

For favour of publicity

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**Assurance of survey for land to Tarapur Atomic Project Affected
Fishermen by Rehabilitation Minister**

Mumbai, Monday: "As the State Government is not in a position to rehabilitate project-affected fishermen of Tarapur Atomic Energy Project by giving coastal land, Dr. Patangrao Kadam, Rehabilitation Minister asked Thane District Collector to survey alternate land in Palghar Taluka. This direction was given after discussion with fishermen delegation led by Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister today. The meeting was attended by senior fishermen Shri Shridhar Tamore, S/Shri Vijay Tamore, Pramod Tamore, Vasudeo Naik, Ganapat Tamore, Sharad Tamore and senior officers of rehabilitation department including Secretary Shri Milind Mhaskar, District Collector Shri P Velarasu and District Rehabilitation Officer Smt. Vaidehi Ranade.

In a Writ Petition filed in 2004 in Mumbai High Court for rehabilitation of Tarapur Atomic Energy Project-Affected Persons; Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister has intervened. The High Court bench comprising of Justice B.H. Marlapalle and Justice Smt. Nishita Mhatre had directed the District Collector on 21st November, 2011 to find out if 438 project-affected fishermen can be given one hector land per family in Palghar Tehsil. Subsequently, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) filed an application requesting the High Court to cancel its order. NPCIL also alleged that Shri Ram Naik has mis-informed and mis-represented while giving information about the fishermen. Meanwhile, the District Collector did not implement the High Court direction. Agitated with this treatment the fishermen along with Shri Ram Naik discussed the issue with the Rehabilitation Minister Dr. Patangrao Kadam. The delegation requested him to look into the issue with a positive angle. As a result the Rehabilitation Minister directed the District Collector to undertake immediate survey for land allocation and report.

Though it was agreed that every land-less family would get Rs. 30,000/- as ex-gratia, no payment has been made during the last eight years. Moreover, some families have not been paid house rent at Rs.2,500/- per month for the period June 2006 to December 2007. Dr. Patangrao Kadam directed the District Collector to hold a special camp and arrange for immediate payment.

After inspecting some of the sub-standard houses constructed by the government for repairs and also for providing civic amenities the District Collector has asked the NPCIL to pay Rs.14.89 crore. As this amount has not been paid so far the Rehabilitation Minister asked the Rehabilitation Secretary to secure early payment.

"After the discussion with the Rehabilitation Minister the fishermen have seen a ray of hope. However, the rehabilitation process should be completed without any further delay", said Shri Naik at the end.

(Office Secretary)