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Tarapur PAP's to get Rs.20 lakh for compensatory rent

Mumbai, Thursday : Tarapur Atomic Power Project affected 163 families would get Rs.20 lakh 37 thousand for compensatory rent as directed to-day by the Mumbai High Court Bench of Justice Smt.Ranjana Desai and Justice Shri Ranjit Desai. While Adv.Rajiv Patil and former Petroleum Minister Shri Ram Naik pleaded for the project affected persons (PAP) in the writ petition, Adv.Rajesh Kumar and Adv.L.A.Munim represented the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) and Adv.Nitin Deshpande for the State Government.

Giving additional information, Shri Ram Naik said, "While Tarapur Atomic Power units 3 & 4 have been producing 1,080 Mwe for more than five years, many issues of PAP's have remained unresolved. Construction of houses for them and payment of compensatory rent as the rate of Rs.2.500 till the houses are constructed was one of the pending issues. 163 PAPs were not paid rent amounting to Rs.20 lakh 37 thousand for five months. NPCIL and State Government were trying to shift the responsibility for payment, as a result of which PAPs were suffering. After hearing the arguments of all, the High Court Bench directed the State Government to pay the amount within 3 weeks and also ruled that the NPCIL and the State Government may discuss the issue among themselves . If they do not reach unanimity, the Bench would give the decision. "

The other major demand in the writ-petition was rehabilitation of fishermen. While they were promised suitable coastal land for fishing purposes, it has not been made available though six years have elapsed. The present housing colony is 10 kilometer away from the coast. The result is that they are unable to conduct traditional fishing activities. "They are literally starving", observed Shri.Ram Naik. He therefore requested the High Court to take up the issue of the fishermen in the next hearing. Accepting the suggestion, the Bench fixed the next date of hearing as 8th September.

Office Secretary