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5th December 2011

Statement circulated in by Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader & former Petroleum Minister at Mumbai in a press conference held on Monday, 5th December, 2011

Government angers TAPP affected by spending one crore on advertisements

Mumbai, Monday: "Nuclear Power Corporation Ltd. (NPCL) has rubbed salt on the injuries of Project Affected Persons of Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP) by releasing full page coloured advertisement regarding rehabilitation. The advertisement is misleading as rehabilitation work is not complete. It is gross waste of people's money," said Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader & former Petroleum Minister in a press conference held today. Shri Naik is pursuing the issue since last seven years in Mumbai High Court.

Shri Naik while explaining the reasons behind his anguish said, "TAPP 3 and 4 have been generating 1,080 MW. The foundation of this project was laid by me when I was Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation. 1,250 families, mainly of farmers and fishermen of two villages viz. Akkarpatti and Popharan were displaced because of this project. Nearly 170 hector land was acquired. In the capacity of Minister of State for Planning & Programme Implementation I had promised PAPs; land for land, house for house and rehabilitation in letter and spirit. The cabinet led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee formulated national policy for rehabilitation in 2003. The PAPs therefore gave their whole hearted support which helped for smooth implementation of the project. Unfortunately, scenario changed with change in power. Dr. Manmohan Singh took reigns of the nation as the Prime Minister. Thereafter in December, 2004 PAPs of both the villages were evicted by using police force. Aggrieved PAPs filed Writ Petition in Mumbai High Court. I have joined them and have been personally arguing their case since the last seven years. Though PAPs have been given houses after the court intervention, 433 families of fishermen are still deprived of their bread and butter as they have not been given coastal land for fishing. Even the promise of land for land is yet to materialize."

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"Power generation commenced in Unit No.4, 230 days before the scheduled date i.e. from September, 2005 and 166 days before the scheduled date i.e. from August 2006 from Unit No. 3. Total 1,080 MW power generations became reality only because PAPs did not create any obstacle in the project. This early commencing is equal to savings of Rs. 396 i.e. Rs. 400 crores. Rs.6,525 crores was the estimated cost of this project. However, actual expenditure was of Rs. 6,100 crore which means further saving of Rs. 425 crores. Thus NPCL saved Rs. 825 crore on this project. Conventionally 5% of the project cost is spent on the rehabilitation of PAPs in water or electricity projects. This means the NPCL can spend upto Rs. 305 crore for rehabilitation of PAPs of TAPP. However, the NPCL itself has admitted in the advertisements released that it has spent only Rs.86 crore on rehabilitation. There is further scope for spending Rs. 219 crore. Instead the NPCL, Government of India and State Government are depriving PAPs of their rights," criticized Shri Naik.

Shri Naik questioned the propriety of the advertisement. He informed that PAPs are agitated as instead on spending on their rightful rehabilitation, NPCL has spent nearly Rs. one crore on the coloured full page advertisement. "The advertisement elaborates on rehabilitation but is silent on the most important fact that the project is now generating 1,080 MW since last five years", quipped Shri Naik at the end.

(Office Secretary)