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8th September 2011

**HC orders to give Tarapur Atomic Project
affected fisherman coastal land.**

Mumbai, Thursday : The Mumbai High Court bench of Justice Smt. Ranjana Desai and Justice Shri.Rajesh Ketkar directed the State Government today to give coastal land to fishermen evicted for completing Tarapur Atomic Power Project(TAPP). The direction came while hearing the writ petition of TAPP Project Affected Persons (PAPs). While Shri.Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister and Advocate Shri. Sachin Punde pleaded for PAPs, Advocate Shri Nitin Deshpande represented State Government and Advocate Shri.Rajesh Kumar assisted by Advocate Smt.L.A.Munim argued for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL).

Giving further details Shri. Ram Naik said, "More than five years have passed after commissioning of TAPP units 3 and 4 generating 1,080 Mwe. Advocate General Shri. Thorat had assured the bench of Justice A.P.Shah and Justice S.C.Dharmadhikari on 28th February 2005 that fishermen would be properly rehabilitated. However no positive action has been taken so far. Moreover I took initiative and discussed the issue with Collector of Thane and fishermen on 23rd December 2010. At the end of the discussion, the Collector assured to verify the availability of coastal land near Unbhat (village) and also send the report to the State Government. In order to expedite the work, I wrote three letters to Chief Minister Shri.Prithviraj Chavan on 14th December 2010, 10th February 2011 and 5th March 2011 and also met him personally on 30th December 2010 with a request to hold a meeting to solve the problem. However The Chief Minister did not give time for discussion".

Shri Ram Naik brought this insensitive and negligent attitude to the notice of the High Court bench. Justice Smt Ranjana Desai told the State Government and the NPCIL that rehabilitation is not completed only by giving residential houses. It is necessary to give them facility of coastal land to park their boats and also carry on other fishing activities. After hearing the arguments of the State Government and the NPCIL, the Bench directed the Thane District Collector to present his survey report and also directed the State Secretary, Rehabilitation Department to file an affidavit considering the issue positively.

The next hearing on the other issues will be on 22nd September.

(Office Secretary)