



International Environmental  
Law Research Centre

## National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007

This document is available at [ielrc.org/content/e0735.pdf](http://ielrc.org/content/e0735.pdf)

**Note:** This document is put online by the International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELRC) for information purposes. This document is not an official version of the text and as such is only provided as a source of information for interested readers. IELRC makes no claim as to the accuracy of the text reproduced which should under no circumstances be deemed to constitute the official version of the document.

J. N. Singh  
GM (LR)**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT****(Department of Land Resources)****(Land Reforms Division)****RESOLUTION**

New Delhi, the 31st October, 2007.

**Subject : National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007**

**F.No. 26011/4/2007-LRD.**—Whereas, the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources, have formulated a National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007;

And, whereas, the Government of India desire that the contents of the said Policy be brought to the notice of the general public and given wide publicity;

Now, therefore, it is directed that the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 given in the Schedule hereto annexed be published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section I, dated the 31st October, 2007.

**SCHEDULE****THE NATIONAL REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT  
POLICY, 2007****CHAPTER - I****1. Policy****PREAMBLE:**

1.1 Provision of public facilities or infrastructure often requires the exercise of legal powers by the state under the principle of *eminent domain* for acquisition of private property, leading to involuntary displacement of people, depriving them of their land, livelihood and shelter; restricting their access to traditional resource base, and uprooting them from their socio-cultural environment. These have traumatic, psychological and socio-cultural consequences on the affected population which call for protecting their rights, in particular of the weaker sections of the society including members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, marginal farmers and women. Involuntary displacement of people may be caused by other factors also.

1.2 There is imperative need to recognise rehabilitation and resettlement issues as intrinsic to the development process formulated with the active participation of the affected persons, rather than, as externally-imposed requirements. Additional benefits beyond monetary compensation have to be provided to the families affected adversely by involuntary displacement. The plight of those who do not have legal or recognised rights over the land on which they are critically dependent for their

subsistence is even worse. This calls for a broader concerted effort on the part of the planners to include in the displacement, rehabilitation and resettlement process framework not only those who directly lose land and other assets but also those who are affected by such acquisition of assets. The displacement process often poses problems that make it difficult for the affected persons to continue their earlier livelihood activities after resettlement. This requires a careful assessment of the economic disadvantages and social impact of displacement. There must also be a holistic effort aimed at improving the all round living standards of the affected people.

1.3 A National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families was formulated in 2003, and it came into force w.e.f. February, 2004. Experience of implementation of this policy indicates that there are many issues addressed by the policy which need to be reviewed. There should be a clear perception, through a careful quantification of the costs and benefits that will accrue to society at large, of the desirability and justifiability of each project. The adverse impact on affected families – economic, environmental, social and cultural – needs to be assessed in a participatory and transparent manner. A national policy must apply to all projects where involuntary displacement takes place.

1.4 The aim should be to minimise large-scale displacement, as far as possible. Only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of the project may be acquired. Also, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wasteland, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural use in the project may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped land may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes, and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum. Prior to initiating the acquisition of land for a project, the appropriate Government should, *inter alia*, take into consideration the alternatives that will (i) minimise the displacement of people due to the acquisition of land for the project; (ii) minimise the total area of land to be acquired for the project; and (iii) minimise the acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural use in the project. The options assessment may be in terms of the alternative project plans, potentially suitable sites, technological choices available, or a combination of these. Suitable institutional mechanism should be developed and adopted by the appropriate Government for carrying out the task in a transparent manner.

1.5 Where large numbers of families are affected, it must be mandatory to do social impact assessments and provide all required infrastructural facilities and amenities in the resettlement area. More particularly, where the Scheduled Tribes people are being displaced in sizeable numbers, a well thought out Tribal Development Plan must be put in place.

1.6 Furthermore, such a policy must specify clear timeframes within which the implementation of the rehabilitation package as well as utilization of the land shall

be accomplished. Also, it should lay down an effective monitoring and grievance redressal mechanism.

1.7 It is acknowledged that many State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings or agencies, and other requiring bodies either have their own Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policies or are in the process of formulating them. The provisions of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP-2007) provide for the basic minimum requirements, and all projects leading to involuntary displacement of people must address the rehabilitation and resettlement issues comprehensively. The State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings or agencies, and other requiring bodies shall be at liberty to put in place greater benefit levels than those prescribed in the NRRP-2007. The principles of this policy may also apply to the rehabilitation and resettlement of persons involuntarily displaced permanently due to any other reason.

## CHAPTER - II

### 2. Objectives of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy

2.1 The objectives of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy are as follows:-

- (a) to minimise displacement and to promote, as far as possible, non-displacing or least-displacing alternatives;
- (b) to ensure adequate rehabilitation package and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the affected families;
- (c) to ensure that special care is taken for protecting the rights of the weaker sections of society, especially members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to create obligations on the State for their treatment with concern and sensitivity;
- (d) to provide a better standard of living, making concerted efforts for providing sustainable income to the affected families;
- (e) to integrate rehabilitation concerns into the development planning and implementation process; and
- (f) where displacement is on account of land acquisition, to facilitate harmonious relationship between the requiring body and affected families through mutual cooperation.

## CHAPTER - III

### 3. Definitions

3.1 The definition of various expressions used in this policy are as follows:

- (a) "Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement" means an officer not below the rank of District Collector in a State appointed for the purpose of rehabilitation and resettlement of affected persons;

(b) "affected family" means:

- (i) a family whose primary place of residence or other property or source of livelihood is adversely affected by the acquisition of land for a project or involuntary displacement for any other reason; or
- (ii) any tenure holder, tenant, lessee or owner of other property, who on account of acquisition of land (including plot in the *abadi* or other property) in the affected area or otherwise, has been involuntarily displaced from such land or other property; or
- (iii) any agricultural or non-agricultural labourer, landless person (not having homestead land, agricultural land, or either homestead or agricultural land), rural artisan, small trader or self-employed person; who has been residing or engaged in any trade, business, occupation or vocation continuously for a period of not less than three years preceding the date of declaration of the affected area, and who has been deprived of earning his livelihood or alienated wholly or substantially from the main source of his trade, business, occupation or vocation because of the acquisition of land in the affected area or being involuntarily displaced for any other reason;

(c) "affected area" means area of village or locality notified by the appropriate Government under paragraph 6.1 of this policy;

(d) "agricultural labourer" means a person primarily resident in the affected area for a period of not less than three years immediately before the declaration of the affected area who does not hold any land in the affected area but who earns his livelihood principally by manual labour on agricultural land therein immediately before such declaration and who has been deprived of his livelihood;

(e) "agricultural land" includes lands being used for the purpose of-

- (i) agriculture or horticulture;
- (ii) dairy farming, poultry farming, pisciculture, breeding of livestock or nursery growing medicinal herbs;
- (iii) raising of crops, grass or garden produce; and
- (iv) land used by an agriculturist for the grazing of cattle, but does not include land used for cutting of wood only;

(f) "appropriate Government" means,-

- (i) in relation to the acquisition of land for the purposes of the Union, the Central Government;
- (ii) in relation to a project which is executed by the Central Government agency or undertaking or by any other agency on the orders or directions

of the Central Government, the Central Government;

(iii) in relation to the acquisition of land for purposes other than (i) and (ii) above, the State Government; and

(iv) in relation to the rehabilitation and resettlement of persons involuntarily displaced due to any other reason, the State Government;

(g) 'BPL family': The below poverty line (BPL) families shall be those as defined by the Planning Commission of India from time to time and included in a BPL list for the time being in force;

(h) "Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement" means the Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement appointed by the State Government not below the rank of Commissioner or of equivalent rank of that Government;

(i) "DDP block" means a block identified under the Desert Development Programme of the Government of India;

(j) "family" includes a person, his or her spouse, minor sons, unmarried daughters, minor brothers, unmarried sisters, father, mother and other relatives residing with him or her and dependent on him or her for their livelihood; and includes "nuclear family" consisting of a person, his or her spouse and minor children;

(k) "holding" means the total land held by a person as an occupant or tenant or as both;

(l) "khatedar" means a person whose name is included in the revenue records of the parcel of land under reference;

(m) "land acquisition" or "acquisition of land" means acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (1 of 1894), as amended from time to time, or any other law of the Union or a State for the time being in force;

(n) "marginal farmer" means a cultivator with an un-irrigated land holding up to one hectare or irrigated land holding up to half hectare;

(o) "non-agricultural labourer" means a person who is not an agricultural labourer but is primarily residing in the affected area for a period of not less than three years immediately before the declaration of the affected area and who does not hold any land under the affected area but who earns his livelihood principally by manual labour or as a rural artisan immediately before such declaration and who has been deprived of earning his livelihood principally by manual labour or as such artisan in the affected area;

(p) "notification" means a notification published in the Gazette of India or, as the case may be the Gazette of a State;

(q) "occupiers" means members of the Scheduled Tribes in possession of forest land prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2005;

- (r) "Ombudsman" means the person appointed under paragraph 8.3 of this policy for redressal of grievances;
- (s) "prescribed" means, unless otherwise specified, prescribed by guidelines or orders issued by the Central Government under this policy;
- (t) "project" means a project involving involuntary displacement of people, irrespective of the number of persons affected;
- (u) "requiring body" means a company, a body corporate, an institution, or any other organisation for whom land is to be acquired by the appropriate Government, and includes the appropriate Government if the acquisition of land is for such Government either for its own use or for subsequent transfer of such land in public interest to a company, a body corporate, an institution, or any other organization, as the case may be, under lease, license or through any other system of transfer of land;
- (v) "resettlement area" means any area so declared under paragraph 6.9 of this policy by the appropriate Government;
- (w) "small farmer" means a cultivator with an un-irrigated land holding up to two hectares or with an irrigated land holding up to one hectare, but more than the holding of a marginal farmer.

#### CHAPTER - IV

#### 4. Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of Projects

4.1 Whenever it is desired to undertake a new project or expansion of an existing project, which involves involuntary displacement of four hundred or more families en masse in plain areas, or two hundred or more families en masse in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution, the appropriate Government shall ensure that a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study is carried out in the proposed affected areas in such manner as may be prescribed.

4.2.1 The above SIA report shall be prepared, in such proforma as may be prescribed, considering various alternatives, and using agencies accredited in the manner prescribed.

4.2.2 While undertaking a social impact assessment, the appropriate Government shall, *inter alia*, take into consideration the impact that the project will have on public and community properties, assets and infrastructure; particularly, roads, public transport, drainage, sanitation, sources of safe

drinking water, sources of drinking water for cattle, community ponds, grazing land, plantations; public utilities, such as post offices, fair price shops, etc.; food storage godowns, electricity supply, health care facilities, schools and educational/training facilities, places of worship, land for traditional tribal institutions, burial and cremation grounds, etc.

4.2.3 The appropriate Government may specify that the <sup>to make better</sup> ameliorative measures, which will need to be undertaken for addressing the said impact for a component, may not be less than what is provided in a scheme or programme, if any, of the Central Government or a State Government in operation in that area.

4.3.1 Where it is required as per the provisions of any law, rules, regulations or guidelines to undertake environmental impact assessment also, the SIA study shall be carried out simultaneously with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study.

*SIA + EIA to be  
together*

4.3.2 In cases where both EIA and SIA are required, the public hearing done in the project affected area for EIA shall also cover issues related to SIA. Such public hearing shall be organised by the appropriate Government.

4.3.3 Where there is no requirement for EIA, the SIA report shall be made available to the public through public hearing to be organised by the appropriate Government in the affected area.

4.4.1 The SIA report shall be examined by an independent multi-disciplinary expert group constituted for the purpose by the appropriate Government. Two non-official social science and rehabilitation experts, the Secretary/Secretaries of the department(s) concerned with the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the appropriate Government or his (their) representative(s), and a representative of the requiring body shall be nominated by the appropriate Government to serve on this expert group.

*SIA report to be  
examined by a group  
of 2+1+1*

4.4.2 Where both EIA and SIA are required, a copy of the SIA report shall be made available to the agency prescribed in respect of environmental impact assessment by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and a copy of the EIA report shall be shared with the expert group mentioned in paragraph 4.4.1.

4.5 The SIA clearance shall be accorded as per the procedure and within the time limits as may be prescribed.



4.6 The SIA clearance shall be mandatory for all projects involving involuntary displacement of four hundred or more families *en masse* in plain areas, or two hundred or more families *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution, and the conditions laid down in the SIA clearance shall be duly followed by all concerned.

4.7 The Ministry of Defence, in respect of projects involving emergency acquisition of minimum area of land in connection with national security, may be exempted from the provisions of this Chapter, with due institutional safeguards, as may be prescribed, for protecting the interests of the affected families and achieving the broad objectives of this policy.]

#### CHAPTER - V

#### 5. Appointment of Administrator and Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement and their powers and functions

5.1 Where the appropriate Government is satisfied that there is likely to be involuntary displacement of large number of persons due to acquisition of land for any project or due to any other reason, it may; and where the appropriate Government is satisfied that there is likely to be involuntary displacement of four hundred or more families *en masse* in plain areas, or two hundred or more families *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution due to acquisition of land for any project or due to any other reason, it shall, appoint, by notification, by the State Government(s) concerned, in respect of that project, an officer not below the rank of District Collector of the State Government to be the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R):

Provided that if the appropriate Government in respect of the project is the Central Government, such appointment shall be made in consultation with the Central Government:

Provided further that in case of a project involving involuntary displacement of less than four hundred families *en masse* in plain areas, or less than two hundred families *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution, where the appropriate Government decides not to appoint an Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, adequate administrative arrangements shall be made by the appropriate Government for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families as per this policy.

5.2 The Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall be assisted by such officers and employees as the appropriate Government may provide.

5.3 Subject to the superintendence, directions and control of the appropriate Government and Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall take all measures for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families.

5.4 The overall control and superintendence of the formulation, execution and monitoring of the rehabilitation and resettlement plan shall vest in the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

5.5 Subject to any general or special order of the appropriate Government, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall perform the following functions and duties:

- (i) minimise displacement of people and to identify non-displacing or least-displacing alternatives in consultation with the requiring body;
- (ii) hold consultation with the affected families while preparing a rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan;
- (iii) ensure that interests of the adversely affected persons of Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections are protected;
- (iv) prepare a draft scheme or plan of rehabilitation and resettlement as required under Chapter VI of this policy;
- (v) prepare a budget including estimated expenditure of various components of acquisition of land, rehabilitation and resettlement activities or programmes in consultation with representatives of the affected families and the requiring body;
- (vi) arrange adequate land, as far as possible, for rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families;
- (vii) allot land and sanction the benefits to the affected families;
- (viii) perform such other functions as the appropriate Government may, from time to time, by order in writing, assign.

5.6 The Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement may, by order in writing, delegate such of the administrative powers conferred and duties imposed on him by or under this policy to any officer not below the rank of *Tehsildar* or equivalent.

5.7 All officers and staff appointed by the appropriate Government under this policy shall be subordinate to the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

5.8 The State Government shall appoint an officer of the rank of Commissioner or of equivalent rank of that Government for rehabilitation and resettlement in respect of such cases to which this policy applies to be called the Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

5.9 For the purposes of this policy, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement and other officers and employees appointed for the purposes of rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families shall be subordinate to the Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

5.10 The Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall be responsible for supervising the formulation of rehabilitation and resettlement plans or schemes and proper implementation of such plans or schemes.

#### CHAPTER - VI

#### 6. Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan

The procedure mentioned in this chapter shall be followed for declaration of the affected area, carrying out survey and census of affected persons, assessment of government land available and land to be arranged for rehabilitation and resettlement, declaration of the resettlement area or areas, preparation of the draft rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan and its final publication.

6.1 Where the appropriate Government is of the opinion that there is likely to be involuntary displacement of four hundred or more families *en masse* in plain areas, or two hundred or more families *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution due to acquisition of land for any project or due to any other reason, it shall, declare, by notification in the Official Gazette, area of villages or localities as an affected area.

6.2 Every declaration made under paragraph 6.1 of the policy shall be published in at least three daily newspapers, two of which shall be in the local vernacular, having circulation in villages or areas which are likely to be affected, and also by affixing a copy of the notification on the notice board of the concerned *gram panchayats* or municipalities and other prominent place or places in the affected area and the resettlement area, and/or by any other method as may be prescribed in this regard by the appropriate Government.

6.3 Once the declaration is made under paragraph 6.1 of the policy, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall undertake a baseline survey and census for identification of the persons and families likely to be affected.

6.4 Every such survey shall contain the following village-wise information of the affected families:-

- (i) members of the family who are permanently residing, engaged in any trade, business, occupation or vocation in the affected area;
- (ii) families who are likely to lose, or have lost, their house, agricultural land, employment or are alienated wholly or substantially from the main source of their trade, business, occupation or vocation;
- (iii) agricultural labourers and non-agricultural labourers;
- (iv) families belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe categories;
- (v) vulnerable persons such as the disabled, destitute, orphans, widows, unmarried girls, abandoned women, or persons above fifty years of age; who are not provided or cannot immediately be provided with alternative livelihood, and who are not otherwise covered as part of a family;
- (vi) families that are landless (not having homestead land, agricultural land, or either homestead or agricultural land) and below poverty line, but residing continuously for a period of not less than three years in the affected area preceding the date of declaration of the affected area; and
- (vii) Scheduled Tribes families who are or were having possession of forest lands in the affected area prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2005.

6.5 Every survey undertaken under paragraph 6.4 shall be completed expeditiously and within a period of ninety days from the date of declaration made under paragraph 6.1.

6.6 On completion of the above survey or on expiry of a period of ninety days, whichever is earlier, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall, by notification, and also in such other manner so as to reach all persons likely to be affected, publish a draft of the details of the findings of the survey conducted by him and invite objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby. This draft shall be made known locally by wide publicity in the affected area.

6.7 On the expiry of thirty days from the date of publication of the draft of the details of survey and after considering the objections and suggestions received by

him in this behalf, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall submit his recommendations thereon along with the details of the survey to the appropriate Government.

6.8 Within forty-five days from the date of receipt of the details of the survey and recommendations of the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, the appropriate Government shall publish the final details of survey in the Official Gazette.

6.9 The appropriate Government shall, by notification, declare any area (or areas) as a resettlement area (or areas) for rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families.

6.10 The Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall ensure that the affected families may be settled, wherever possible, in a group or groups in such resettlement areas. However, it has to be ensured that the affected families may be resettled with the host community on the basis of equality and mutual understanding, consistent with the desire of each group to preserve its own identity and culture.

6.11 For the purposes of paragraph 6.9 above, the Administrator for Resettlement and Rehabilitation shall draw up a list of lands that may be available for rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families.

6.12 The lands drawn up under paragraph 6.11 shall consist of-

- (a) land available or acquired for the project and earmarked for this purpose;
- (b) Government wastelands and any other land vesting in the Government available for allotment to the affected families;
- (c) lands that may be available for purchase or acquisition for the purposes of rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan; or
- (d) a combination of one or more of the above.

However, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement should ensure that such acquisition of land does not lead to another set of physically displaced families.

6.13 The Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, on behalf of the appropriate Government, may either purchase land from any person through

consent award and may enter into an agreement for this purpose, or approach the State Government concerned for acquisition of land for the purposes of rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan, keeping in view the contents of paragraph 6.12(b) above.

6.14.1 After completion of baseline survey and census of the affected families and assessment of the requirement of land for resettlement, as mentioned in paragraphs 6.3 and 6.12, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall prepare a draft scheme or plan for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families after consultation with the representatives of the affected families including women and the representative of the requiring body.

6.14.2 The draft rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan shall contain the following particulars, namely:-

- (a) the extent of land to be acquired for the project and the name(s) of the affected village(s);
- (b) a village-wise list of the affected persons, family-wise, and the extent and nature of land and immovable property owned or held in their possession in the affected area, and the extent and nature of such land and immovable property which they are likely to lose or have lost, indicating the survey numbers thereof;
- (c) a list of agricultural labourers in such area and the names of such persons whose livelihood depends on agricultural activities;
- (d) a list of persons who have lost or are likely to lose their employment or livelihood or who have been or likely to be alienated wholly or substantially from their main sources of trade, business, occupation or vocation consequent to the acquisition of land for the project or involuntary displacement due to any other cause;
- (e) a list of non-agricultural labourers, including artisans;
- (f) a list of affected landless families, including those without homestead land and below poverty line families;
- (g) a list of vulnerable affected persons, as indicated at paragraph 6.4(v);
- (h) a list of occupiers, if any;
- (i) a list of public utilities and government buildings which are affected or likely to be affected;
- (j) details of public and community properties, assets and infrastructure;
- (k) a list of benefits and packages which are to be provided to the affected families;

- (l) details of the extent of land available in the resettlement area for resettling and for allotment of land to the affected families;
- (m) details of the amenities and infrastructural facilities which are to be provided for resettlement;
- (n) the time schedule for shifting and resettling the displaced persons in the resettlement area or areas; and
- (o) such other particulars as the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement may consider necessary.

6.14.3 The draft scheme or plan may be made known locally by wide publicity in the affected area and the resettlement area (or areas) in such manner as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government.

6.15.1 The draft rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan shall also be discussed in *gram sabhas* in rural areas and in public hearings in urban and rural areas where *gram sabhas* don't exist.

6.15.2 The consultation with the *gram sabha* or the *panchayats* at the appropriate level in the Scheduled Areas under Schedule V of the Constitution shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Provisions of the *Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (40 of 1996)*.

6.15.3 In cases of involuntary displacement of two hundred or more Scheduled Tribes families from the Scheduled Areas, the concerned Tribes Advisory Councils may also be consulted.

6.16 While preparing a draft scheme or plan as specified in paragraph 6.14, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall ensure that the entire estimated cost of the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan forms an integral part of the cost of the project for which the land is being acquired. The entire expenditure on rehabilitation and resettlement benefits and other expenditure for rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families are to be borne by the requiring body for which the land is being acquired. The Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall ensure that the entire estimated cost of rehabilitation and resettlement benefits and other expenditure for rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families is communicated to the requiring body for incorporation in the project cost.

6.17 The Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall submit the draft scheme or plan for rehabilitation and resettlement to the appropriate Government

for its approval. In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, it shall be the responsibility of the appropriate Government to obtain the consent of the requiring body, to ensure that the necessary approvals as required under this policy have been obtained, and to make sure that the requiring body has agreed to bear the entire cost of rehabilitation and resettlement benefits and other expenditure for rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families as communicated by the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, before approving it.

6.18 After approving the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan, the appropriate Government shall publish the same in the Official Gazette. On final notification of the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan, it shall come into force.

6.19 It shall be the responsibility of the requiring body to provide sufficient funds to the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement for proper implementation of the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan. As soon as the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan is finalized, the requiring body shall deposit one-third cost of the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan with the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

6.20 The Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall keep proper books of accounts and records of the funds placed at his disposal and submit periodic returns to the appropriate Government in this behalf.

6.21 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, an exercise for fast-track updating of land records shall be undertaken concurrently with the land acquisition proceedings. Persons who have acquired any right prior to the date of issue of the notification under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (or such notification under any other Act of the Union or a State for the time being in force under which land acquisition is being undertaken) as per the updated records shall also have right to proportionate compensation along with the original landowners referred to in the said notification.

6.22 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body:

- (a) The compensation award shall be declared well in time before displacement of the affected families. Full payment of compensation as well as adequate progress in resettlement shall be ensured in advance of the actual displacement of the affected families.



- (b) The compensation award shall take into account the market value of the property being acquired, including the location-wise minimum price per unit area fixed (or to be fixed) by the respective State Government or UT Administration.
- (c) Conversion to the intended category of use of the land being acquired (for example, from agricultural to non-agricultural) shall be taken into account in advance of the acquisition, and the compensation award shall be determined as per the intended land use category.
- (d) The applicable conversion charges for the change in the land use category shall be paid by the requiring body, and no reduction shall be made in the compensation award on this account.

6.23 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, and if the requiring body is a company authorized to issue shares and debentures, the affected families who are entitled to get compensation for the land or other property acquired, shall be given the option to take up to twenty per cent. of the compensation amount due to them in the form of shares or debentures or both of the requiring body, as per the guidelines to be notified by the Central Government:

Provided that the appropriate Government, at its discretion, may raise this proportion up to fifty per cent. of the compensation amount.

6.24.1 Land compulsorily acquired for a project cannot be transferred to any other purpose except for a public purpose, and after obtaining the prior approval of the appropriate Government.

6.24.2 If land compulsorily acquired for a project or part thereof, remains unutilized for the project for a period of five years from the date of taking over the possession by the requiring body, the same shall revert to the possession and ownership of the appropriate Government without payment of any compensation or remuneration to the requiring body.

6.25 Whenever any land acquired for a public purpose is transferred to an individual or organisation (whether in private sector, public sector or joint sector) for a consideration, eighty per cent. of any net unearned income so accruing to the transferor, shall be shared amongst the persons from whom the lands were acquired or their heirs, in proportion to the value at which the lands were acquired. The fund shall be kept in a separate account which shall be administered in such manner as may be prescribed.

## CHAPTER - VII

### **7. Rehabilitation and Resettlement Benefits for the Affected Families**

7.1 The rehabilitation and resettlement benefits shall be extended to all the affected families who are eligible as affected families on the date of publication

of the declaration under paragraph 6.1, and any division of assets in the family after the said date may not be taken into account.

7.2 Any affected family owning house and whose house has been acquired or lost, may be allotted free of cost house site to the extent of actual loss of area of the acquired house but not more than two hundred and fifty square metre of land in rural areas, or one hundred and fifty square metre of land in urban areas, as the case may be, for each nuclear family:

Provided that, in urban areas, a house of up to one hundred square metre carpet area may be provided in lieu thereof. Such a house, if necessary, may be offered in a multi-storied building complex.

7.3 Each affected below poverty line family which is without homestead land and which has been residing in the affected area continuously for a period of not less than three years preceding the date of declaration of the affected area and which has been involuntarily displaced from such area, shall be entitled to a house of minimum one hundred square metre carpet area in rural areas, or fifty square metre carpet area in urban areas (which may be offered, where applicable, in a multi-storied building complex), as the case may be, in the resettlement area:

Provided that any such affected family which opts not to take the house offered, shall get a suitable one-time financial assistance for house construction, and the amount shall not be less than what is given under any programme of house construction by the Government of India.

7.4.1 Each affected family owning agricultural land in the affected area and whose entire land has been acquired or lost, may be allotted in the name of the *khatedar(s)* in the affected family, agricultural land or cultivable wasteland to the extent of actual land loss by the *khatedar(s)* in the affected family subject to a maximum of one hectare of irrigated land or two hectares of un-irrigated land or cultivable wasteland, if Government land is available in the resettlement area. This benefit shall also be available to the affected families who have, as a consequence of the acquisition or loss of land, been reduced to the status of marginal farmers.

7.4.2 In the case of irrigation or hydel projects, the affected families shall be given preference in allotment of land-for-land in the command area of the project, to the extent possible. Such lands may be consolidated, and plots of suitable sizes allotted to the affected families who could be settled there in groups. In case a family cannot be given land in the command area of the project or the family opts not to take land there, such a family may be given monetary compensation on replacement cost basis for their lands lost, for purchase of suitable land elsewhere.

7.4.3 In the case of irrigation or hydel projects, the State Governments may formulate suitable schemes for providing land to the affected families in the command areas of the projects by way of pooling of the lands that may be available or, otherwise, could be made available in the command areas of such projects.

7.5 (a) In the case of irrigation or hydel projects, fishing rights in the reservoirs shall be given to the affected families, if such rights were enjoyed by them in the affected area; (b) In other cases also, unless there are special reasons, fishing rights shall be given preferentially to the affected families.

7.6 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, the stamp duty and other fees payable for registration of the land or house allotted to the affected families shall be borne by the requiring body.

7.7 The land or house allotted to the affected families under this policy shall be free from all encumbrances.

7.8 The land or house allotted to the affected families under this policy may be in the joint names of wife and husband of the affected family.

7.9.1 In case of allotment of wasteland or degraded land in lieu of the acquired land, each *khatedar* in the affected family shall get a one-time financial assistance of such amount as the appropriate Government may decide but not less than fifteen thousand rupees per hectare for land development.

7.9.2 In case of allotment of agricultural land in lieu of the acquired land, each *khatedar* in the affected family shall get a one-time financial assistance of such amount as the appropriate Government may decide but not less than ten thousand rupees, for agricultural production.

7.10 Each affected family that is displaced and has cattle, shall get financial assistance of such amount as the appropriate Government may decide but not less than fifteen thousand rupees, for construction of cattle shed.

7.11 Each affected family that is displaced shall get a one-time financial assistance of such amount as the appropriate Government may decide but not less than ten thousand rupees, for shifting of the family, building materials, belongings and cattle.

7.12 Each affected person who is a rural artisan, small trader or self-employed person and who has been displaced shall get a one-time financial assistance of such amount as the appropriate Government may decide but not less than twenty-five thousand rupees, for construction of working shed or shop.

7.13.1 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body,-

- (a) the requiring body shall give preference to the affected families – at least one person per nuclear family – in providing employment in the project, subject to the availability of vacancies and suitability of the affected person for the employment;
- (b) wherever necessary, the requiring body shall arrange for training of the affected persons, so as to enable such persons to take on suitable jobs;
- (c) the requiring body shall offer scholarships and other skill development opportunities to the eligible persons from the affected families as per the criteria as may be fixed by the appropriate Government;
- (d) the requiring body shall give preference to the affected persons or their groups or cooperatives in the allotment of outsourced contracts, shops or other economic opportunities coming up in or around the project site; and
- (e) the requiring body shall give preference to willing landless labourers and unemployed affected persons while engaging labour in the project during the construction phase.

7.13.2 The affected persons shall be offered the necessary training facilities for development of entrepreneurship, technical and professional skills for self-employment.

7.14 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, the affected families who have not been provided agricultural land or employment shall be entitled to a rehabilitation grant equivalent to seven hundred fifty days minimum agricultural wages or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government:

Provided that, if the requiring body is a company authorised to issue shares and debentures, such affected families shall be given the option of taking up to twenty per cent. of their rehabilitation grant amount in the form of shares or debentures of the requiring body, in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided further that the appropriate Government may, at its discretion, raise this proportion up to fifty per cent. of the rehabilitation grant amount.

7.15 In cases where the acquisition of agricultural land or involuntary displacement takes place on account of land development projects, in lieu of land-for-land or employment, such affected families would be given site(s) or apartment(s) within the development project, in proportion to the land lost, but subject to such limits as may be defined by the appropriate Government.

7.16 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, each affected family which is involuntarily displaced shall get a monthly subsistence allowance equivalent to twenty-five days minimum agricultural wages per month for a period of one year from the date of displacement.

7.17 The project authorities shall, at their cost, arrange for annuity policies that will pay a pension for life to the vulnerable affected persons as indicated at paragraph 6.4(v), of such amount as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government subject to a minimum of five hundred rupees per month.

7.18 If land is acquired in cases of urgency, such as under section 17 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 or similar provision of any other Act of the Union or a State for the time being in force, each affected family which is displaced shall be provided with transit and temporary accommodation, pending rehabilitation and resettlement scheme or plan, in addition to the monthly subsistence allowance and other rehabilitation and resettlement benefits due to them under this policy.

7.19 In case of linear acquisitions, in projects relating to railway lines, highways, transmission lines, laying of pipelines and other such projects wherein only a narrow stretch of land is acquired for the purpose of the project or is utilised for right of way, each *khatedar* in the affected family shall be offered by the requiring body an ex-gratia payment of such amount as the appropriate Government may decide, but not less than twenty thousand rupees, in addition to the compensation or any other benefits due under the Act or programme or scheme under which the land, house or other property is acquired:

Provided that, if as a result of such land acquisition, the land-holder becomes landless or is reduced to the status of a "small" or "marginal" farmer, other rehabilitation and resettlement benefits available under this policy shall also be extended to such affected family.

7.20 The affected families may be given the option to take a lump-sum amount in lieu of one or more of the benefits specified in paragraphs 7.2 to 7.19, the amount being determined by the appropriate Government after consultation with the requiring body.

#### 7.21 REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT BENEFITS FOR PROJECT AFFECTED FAMILIES BELONGING TO THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND SCHEDULED CASTES:

7.21.1 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body which involves involuntary displacement of two hundred or more Scheduled Tribes families, a Tribal Development Plan shall be prepared, in such form as may be prescribed, laying down the detailed procedure for settling land

rights due but not settled and restoring titles of tribals on alienated land by undertaking a special drive together with land acquisition. The Plan shall also contain a programme for development of alternate fuel, fodder and non-timber forest produce (NTFP) resources on non-forest lands within a period of five years sufficient to meet requirements of tribal communities who are denied access to forests.

7.21.2 The concerned *gram sabha* or the *panchayats* at the appropriate level in the Scheduled Areas under Schedule V of the Constitution or as the case may be, Councils in the Schedule VI Areas shall be consulted in all cases of land acquisition in such areas including land acquisition in cases of urgency, before issue of a notification under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 or any other Act of the Union or a State for the time being in force under which land acquisition is undertaken, and the consultation shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Provisions of the *Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996* and other relevant laws.

Further, in cases of involuntary displacement of two hundred or more Scheduled Tribes families from the Scheduled Areas, the concerned Tribes Advisory Councils (TACs) may also be consulted.

7.21.3 Each affected family of Scheduled Tribe followed by Scheduled Caste categories shall be given preference in allotment of land-for-land, if Government land is available in the resettlement area.

7.21.4 In case of land being acquired from members of the Scheduled Tribes, at least one-third of the compensation amount due shall be paid to the affected families at the outset as first installment and the rest at the time of taking over the possession of the land.

7.21.5 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, each Scheduled Tribe affected family shall get an additional one-time financial assistance equivalent to five hundred days minimum agricultural wages for loss of customary rights or usages of forest produce.

7.21.6 The Scheduled Tribes affected families will be re-settled, as far as possible, in the same Schedule Area in a compact block, so that they can retain their ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity. Exceptions would be allowed only in rare cases where the requiring body in case of a project involving land acquisition, or the State Government in other cases of involuntary displacement, is unable to offer such land due to reasons beyond its control.

7.21.7 The resettlement areas predominantly inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes shall get land free of cost for community and religious gatherings, to the extent decided by the appropriate Government.

7.21.8 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, the Scheduled Tribes affected families resettled out of the district will get twenty-five per cent. higher rehabilitation and resettlement benefits in monetary terms in respect of the items specified in paragraphs 7.9, 7.10, 7.11, and 7.12.

7.21.9 Any alienation of tribal lands in violation of the laws and regulations for the time being in force shall be treated as null and void. In the case of acquisition of such lands, the rehabilitation and resettlement benefits would be available to the original tribal land-owners.

7.21.10 In the case of irrigation or hydel projects, the affected Scheduled Tribes, other traditional forest dwellers and the Scheduled Castes families having fishing rights in a river or pond or dam in the affected area shall be given fishing rights in the reservoir area of the irrigation or hydel projects.

7.21.11 The Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes affected families enjoying reservation benefits in the affected area shall be entitled to get the reservation benefits at the resettlement area(s).

7.21.12 The affected Scheduled Tribes families, who were in possession of forest lands in the affected area prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2005, shall also be eligible for the rehabilitation and resettlement benefits under this policy.

#### 7.22 AMENITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED AT RESETTLEMENT AREAS:

7.22.1 In all cases of involuntary displacement of four hundred families or more *en masse* in plain areas, or two hundred families or more *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution, comprehensive infrastructural facilities and amenities notified by the appropriate Government shall be provided in the resettlement area(s). Such facilities and amenities shall, *inter alia*, include roads, public transport, drainage, sanitation, safe drinking water, drinking water for cattle, community ponds, grazing land, land for fodder, plantation (social forestry or agro-forestry), Fair Price shops, *panchayat ghars*, Cooperative Societies, Post Offices,

seed-cum-fertilizer storage, irrigation, electricity, health centres, child and mother supplemental nutritional services, children's playground, community centres, schools, institutional arrangements for training, places of worship, land for traditional tribal institutions, burial/cremation grounds, and security arrangements.

7.22.2 In cases of involuntary displacement of less than four hundred families *en masse* in plain areas, or less than two hundred families or more *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution, all affected families shall be provided basic infrastructural facilities and amenities at the resettlement site(s) as per the norms specified by the appropriate Government. It would be desirable that provision of drinking water, electricity, schools, dispensaries, and access to the resettlement sites, amongst others, be included in the resettlement plan approved by the appropriate Government.

7.22.3 If relocation takes place in an existing settlement area, the same infrastructure shall also be extended to the host community.

7.22.4 While shifting the population of the affected area to the resettlement area, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall, as far as possible, ensure that:

- a) In case the entire population of the village or area to be shifted belongs to a particular community, such population or families may, as far as possible, be resettled *en masse* in a compact area, so that socio-cultural relations and social harmony amongst the shifted families are not disturbed.
- b) In the case of resettlement of the Scheduled Caste affected families, it may, as far as possible, be ensured that such families are resettled in the areas close to the villages.

7.22.5 The appropriate Government shall ensure that a resettlement area forms part of a *gram panchayat* or municipality.

#### 7.23 INDEXATION OF REHABILITATION GRANT AND OTHER BENEFITS:

The rehabilitation grant and other benefits expressed in monetary terms in this policy shall be indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) with the first day of April following the date of coming into force of this policy as the reference date, and the same shall also be revised by the appropriate Government at suitable intervals.



## 7.24 PERIPHERY DEVELOPMENT:

In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, the requiring body will be responsible for development of the defined geographic area on the periphery of the project site as decided by the appropriate Government, and will be required to contribute to the socio-economic development of the areas contiguous to its area of operation. For this purpose, the requiring body will earmark a percentage of its net profit or, in case no profit is declared by the requiring body in a particular year, for that year, such minimum alternative amount as may be determined by the appropriate Government after consultation with the requiring body, to be spent within the specified zone. The requiring body will carry out the developmental activity within this zone in close coordination with the Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement. The State Governments will be free to frame their own rules and guidelines for this purpose.

## CHAPTER - VIII

### 8. Grievance Redressal Mechanism

#### 8.1 Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee at the Project Level:

8.1.1 For each project which involves involuntary displacement of four hundred or more families *en masse* in plain areas, or two hundred or more families *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution, the appropriate Government shall constitute a Committee under the chairpersonship of the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, where appointed, or some other senior Government official, where the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement is not appointed, to be called the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee, to monitor and review the progress of implementation of the scheme or plan of rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families, and to carry out post-implementation social audits.

8.1.2 The Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee constituted as above shall include, apart from officers of the appropriate Government, as one of its members:-

- a representative of women residing in the affected area;
- a representative each of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes residing in the affected area;
- a representative of a voluntary organisation;
- a representative of the lead bank;

- Chairperson(s) of the *panchayats* and municipalities located in the affected area, or their nominee(s);
- Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly of the area included in the affected area;
- the Land Acquisition Officer of the project; and
- a representative of the requiring body.

8.1.3 The procedure regulating the business of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee, its meetings and other matters connected thereto shall be such as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government.

8.2 Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee at the District Level:

8.2.1 In each district, the State Government shall constitute a standing Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee under the chairpersonship of the District Collector or, as the case may be Deputy Commissioner of the district, to monitor and review the progress of rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families in the district excluding those covered by the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committees at the project level as prescribed in paragraph 8.1.

8.2.2 The composition, powers, functions and other matters relating to the functioning of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee at the District Level shall be such as may be prescribed by the State Government.

8.3 Ombudsman:

8.3.1 An Ombudsman shall be appointed by the appropriate Government, in the manner as may be prescribed, for time-bound disposal of the grievances arising out of the matters covered by this policy.

8.3.2 Any affected person, if aggrieved, for not being offered the admissible rehabilitation and resettlement benefits as provided under this policy, may move an appropriate petition for redressal of his or her grievances to the Ombudsman concerned.

8.3.3 The form and manner in which and the time within which complaints may be made to the Ombudsman and disposed of shall be such as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government.

8.3.4 The Ombudsman shall have the power to consider and dispose of all complaints relating to rehabilitation and resettlement against the decision of the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement or Rehabilitation and

Resettlement Committee and issue such directions to the requiring body, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (where appointed, or the other senior Government official appointed for rehabilitation and resettlement, where the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement is not appointed; or the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be) as he may deem proper for the redressal of such grievances relating to implementation of this policy.

8.3.5 In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, the disputes related to the compensation award for the land or other property acquired will be disposed of as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 or any other Act of the Union or a State for the time being in force under which the acquisition of land is undertaken, and will be outside the purview of the functions of the Ombudsman.

#### 8.4 Inter-State Projects:

8.4.1 In case a project covers an area in more than one State or Union territory where the project affected families are or had been residing, or proposed to be resettled, the Central Government in the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) shall, in consultation with the concerned States or Union territories, as the case may be, appoint the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, the Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, a common Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee, and the Ombudsman for the purposes of this policy.

8.4.2 The method of implementation of the rehabilitation and resettlement schemes or plans shall be mutually discussed by the State Governments and the Union territory Administrations, and the common scheme or plan shall be notified by the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement in the States or Union territories, as agreed to, in accordance with the procedure laid down under this policy.

8.4.3 If any difficulty arises in the implementation of the rehabilitation and resettlement schemes or plans, the matter shall be referred to the Central Government in the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) for its decision, and the decision of the Central Government shall be binding on the concerned States and Union territories.

## CHAPTER - IX

## 9. Monitoring Mechanism

## 9.1 National Monitoring Committee:

9.1.1 The Central Government shall constitute a National Monitoring Committee, to be chaired by the Secretary, Department of Land Resources for reviewing and monitoring the progress of implementation of rehabilitation and resettlement schemes or plans relating to all cases to which this policy applies. The Committee will have the following or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary as its members:

- Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture;
- Secretary, Ministry of Coal;
- Secretary, Ministry of Commerce;
- Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion;
- Secretary, Ministry of Defense;
- Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests;
- Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice;
- Secretary, Ministry of Mines;
- Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj;
- Secretary, Planning Commission;
- Secretary, Ministry of Power;
- Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways;
- Secretary, Ministry of Railways/Chairman, Railway Board;
- Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment;
- Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
- Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development; and
- Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources.

Besides, in case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, the Secretary of the concerned administrative Ministry or Department shall be invited as one of the members. Secretary of any other Ministry or Department, and independent expert(s) of eminence in the relevant field(s) may be made special invitee(s) to this Committee.

9.1.2 The duties and procedures of the National Monitoring Committee shall be such as may be prescribed.

## 9.2 National Monitoring Cell:

9.2.1 The National Monitoring Committee shall be serviced by a National Monitoring Cell to be constituted by the Central Government for reviewing and monitoring the progress of implementation of rehabilitation and resettlement schemes or plans relating to all cases to which this policy applies.

9.2.2 The National Monitoring Cell constituted under this policy shall be headed by an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, and shall be suitably staffed for efficient functioning.

### 9.3 Information Sharing:

9.3.1 All information on displacement, rehabilitation and resettlement, with names of the affected persons and details of the rehabilitation and resettlement package; shall be placed in the public domain on the Internet as well as shared with the concerned *gram sabhas, panchayats*, etc. by the project authorities.

9.3.2 The States and Union territories shall provide all the relevant information on the matters covered by this policy to the National Monitoring Cell in a regular and timely manner, and also as and when required.

### 9.4 Internal Oversight:

9.4.1 For each major project covered by this policy, there shall be an Oversight Committee for rehabilitation and resettlement in the Ministry/Department concerned of the appropriate Government.

9.4.2 The composition, functions and procedures of this Committee shall be such as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government.

### 9.5 External Oversight:

9.5.1 A National Rehabilitation Commission shall be set up by the Central Government with the power to exercise external oversight over the rehabilitation and resettlement of affected families covered by this policy.

9.5.2 The composition, powers and the procedure of transaction of business of the National Rehabilitation Commission shall be such as may be prescribed.

### 9.6 Commencement:

The National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 shall come into effect from the date of its publication in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary).

Dr. SUBAS CHANDRA PANI, Secy.