



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
P R E S S R E L E A S E
(18 December 2025)

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, M.P., Chairperson, Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (2025-26) presented to Lok Sabha today the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on '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). Some of the important recommendations contained in the Reports are as follows:

<u>Twenty-Fourth Report (Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development)</u>		
1.	Strict Implementation of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR)	The Committee recommended that the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 must be implemented in its entirety and true spirit, especially in Scheduled Areas. (Rec. No. 1)
2.	Strengthening Role of Gram Sabha	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 2)
3.	Strict compliance of PESA rules	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 3)

4.	Integration with Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 4)
5.	Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)	The Committee recommended DoLR to ensure that both EIA and SIA are being strictly followed as per the guidelines envisioned in the LARR Act. (Rec. No. 5)
6.	Fair and adequate compensation in tribal areas	The Committee recommended treating every acquisition in Scheduled Areas and other tribal dominated blocks as needing a fuller “livelihood value” along with the cash land value. (Rec. No. 6)
7.	Strengthening Rehabilitation and Resettlement for Displaced Tribal Families	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 7)
8.	Strengthening the National Monitoring Committee for Rehabilitation & Resettlement	The Committee recommended that 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. (Rec. No. 8)
9.	Recognition of the livelihood of people in Lakshadweep land acquisition by private and Government players under the LARR Act	The Committee recommended strict implementation of LARR 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. (Rec. No. 9)
10.	Recognition of livelihood users in Great Nicobar under the LARR Act	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 10)
11.	Safeguarding Affected Communities in the Ken-Betwa Inter-Basin Water Transfer	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 11)
12.	Safeguarding Affected Communities in the Polavaram Project	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 12)
13.	Preventing Manipulation in Land Classification and Ensuring Compliance under RFCTLARR Act	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 13)
14.	Establishment of a Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Authority	The Committee recommended 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. (Rec. No. 14)