing site; annuity or employment options; and community infrastructure. Requirements relating to cultural identity and proximity under Section 41(5) of the Act must be fulfilled and documented. The invocation of urgency powers under Section 40 of the Act must not be used to bypass the procedural safeguards of Sections 4–8 for planned projects. For the sake of transparency and public accountability, the Committee strongly recommend that all relevant documents, including the SIA report, Gram Sabha records, Expert Group appraisal, Section 8 decision, compensation details, and R&R implementation status, be published on an official portal in the local language. Any instance where the mandated consultation, assessment, or appraisal process has been circumvented or post-dated must be

treated as a material procedural violation, subject to review and, if necessary, rectification or re-initiation of the process in accordance with the Act. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 must be implemented in its entirety and true spirit, especially in Scheduled Areas. State-specific amendments or administrative practices that dilute its core protections must be discouraged. The Committee urge the Ministry to adopt a proactive monitoring and enforcement role ensuring fair and just treatment of families affected by the development projects.

2. Strengthening Role of Gram Sabha

The Committee note that The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (LARR Act, 2013) significantly strengthens the role of the Gram Sabha, ensuring grassroots participation in the land acquisition process with key provisions of mandatory Prior Consent of Gram Sabha under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution and Social Impact Assessment to empower rural communities, especially tribals and marginalized groups, with a decisive role in safeguarding their land and livelihoods. The Committee is highly concerned about the growing incidents where consent of Gram Sabha is obtained on paper just as a formality without actually involving the majority of the population being affected by the respective projects. The Committee recommend to give more power to Gram Sabha by making their consent mandatory for all land acquisitions, not just in Scheduled Areas and to give Gram Sabha the power to veto land acquisition proposals that do not align with local development plans or community interests. Recommendations made by Gram Sabha during Social Impact Assessment (SIA) processes should be made binding for implementation.

3. Strict compliance of PESA rules

As per the provision of the LARR Act, for land acquisition in Scheduled Areas, consultation with the Gram Sabha shall be in accordance with the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) 'PESA' Act, 1996. Taking a note of representations made by several experts and non-official witnesses before the Committee that such provision is not being followed, the

Committee is of the view that to ensure just and equitable land acquisition in tribal areas, it is essential to align the LARR Act, 2013 with the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), that will empower local communities and Scheduled Tribes with decision-making authority over land, natural resources, and development. The Committee, therefore recommend to codify mandatory consent of the Gram Sabha under PESA for all land acquisition in Scheduled Areas within LARR provisions and empower Gram Sabhas to review, approve, or reject land acquisition proposals as part of the Social Impact Assessment process. The Committee urge upon the Department of Land Resources to ensure strict compliance of this important provision in letter & spirit. The concerned officials must be trained to understand the tribal culture for better and sincere implementation of the PESA rules.

4. Integration with Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

The Committee is informed about many instances where forest land is being acquired in violation of the provisions of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. The Committee feel that linkage between the LARR Act and FRA is essential to safeguard forest communities' land and resource rights, ensure their meaningful participation and consent, and provide fair rehabilitation, making land acquisition processes more just, transparent and inclusive. The Committee note with concern that in several forest land acquisition and relocation packages, affected families are offered a meagre uniform cash compensation, often around Rs. 15 lakh per family, which does not take into account the real value of land, housing, common resources and forest-based livelihoods lost. For instance, in Rajasthan, families relocated from the core area of Sariska Tiger Reserve have been offered Rs. 15 lakh in cash as one of the options in lieu of relocation, a package that has been repeatedly criticised as inadequate in relation to long-term livelihood loss and the absence of robust rehabilitation. The Committee, therefore, recommend integrating FRA and the LARR Act to ensure that land acquisition in forest areas cannot proceed without recognition and settlement of forest rights under FRA and without the written consent of the Gram Sabha as required by FRA. The Committee also recommend that community forest resource (CFR) titles be incorporated as part of the compensation and rehabilitation process and that the loss of customary and

community forest use rights be explicitly treated as economic displacement, warranting full and fair rehabilitation rather than nominal lump-sum payments.

5. Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Committee observe that in some cases where Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) are being carried out just as a formality with reports favouring the acquisitions. The SIA, mandated by the LARR Act, focuses on the social and economic consequences of land acquisition on local communities while SIA provisions to assess and mitigate the environmental impact of projects requiring land acquisition. These provisions help in making informed decisions about projects and mitigating their potential adverse environmental effects, alongside addressing the social and economic impacts on affected communities. The Committee strongly recommend the DoLR to ensure that both EIA and SIA are being strictly followed as per the guidelines envisioned in the LARR Act.

6. Fair and adequate compensation in tribal areas

The law (Land Acquisition Act 2013) says land value must be worked out fairly (sections 26 to 30) with a multiplier in rural areas plus 100 percent solatium and it gives extra safeguards for Scheduled Tribes (sections 41 and 42) like land for land as far as possible moving people close to their old habitat and protecting culture and access to forests. The Committee found in some instances that this promise is not met. Circle rates are old or set low, so the base value is weak. Distress sale deeds drag prices down. There are very few proper sale deeds, so “market value” does not reflect real worth. Common resources that keep tribal families alive, grazing land, community forest resource areas, sacred groves, water source, shifting cultivation patches, paths to collect bamboo, honey, fuelwood, fodder, medicinal plants, wild foods, are left out. Forest rights and community forest resource claims are still pending when awards are made. Part of the money comes late or in small advance pieces before alternate land or houses are ready, and there is no proper adjustment for inflation loss. Land for land is promised, but good irrigated plots are not mapped or offered. Women’s names are missing on replacement land papers. Forest-dependent families without formal titles and

pastoral or share-cropping users are left out or given only token help. All this means people lose not just land but daily livelihood and food, and energy security. The Committee recommend treating every acquisition in Scheduled Areas and other tribal dominated blocks as needing a fuller “livelihood value” along with the cash land value. Before starting acquisition, update circle rates using independent valuers and real arm’s length sales, and where there are too few sales, use a farm productivity and soil quality method. Use the highest allowed rural multiplier in hilly and forest zones, and if evidence shows it is still too low, advise raising the legal ceiling. Map and test alternative land early and offer land for land first; if the plot offered is poor or far, refusal must not push a family into cash only. List and value community assets and put that value into a ring-fenced community fund managed by the Gram Sabha with clear release steps. Finish all forest rights (individual and community) decisions in the project footprint before giving any award. Put women as joint owners on new land titles and issue at least half of annuity or revenue share papers in joint or women’s names. Add an automatic indexed interest if the payment is delayed beyond three months. Bring recognized non-title users (proved by Gram Sabha resolution) into livelihood restoration with transitional subsistence support. Pay in two stages, so the larger second part comes only after the replacement land and basic services are ready. Publish parcel-wise details (base value multiplier, solatium livelihood add-on total paid dates) on a public portal so people can see and compare. Set up an independent panel to check random awards and order corrections. Track each year for five years how household income, food diversity, time spent collecting fuel and fodder, and farm output compare with the baseline; if recovery is poor, give extra support. This makes compensation match real livelihood loss, protects tribal families from sliding deeper into poverty, and turns the legal promise of fair payment into a working reality.

7. Strengthening Rehabilitation and Resettlement for Displaced Tribal Families

The Land Acquisition Act 2013 together with its Schedules and the special safeguards for Scheduled Tribes (including land for land to the extent possible, relocation near the original habitat, protection of cultural identity and continued

access to forests and community resources) lays down a legally binding rehabilitation and resettlement framework which must be implemented *in letter and spirit strictly in conformity with the Act, Rules and notified guidelines*, not treated as discretionary. The goal is to provide fair compensation, new housing and restoration of livelihood to improve their socio-economic conditions post displacement. The Committee is informed of instances where statutory provisions and rules have not been so applied: cash is disbursed before a demarcated and service-ready relocation site exists; “land for land” is offered only on paper or of inferior quality; relocation colonies lack potable water, drainage, irrigation access, school and functional health sub-centre; subsistence allowance ends before restored income flows; skill training is generic and unlinked to market or project demand; assured employment or annuity options do not materialise; community grazing land, forest access routes and sacred/cultural sites are not recreated or legally secured; women are not recorded as joint owners; non-title but legally recognised forest dependent and pastoral households are excluded; grievance redress remains unsatisfactory; and post-award monitoring is absent. The Committee recommend strict operational compliance: no possession or physical displacement until (i) replacement house site or agricultural land is surveyed, pegged and soil-tested, (ii) core services (all-weather access road, safe drinking water source, lighting, drainage, primary school access, health sub-centre) are functional, and (iii) community resource mapping (grazing, forest access, cultural/sacred paths, local market space) is completed and legal securing instruments issued. A family-wise livelihood restoration plan, cross-referencing pre-displacement income sources, shall specify concrete replacements (productive land, employment commitment, enterprise grant, forest produce value addition support, livestock or fishery package) with time-bound milestones; training modules must correspond to verified demand and placement targets. Compensation disbursement shall occur in sequenced tranches, with the larger second tranche contingent on certified site readiness; indexed interest shall apply automatically to delays beyond prescribed periods. “Land for land” shall mean land of equal or superior productive potential (or supported by a financed improvement plan such as assured irrigation within a defined timeframe); refusal

of unsuitable land shall not negate the entitlement. All forest rights (individual and community) and community forest resource boundaries within the project footprint must be finally determined before award implementation in that area. Women shall be recorded as joint owners on all replacement titles, and at least 50 per cent of annuity or revenue-share instruments shall bear joint or women's names. Recognised non-title livelihood dependents identified by the Gram Sabha resolution shall receive livelihood restoration and transitional subsistence support commensurate with their demonstrated dependence. A public transparency portal shall display relocation site status (plots, services, photographs), benefit delivery timelines, livelihood restoration progress indicators, and grievance entries with disposal status. Independent annual audits for five years post-displacement shall measure household income recovery, land productivity, time required for fuel and water collection, school attendance, and basic nutrition diversity; failure to meet recovery benchmarks shall trigger supplementary restoration measures. A structured, time-bound grievance mechanism (village desk to district appellate tier) with escalation limits shall be instituted. Full compliance in this manner preserves statutory intent, secures livelihoods and cultural continuity, reduces conflict and litigation, and achieves rights-consistent development outcomes.

8. Strengthening the National Monitoring Committee for Rehabilitation & Resettlement:

The Committee find that the functioning of the National Monitoring Committee (NMC) under Section 48 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 and its periodic review of projects such as the Ken–Betwa Link and Polavaram have not been able to quell the discontent amongst the settlers. The Committee express serious concern that despite such institutional mechanisms, there has been no significant reduction in grievances relating to land acquisition, compensation, rehabilitation, and resettlement, especially in the context of large-scale inter-basin river linking projects. These projects, including Ken–Betwa, involve diversion of water across ecological and social boundaries, requiring acquisition or diversion of forest land, riverine habitats, floodplains, and community resources. They therefore trigger multiple legal frameworks, including the RFCTLARR Act (Social Impact

Assessment and public hearing under Sections 4–8; compensation valuation under Sections 26–30; sequencing of possession under Sections 37–38; and Scheduled Tribe safeguards under Sections 41–42), as well as forest, environmental, wildlife, irrigation, dam safety, and disaster management laws. The Committee understand that several recurring deficiencies such as steps often proceed segment by segment without a single basin-wide cumulative social, hydrological and ecological assessment; Gram Sabha consultation is conducted late and without full documentation; community and individual forest rights remain unsettled at the time of diversion; downstream flow alteration, sediment trapping, ecological flow, groundwater recharge, and climate resilience are poorly modelled; alternative strategies such as reduced storage, phased implementation, cropping pattern shifts, watershed recharge, and decentralised irrigation are not transparently assessed; and livelihood impacts on fishers, graziers, forest produce collectors, women, and other marginalised groups are inadequately represented. As a result, projects face protest, litigation, delays, and cost escalation. The Committee therefore, recommend that all such projects must begin with a single integrated baseline and options framework under the RFCTLARR sequence, starting with a basin-to-basin Social Impact Assessment (SIA) that identifies every category of affected family under Section 3(c), including cultivators, tenants, labourers, fishers, pastoralists, forest dwellers, artisans, Scheduled Tribes, and women-headed households, while mapping seasonal dependence on water bodies, forests, and common lands. This SIA must also cover the likely hydrological and ecological impacts of proposed diversion and storage on downstream flows, recharge, biodiversity, and livelihoods, so that Section 8 findings on public purpose, alternatives, and minimum land requirement are evidence-based. All Gram Sabhas in the affected area must receive vernacular summaries, maps, and options at least thirty clear days before any decision meetings. No diversion or acquisition decision should proceed until all individual and community forest rights, including Community Forest Resource (CFR) claims, are fully adjudicated. Consultation or consent resolutions must certify that cumulative impacts and alternatives were explained. The Committee recommend that Social and Environmental Impact Assessments be integrated, with shared datasets and analysis of induced land use

change. Ecological flow regimes and adaptive management measures, such as drought contingency plans, flood release timings, and sediment flushing, must be enforceable project conditions, with community and independent expert involvement in monitoring. All affected persons, including non-title livelihood dependents, must receive compensation under Sections 26–30 of the Act with transparent market value, multiplier and solatium, and be entitled to Rehabilitation and Resettlement benefits under Schedules II and III, such as subsistence allowances, housing, annuity or employment options, skill training, and community infrastructure, in a manner that ensures no possession occurs before the R&R plan is fully implemented, as per Sections 37–38 of the Act. For Scheduled Tribe families, the safeguards under Sections 41–42 of the Act, such as land-for-land, relocation near original habitat, cultural identity protection, and continued access to forests, must be clearly documented and certified. Replacement or sustained access to fisheries, grazing, forest produce, and women’s livelihood spaces must be secured as part of the R&R plan, since cash alone is insufficient. The Committee recommend the Ministry to strengthen the National Monitoring Committee structurally and functionally to actively intervene in such cases, establish clear monitoring guidelines and timelines, set up a centralised grievance redressal portal, and ensure that cumulative impact assessments, Gram Sabha processes, and entitlements are implemented in full letter and spirit of the RFCTLARR Act. The Ministry should take all sincere efforts to achieve the goal of the said Act i.e. just compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement for the displaced, aiming for a humane and transparent process.

9. Recognition of the livelihood of people in Lakshadweep land acquisition by private and Government players under the LARR Act

The Committee is informed of instances where proposals in Lakshadweep have proceeded on the claim that because the foreshore reef flat beach or lagoon edge is Government land, its taking or enclosure does not amount to acquisition affecting people. The Committee disagrees with this view and records that the Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 expressly protects livelihood dependents on Government and common land. Section 3(c) defines “affected

family” to include persons whose primary source of livelihood for three years prior depends on water bodies, forests or common property resources, as well as artisans, small traders, and others whose livelihood is hit and families losing access to common property resources. Section 3(d) extends the “affected area” to the wider locality losing livelihood or common resource access. Section 3(k) gives a broad meaning to land, including benefits arising from land, thus covering working beach and reef use. Sections 4 and 5 require the Social Impact Assessment and the public hearing to identify and list all such affected families and assess impact on livelihoods, fishing grounds, landing beaches, drying and net mending spaces, water sources, and common resources, not only titled parcels. Sections 6 and 7 of the Act require publication and independent appraisal, and Section 8 requires a reasoned decision showing public purpose alternatives and bare minimum land need after weighing the livelihood costs, including loss of working shore or reef access. As per sections 26 to 30 of the Act and Schedules II and III, require fair compensation and Rehabilitation and Resettlement benefits for all affected families not only title holders while Sections 37 and 38 of the Act restrict possession until award and R and R are in place for those families and Sections 41 and 42 of the Act (where affected persons are members of Scheduled Tribes) add safeguards of land for land cultural identity and proximity to original habitat. The Committee recommend strict implementation of these provisions in letter and spirit without dilution or procedural bypass so that any project enclosing or reclaiming Government coastal or lagoon land first conducts a proper Social Impact Assessment listing all livelihood users (fishers gleaners net menders boat repairers vendors), documents three year livelihood dependence through Panchayat and cooperative records seasonal calendars and photographic or GPS evidence, examines and discloses genuine alternative siting or design (alignment adjustment shared jetty relocation without blocking traditional access), applies the bare minimum land test to avoid alienation of working shore, and integrates relocation or replacement access (equivalent landing beach safe navigation channel drying and net mending space storage shelter path to market) as part of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan before any possession. There must be some logical reasons for Government ownership or use of urgency clause (Section

40 of the Act) may be used like strategic purpose to skip identification appraisal or consultation steps, and any approval or possession action taken without counting such livelihood users as affected families otherwise it is liable to be reviewed. This approach gives effect to the Act's clear text, protects lawful livelihood dependence on common coastal spaces, and reduces future conflict delay and cost.

10. Recognition of livelihood users in Great Nicobar under the LARR Act

The Committee recommend strict implementation of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 in letter and spirit so that all people whose primary livelihood depends on Great Nicobar's forests coasts creeks beaches reef flats and common paths are treated as "affected families" under Section 3(c) of the Act even where the land is recorded as Government or forest land. Before any further step the acquiring authority must complete a fresh Social Impact Assessment (Sections 4–5 of the Act) identifying Nicobarese and Shompen livelihood use zones (fishing and landing points canoe routes shifting cultivation cycles forest produce and honey gathering sacred and cultural sites), publish the report (Section 6 of the Act), obtain independent appraisal (Section 7 of the Act) and issue a reasoned decision applying the public purpose alternatives and bare minimum land tests (Section 8 of the Act). Compensation (Sections 26–30 of the Act of the Act) and full Rehabilitation and Resettlement entitlements (Schedules II and III), including livelihood access preservation or equivalent replacement and the special Scheduled Tribe safeguards (Sections 41–42 of the Act), must be in place before possession (Sections 37–38 of the Act). Any ongoing or granted approval that did not enumerate and provide for these livelihood users should be reviewed and be made in conformity with the existing Act.

11. Safeguarding Affected Communities in the Ken–Betwa Inter-Basin Water Transfer

Inter-basin river linking projects like Ken–Betwa divert water across ecological and social boundaries and require acquisition or diversion of forest land, riverine habitat, floodplains and community resource areas, thereby triggering the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (Social

Impact Assessment and public hearing, Sections 4–8 of the Act; compensation valuation, Sections 26–30; possession sequencing, Sections 37–38 of the Act; Scheduled Tribe safeguards, Sections 41–42 of the Act), along with forest, environmental, wildlife, irrigation, dam safety and disaster management frameworks. The Committee are informed of some instances where steps advance segment by segment without a single integrated cumulative social, hydrological and ecological assessment in local language; Gram Sabha consultation is late; individual, community and habitat/community forest resource rights are unsettled when diversion moves forward; downstream flow alteration, sediment trapping, dry-season ecological flow, recharge and climate scenarios are weakly modelled; alternative design and demand-side options (reduced storage, phased implementation, efficiency, cropping pattern shift, watershed recharge, decentralised micro-irrigation) are not transparently compared; fisheries, grazing, minor forest produce and women’s livelihood roles are under-represented; and protest, litigation, delay and cost escalation follow. The Committee recommend a single prior integrated baseline and options framework strictly under the LARR sequence: one basin-to-basin Social Impact Assessment (Sections 4–5 of the Act) covering the full acquisition and influence zone must first identify every category of affected family as defined in Section 3(c) of the Act, including cultivators, agricultural labourers, tenants, share-croppers, inland and riverine fishers, pastoralists, forest produce gatherers, artisans, small traders, Scheduled Tribe households, women headed households and all livelihood users of water bodies, forests and common property resources, mapping seasonal dependence on river stretches, floodplains, sand bars, grazing patches, fishing pools, collection zones and access paths. The Committee are of the view that assessment must also document (within its social impact scope) how proposed diversion and storage would change hydrology, ecological flow, downstream livelihoods, and groundwater recharge so Section 8 of the Act findings on public purpose, alternatives, benefits versus social costs, and bare minimum land are evidence-based. Gram Sabhas must receive vernacular summaries, maps, and option comparisons at least thirty clear days before decision meetings; all individual and community forest rights (and community forest resource claims where applicable)

inside the affected tracts must be finally adjudicated before diversion or acquisition decisions; consultation or consent resolutions must certify that cumulative impacts and alternatives were explained. Social and Environmental Impact Assessments must be integrated so that hydrological, biodiversity, livelihood, and cultural datasets are shared; downstream cumulative effects and induced land use change are explicitly analysed. Ecological flow regimes and adaptive management triggers (drought contingency, flood release timing, sediment flushing pulses) should become enforceable approval conditions with community and independent expert participation in monitoring. All people so identified, title holders and non-title livelihood dependents alike, must receive compensation and Rehabilitation and Resettlement entitlements without exclusion: compensation determined under Sections 26–30 of the Act with transparent market value, multiplier and solatium; Rehabilitation and Resettlement benefits under Schedules II and III (subsistence and shifting allowances, housing site/house where eligible, annuity or employment option, training, community infrastructure, livelihood restoration) sequenced so that no possession occurs before award and R&R readiness (Sections 37–38 of the Act). Where Scheduled Tribe families are present, Sections 41–42 of the Act safeguards (land for land as far as possible, relocation near original habitat, cultural identity, and continued access to forest and community resources) must be documented and certified. Replacement or sustained access to fisheries grounds, grazing areas, forest produce zones, and women’s livelihood spaces must be secured as part of R&R; cash alone is insufficient.

12. Safeguarding Affected Communities in the Polavaram Project

The Polavaram (Indira Sagar) multipurpose project, planned for irrigation, hydropower and drinking water supply, covers a wide riverine and forest-fringe landscape where, according to project material and submissions, villages and dispersed hamlets, agricultural and podu (shifting/settled) cultivation plots (including fallows), orchards, riverbank gardens, fishing and ferry ghats, sand bars used for seasonal crops, grazing stretches, minor forest produce collection zones, sacred groves, burial and cremation grounds, and internal paths to schools, health

sub-centres and weekly markets are identified within the influence and submergence area. The Committee are informed through community representations, expert inputs and Ministry briefings of omissions or late inclusion of tribal habitations and seasonal podu plots; segmented rather than integrated Social Impact Assessments; Gram Sabha meetings convened before settlement of individual and community forest rights; valuation gaps (outdated circle rates, exclusion of attached assets and multi-season crop value) under Sections 26–30; R&R sites announced before service readiness; “land for land” for Scheduled Tribe families replaced by cash without evidence of informed voluntary choice; inconsistent identification of non-title livelihood users (fishers, boat operators, forest gatherers, pastoral users) despite Section 3(c); inadequate recording of women’s joint ownership; and weak post-award livelihood restoration monitoring. The Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 already provides a binding safeguard chain which must be applied in letter and spirit to every affected person, title holder, and non-title livelihood dependent alike, without dilution or procedural bypass. Section 3(c) requires inclusion of all families whose primary livelihood for the preceding three years depends on land, water bodies, forests or common property resources (cultivators, share-croppers, agricultural labourers, podu cultivators including fallows, inland/riverine fishers, boat service providers, forest produce gatherers, artisans, small traders, pastoral users, Scheduled Tribe households, women-headed households). Sections 4–5 require a comprehensive, up-to-date Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and genuine local-language public hearing for the entire influence area (not segmented) mapping agricultural cycles, podu cycles, fishing ghats and seasons, forest produce calendars, grazing routes, women’s collection points (fuelwood, fodder, water), cultural and sacred sites, burial grounds, service access routes and enumerating every affected family. Section 6 requires publication of the SIA and Social Impact Management Plan; Section 7 requires independent Expert Group appraisal with written findings on public purpose and whether alternative design, height, storage level, phasing or layout could reduce displacement; Section 8 requires a reasoned Government order demonstrating public purpose, that benefits outweigh recorded social costs, that only bare minimum land/area is taken

and that genuine alternatives and unutilised previously acquired land were examined. Compensation must be determined strictly under Sections 26–30 (market value using appropriate comparables or productivity method where sales are thin, application of multiplier, 100% solatium, inclusion of trees, perennial crops, attached improvements) with transparent disclosure (village notice boards and portal). Sections 37–38 sequencing must be honoured: no possession or physical displacement until after award and until all R&R entitlements are in place or demonstrably site-ready. R&R under Schedules II & III must provide subsistence and shifting allowances, housing site and house (where eligible), annuity or employment option, training, and community infrastructure (all-weather road, potable water, school, health sub-centre, community hall, place of worship, burial/cremation ground, market space) plus livelihood restoration measures (replacement/improved fishing ghats, access to minor forest produce zones, grazing/fodder arrangements, women’s livelihood spaces). Sections 41–42 protections for Scheduled Tribes require land for land of equal or better productive potential (or with an assured improvement plan), relocation near original habitat, protection of cultural identity and continued access to forest and community resources, each certified through Gram Sabha resolutions before displacement; inability to offer suitable land cannot be converted into implied cash acceptance. Urgency (Section 40) is inapplicable to this long-planned project and must not be invoked to bypass safeguards. Accordingly the Committee recommend commissioning or updating a single integrated SIA where segmentation or outdated baselines persist; completing adjudication of all individual, community and community forest resource rights within influence and resettlement footprints before awards and relocations in those areas; reviewing and correcting or, where necessary, setting aside any prior steps lacking full Sections 4–8 compliance, adjudicated rights and certified R&R readiness; and establishing a public transparency portal showing, settlement by settlement: SIA disclosure date, public hearing record, Expert Group findings, Section 8 rationale, compensation award data (de-personalised), R&R site readiness (plots, water, power, road, school, health sub-centre), land for land allotments (area, soil quality, irrigation status), livelihood restoration indicators (post-relocation income, agricultural yield, fisher

access continuity, forest produce access, women's time burden changes), cultural site relocation status and grievance entries with resolution. The Committee recommend strict, universal implementation of all applicable LARR provisions (Sections 3, 4–8, 26–30, 37–38, 41–42 and Schedules II & III) so that any continuing actions on Polavaram proceed only on a lawful, evidence-based, rights-consistent foundation that safeguards affected communities.

13. Preventing Manipulation in Land Classification and Ensuring Compliance under RFCTLARR Act

As per Sections 41 and 42 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act), clear protections and consultation requirements are established to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Scheduled Areas. These provisions ensure that fair compensation, comprehensive Social Impact Assessments (Sections 4-8), and systematic Rehabilitation and Resettlement Schemes (Sections 16-19) are meticulously followed. The Committee expresses significant concern regarding emerging practices of converting Greenfield land into Brownfield and reclassifying rural land into urban areas through alterations in administrative boundaries, particularly within infrastructure projects such as Bharatmala. These manipulations are deliberately aimed at reducing compensation liabilities, undermining the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability embedded within the RFCTLARR Act. To counter these issues effectively, the Committee recommend establishing a dedicated Central Monitoring and Grievance Redressal Mechanism under Chapters VII and VIII of the RFCTLARR Act, explicitly tasked with oversight of land classification processes. This mechanism should strictly enforce guidelines prohibiting arbitrary conversion of land statuses and inappropriate reclassification without transparent justification and public scrutiny. The Committee further recommend mandating detailed disclosures, including rationale, administrative orders, and supportive documentation for any changes in land classification or administrative boundaries, accessible through an online public platform. Rigorous audits and evaluations of land acquisition projects, specifically targeting compliance with statutory

classification norms, must be implemented. The Committee also stresses ensuring swift grievance redressal for affected parties challenging inappropriate land classification and resultant compensation determinations. Clearly defined penalties under Chapter XII (Offences and Penalties) must be enforced against any official involved in unauthorized manipulation of land classifications or boundaries to diminish rightful compensation entitlements.

14. Establishment of a Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Authority

The Committee note that, under Section 51 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, the responsibility for establishing Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Authorities (LARRAs) lies with the respective State and Union Territory Governments. However, the Committee expresses serious concern that, despite the clear statutory mandate, many States have yet to constitute these Authorities, even more than a decade after the Act came into force. This failure not only delays justice for project-affected families but also undermines the core objectives of fairness, transparency, and timely redressal envisaged in the Act. The Committee, therefore, recommend for the urgent establishment of LARRAs in all States and UTs. In this regard, the Committee strongly urge the Ministry of Rural Development to proactively coordinate with State Governments to ensure the timely notification and operationalization of these Authorities. The Ministry may also consider issuing necessary advisories, providing technical support, and compiling periodic compliance reports from the States. Furthermore, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry set up a central monitoring mechanism to assess the functionality of LARRAs, with particular focus on the speed of dispute resolution, enforcement of compensation and rehabilitation, and retrospective audit of acquisitions to ensure adherence to the provisions of the RFCTLARR Act. Moreover, recognising the long-term economic vulnerability of farm families whose agricultural land is acquired, particularly for revenue-generating commercial or industrial projects, the Committee recommend insertion of a new provision establishing a mandatory community stake and profit-sharing mechanism. This mechanism should guarantee, in addition to existing compensation and R&R entitlements, either a share of project equity (held through a statutory trust at the

Gram Sabha or Panchayat level) or a percentage of gross project revenues, whichever is higher, credited annually for a minimum of fifteen years. The trust should use these funds transparently for livelihood restoration, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and annuity support for the most vulnerable. Such a mechanism would give enduring meaning to the Act's objective of improving the post-acquisition standard of living, reduce grievances, and align long-term project benefits with community welfare, while retaining the compensation and rehabilitation entitlements already due under law. Skill development for the displaced and affected persons can also become crucial to integrate them back to the labour workforce and contribute their economy.

NEW DELHI
17 December, 2025
26 Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)

SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Rural Development &
Panchayati Raj

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (2024-25)

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY, THE 17th DECEMBER, 2024**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1630 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Sandipanrao Asaram Bhumare
3. Shri Raju Bista
4. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
5. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
6. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
7. Shri Naba Charan Majhi
8. Shri Imran Masood
9. Shri Janardan Mishra
10. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
11. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
12. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh Alias Pavan Rajenimbalkar
13. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala
14. Shri Ganesh Singh

Rajya Sabha

15. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
16. Shri Samirul Islam
17. Shri Iranna Kadadi
18. Shri Sant Balbir Singh
19. Shri Vaiko

Secretariat

1. Shri Vinay P. Barwa - Director
2. Shri L. Singson - Deputy Secretary

**Representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development
(Department of Land Resources)**

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri Manoj Joshi	Secretary
2.	Shri R. Anand	Additional Secretary
3.	Shri Kunal Satyarthi	Joint Secretary

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 4. | Shri P. K. Abdul Kareem | - | Economic Advisor |
| 5. | Dr. Sanjay Kumar | - | Deputy Director General |
| 6. | Shri Sarvadanand Barnwal | - | Director |
| 7. | Shri Vijay Kaushik | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 8. | Shri Mayank Paul | - | Section Officer |

**Representatives of the Ministry of Jal Shakti
(Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)**

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri Praveen Kumar	- Commissioner (SPR)
2.	Shri Deepak Chandra Bhatt	- Sr. Joint Commissioner

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for having a briefing by the representatives of Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) on the subject 'Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013-Implementation and Effectiveness'.

[Thereafter the representatives from the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) were called in]

4. The Secretary, Department of Land Resource (Ministry of Rural Development) after taking permission from the Chairperson directed the Additional Secretary (Department of Land Resources) to make a Power Point Presentation on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 - Implementation and Effectiveness'.

5. Subsequently, Members raised their individual queries. The queries of the Members were replied by the Secretary, Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development). Certain issues which remained unanswered alongwith those which warranted elaborate reply, the Ministry were requested to send written replies thereto in writing within 15 days.

[The Witnesses then withdrew]

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (2024-25)

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY, THE 7th JANUARY, 2025**

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 16:30 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Sandipanrao Asaram Bhumare
3. Shri Raju Bista
4. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
5. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
6. Shri Jugal Kishore
7. Shri Naba Charan Majhi
8. Shri Imran Masood
9. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
10. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh Alias Pavan Rajenimbalkar

Rajya Sabha

-Nil-

Secretariat

1. Shri D. R. Shekhar - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Vinay P. Barwa - Director

**Representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development
(Department of Land Resources)**

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri Manoj Joshi	- Secretary
2.	Shri R. Anand	- Additional Secretary
3.	Shri P. K. Abdul Kareem	- Economic Advisor
4.	Dr. Sanjay Kumar	- Deputy Director General
5.	Shri Sarvadanand Barnwal	- Director

Non-government Organisations, Experts and other Stakeholders

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Organisation/Designation
1.	Shri Kumar Sambhav Srivasatava	- Land Conflict Watch
2.	Shri Tushar Dash	- Independent Research and Expert on FRA

Representatives of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Organisation/Designation
1.	Shri Vinay Kumar	- Joint Secretary, MoRTH
2.	Shri Abhay Jain	- Director, MoRT&H
3.	Shri Vibhav Mittal	- CGM, NHAI
4.	Shri Vimal	- GM, NHAI
5.	Shri A. K. Dogra	- GM, NHIDCL

Representatives of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Organisation/Designation
1.	Shri Baleshwar Thakur	- Director General, NWDA
2.	Shri Praveen Kumar	- Commissioner (SPR), DoWR, RD&GR
3.	Shri Bhopal Singh	- Member, CWC
4.	Shri Atul Jain	- CEO, PPA
5.	Shri P. K. Dixit	- CEO, KBLPA
6.	Shri Rakesh Kumar	- Sr. JC. (BM), DoWR, RD&GR
7.	Shri Deepak Chandra Bhatt	- Sr. JC (SPR), DoWR, RD&GR
8.	Shri M. Raghuram	- Member Secretary, PPA
9.	Shri John Kingsly	- Secretary, WRD, Madhya Pradesh
10.	Shri O.P.S. Kushwa	- Consultant, WRD, Madhya Pradesh

Representatives of the Ministry of Railways

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Organisation/Designation
1.	Shri Satish Kumar	- Chairman & CEO, RB & Ex.-officio Principal Secretary to the Gol
2.	Shri Naveen Gulati	- Member (Infrastructure) RB & Ex.-officio Secretary to the Gol
3.	Shri Dinesh Kumar	- Additional Member/ L&A, Railway Board

Representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Organisation/Designation
1.	Shri Jaideep	- OSD (UT)&E.O. Joint Secretary, MoHUA
2.	Shri Yogesh Antil	- Director (MRTS-I)
3.	PS Chauhan	- Sr. GM, DMRC

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for taking Oral evidence of the representatives of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development, Non-Government Organizations, experts and other stakeholders, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti), Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on the subject 'Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 - Implementation and Effectiveness'. Thereafter, the Chairperson apprised the Members about the issues regarding cases of inadequate compensation being given in various projects being carried out by the Central/ State Government against the spirit of the landmark legislation. Members were further informed about the invitation to a few representatives of NGOs and experts who had experience of the ground realities associated with the Land conflict issues to enrich the Committee's knowledge on the issues relating to the implementation and effectiveness of this Act'.

[Thereafter the representatives from the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) Non-Government Organizations, experts and other stakeholders, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti), Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) were called in]

3. The Chairperson welcomed the witnesses and in his opening remarks outlined the importance of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Chairperson, then asked the representatives of the Ministries and the NGOs to make their briefing and place their views on the subject one by one. The Chairperson further drew the attention of the Ministries and others to the directions of Hon'ble Speaker regarding confidentiality of the discussions before the start of the meeting. Thereafter, the witnesses introduced themselves to the Committee and made their Power Point Presentations. The representatives of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) briefed and highlighted on key aspects of this Act and provisions for addressing the issues of inadequate compensation.

4. Thereafter, Shri Kumar Sambhav Srivastava and Shri Tushar Dash as experts working in the field of Land conflicts, made their submissions before the Committee

highlighting the issues and challenges while implementation of this Act and gave their suggestions for addressing the same.

5. Following this, the representatives of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) briefed the Committee with regard to land acquisition for Roads and Highway projects along with the provisions for addressing the issues of inadequate compensation.

6. Subsequently, the representatives of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti) briefed the Committee with regard to land acquisition for Ken-Betwa Link Project and Polavaram Irrigation Project along with the provisions for addressing the issues of inadequate compensation.

[Lunch Break]

7. The representatives of the Ministry of Railways briefed the Committee with regard to land acquisition for Railways along with the provisions for addressing the issues of inadequate compensation.

8. The representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) briefed the Committee with regard to land acquisition for Metro Rail projects along with the provisions for addressing the issues of inadequate compensation.

10. Subsequently, Members raised their individual queries.

11. The queries of the Members were subsequently replied by the witnesses. On certain issues Ministries/ Departments could not provide immediate reply, so they were requested to send written replies thereto as early as possible.

[The Witnesses then withdrew]

A record of verbatim proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (2024-25)

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY, THE 3rd MARCH, 2025**

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1335 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
3. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
4. Shri Imran Masood
5. Shri Janardan Mishra
6. Shri K. Radhakrishnan
7. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
8. Shri Devendra Singh *alias* Bhole Singh
9. Shri Vivek Thakur

Rajya Sabha

10. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha

Secretariat

1. Shri D. R. Shekhar - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Vinay P. Barwa - Director
3. Shri L. Singson - Deputy Secretary

**Representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development
(Department of Land Resources)**

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri R. Anand	- Additional Secretary
2.	Shri P. K. Abdul Kareem	- Economic Advisor
3.	Dr. Sanjay Kumar	- Deputy Director General
4.	Shri Sarvadanand Barnwal	- Director

Non-government Organisations, Experts and other Stakeholders

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Organisation/Designation
Witnesses from State of Gujarat		
1.	Shri Moses Mazgaonkar (Anand)	Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti
2.	Dr Rajan Bhagora	Adivasi Ekta Manch, Bhiloda, Dist. Sabarkantha – North Gujarat
3.	Shri Shailesh Tadv	Adivasi Ekta Manch, Bhiloda
4.	Shri Ashish Tadv	
5.	Lalsing Gamit	
Witnesses from UT of Lakshadweep		
6.	Shri Sharafudden B.	President, Island Sense Foundation
7.	Shri Hussunul Jamhar M.P.	
8.	Shri Kuda Mohamed Manikfan Alimalmigothi	
Witnesses from UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands		
9.	Dr. Manish Chandi	Anthropologist
10.	Mr Anstice Justin	Anthropologist

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for taking oral evidence of the representatives of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development), Non-Government Organizations, experts and other stakeholders regarding issues of land acquisition. Thereafter, the Chairperson apprised the Members about the issues regarding cases of inadequate compensation being given in various projects being carried out by the Central/ State Government against the spirit of the landmark legislation. Members were further informed about the invitation to a few representatives of NGOs and experts who had experience of the ground realities associated with the Land conflict issues to enrich the Committee's knowledge on the issues relating to the implementation and effectiveness of this Act'.

[Thereafter, the representatives from the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) Non-Government Organizations, experts and other stakeholders were called in]

3. The Chairperson welcomed the witnesses and in his opening remarks outlined the importance of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Chairperson, then asked the representatives of the Ministries and the NGOs to make their briefing and place their

views on the subject one by one. The Chairperson further drew the attention of the Ministries and others to the directions of Hon'ble Speaker regarding confidentiality of the discussions before the start of the meeting. Thereafter, the witnesses introduced themselves to the Committee and made their Power Point Presentations.

4. Thereafter, Shri Moses Mazgaonkar (Anand), Shri Sharafudden B. and Dr. Manish Chandi as experts working in the field of Land conflicts, made their submissions before the Committee highlighting the issues and challenges while implementation of this Act and gave their suggestions for addressing the same.

5. Subsequently, Members raised their individual queries.

6. The queries of the Members were subsequently replied by the witnesses. On certain issues Ministries/ Departments could not provide immediate reply, so they were requested to send written replies thereto as early as possible.

[The Witnesses then withdrew]

A record of verbatim proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (2024-25)

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY, THE 27th MAY, 2025**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs to 1705 hrs in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Raju Bista
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
4. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
5. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
6. Shri Jugal Kishore
7. Shri Naba Charan Majhi
8. Shri Imran Masood
9. Shri Janardan Mishra
10. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
11. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
12. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala
13. Shri Vivek Thakur

Rajya Sabha

14. Shri H. D. Devegowda
15. Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu

Secretariat

1. Shri D. R. Shekhar - Additional Secretary
2. Shri V. K. Shailon - Director
3. Shri L. Singson - Deputy Secretary

**Representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development
(Department of Land Resources)**

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri R. Anand	- Additional Secretary
2.	Shri P. K. Abdul Kareem	- Economic Advisor
3.	Dr. Sanjay Kumar	- Deputy Director General
4.	Shri Sarvadanand Barnwal	- Director

Non-government Organisations, Experts and other Stakeholders

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Organisation/Designation
1.	Shri Kumar Sambhav	Land Conflict Watch
2.	Shri Prafulla Samantara	Lok Shakti Abhiyan
3.	Shri Dingar Kumbhar	Gandharmardan Bachao Urban Parisad
4.	Tankadhar Sahu	Gandharmardan Bachao Parisad
5.	Raj Kumar Seth	Gandharmardan Surakhaya Yuva Parishad
6.	Sushil Kumar	Gandharmardan Surakhaya Action Committee

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for taking oral evidence of the representatives of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development), Non-government Organisations, experts and other stakeholders on the subject 'Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 - Implementation and Effectiveness'. Thereafter, the Chairperson apprised the Members about the issues regarding cases of inadequate compensation being given in various projects being carried out by the Central/ State Government against the spirit of the landmark legislation. Members were further informed about the invitation to a few representatives of NGOs and experts who had experience of the ground realities associated with the Land conflict issues to enrich the Committee's knowledge on the issues relating to the implementation and effectiveness of this Act'.

[Thereafter, the representatives from the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) Non-Government Organizations, experts and other stakeholders were called in]

3. The Chairperson welcomed the witnesses and in his opening remarks outlined the importance of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Chairperson, then asked the representatives of the Ministries and the NGOs to make their briefing and place their views on the subject one by one. The Chairperson further drew the attention of the Ministries and others to the directions of Hon'ble Speaker regarding confidentiality of the discussions before the start of the meeting. Thereafter, the witnesses introduced themselves to the Committee and made their Power Point Presentations.

4. Thereafter, Shri Kumar Sambhav, Shri Prafulla Samantara along with their colleagues as experts working in the field of Land conflicts made their submissions before the Committee highlighting the issues and challenges while implementation of this Act and gave their suggestions for addressing the same. Few cases of alleged non-compliance in Odisha where land has been acquired for mining and other activities were also brought up before the Committee.

5. Subsequently, Members raised their individual queries. Committee also enquired about the States which are making amendment to bypass certain provisions of the Central Act.

6. The queries of the Members were subsequently replied by the witnesses. On certain issues Ministries/ Departments could not provide immediate reply, so they were requested to send written replies thereto as early as possible.

[The Witnesses then withdrew]

A record of verbatim proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(2024-25)

**EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, THE 14th JULY, 2025**

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs to 1255 hrs in Committee Room 'B',
Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Raju Bista
3. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
4. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
5. Shri Jugal Kishore
6. Shri Naba Charan Majhi
7. Shri Imran Masood
8. Shri Janardan Mishra
9. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
10. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pavan Rajenimbalkar
11. Shri Ganesh Singh
12. Shri Vivek Thakur

Rajya Sabha

13. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
14. Shri H. D. Devegowda
15. Shri Iranna Kadadi

Secretariat

1. Shri D. R. Shekhar - Additional Secretary
2. Shri V. K. Shailon - Director

**Representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development
(Department of Land Resources)**

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri Manoj Joshi	- Secretary (LR)
2.	Shri R. Anand	- Additional Secretary (LR)
3.	Shri Sarvadanand Barnwal	- Director (LR)

people. Representative from Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted that aspects of compensation and rehabilitation do not fall in their purview.

6. Subsequently, Members raised their individual queries. The queries of the Members were subsequently replied by the witnesses. On certain issues Ministries/ Departments could not provide immediate reply, so they were requested to send written replies thereto as early as possible.

[The Witnesses then withdrew]

A record of verbatim proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

XXX Not related to the Draft Report.

Annexure – VI

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (2024-25)

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 16th
DECEMBER, 2025**

The Committee sat from 1000 hrs to 1012 hrs in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Raju Bista
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
4. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
5. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
6. Shri Jugal Kishore
7. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
8. Shri K. Radhakrishnan
9. Shri Ramashankar Vidharthi Rajbhar
10. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pavan Rajenimbalkar

Rajya Sabha

11. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
12. Shri Neeraj Dangi
13. Dr. M. Dhanapal
14. Dr. Kavita Patidar
15. Smt. Rajathi
16. Shri Nagendra Ray
17. Shri Sant Balbir Singh
18. Smt. P. T. Usha

Secretariat

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Shri D. R. Shekhar | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Smt Rashmi Roy | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of draft report on the subject 'Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 - Implementation and Effectiveness' pertaining to the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).

3. Above mentioned draft report was taken up for consideration and after discussion, the Committee adopted the same with some modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalise the aforesaid draft report and present the same to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.
