

**Rehabilitation of Tarapur Project Affected Persons**

*HC asks State Government and Project Authorities to explain*

**Mumbai, Tuesday :** Mumbai High Court Bench of J J A.M. Khanvilkar and J J R.D. Dhanuka asked on Monday the State Government to explain what they have done for rehabilitation of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) of Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP) and how much amount the Nuclear Power Corporation of Indian Ltd. (NPCIL) have paid so far. While the PAPs in the writ petition were represented by Adv. Rajiv Patil and Shri Ram Naik, Intervener and former Petroleum Minister, Adv. Nitin Deshpande was from the State Government and Adv. Rajv Kothari for the NPCIL.

The TAPP has been generating 1,080 MWE. Though eight years have elapsed from filing the writ petition, the PAPs had complained about non-completion of several facilities. The High Court, while hearing the case on 26th November had directed the PAPs to specify incomplete works by 7th December. Accordingly the following demands were filed in the court: 1) For repairing defective houses, NPCIL should pay Rs. 11 crore 49 lakh to the Collector and NPCIL for repairs and removal of defects in allotted houses. Construction of 32 new houses in place of water-logged houses. 2) Leveling of land, maintenance and construction of Pakka Roads, repairing of drainage system, NPCIL should pay Rs. 3 crore 40 lakh to the Collector. 3) Ex-gratia amount of Rs. 30,000/- awarded to each landless family has not been paid. 4) Out of 289 farmers, 'Land for land' is not allotted to 112 farmers. 5) The monthly rental compensation of Rs. 2,500/- per family is not paid to some families. 6) Drinking Water Supply connections to be provided to all 1250 families. 7) Boundary lines of New Akkarpatti and New Popharan Villages should be demarcated and encroachment on 98 hectors of land be removed. 8) The State Government Authorities be directed to implement the decisions of the Grievance Redressal Committee. The post of Chairman which is vacant for the last eighteen months be filled immediately. 9) Rehabilitation of 438 fishermen families is yet to be completed by giving 1 hector of agriculture land per family. 10) Permanent Employment for one person in each Project Affected Family be provided. 11) The additional benefits laid down in National Policy of Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families 2003 and subsequently revised in 2007 need to be provided.

After hearing the arguments, the Bench expressed their unhappiness to the State Government and also the NPCIL and directed them to sit together in a meeting of competent authorities and file separate affidavits in response to the demands. The next hearing would be on 10th January 2013.

**(Office Secretary)**