COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST)



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Vijayawada, Date: 26th June, 2023.

To, Honourable Shri Justice S. Abdul Nazeer ji, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati.

> Sub: Problems faced by the displaced people of Polavaram Project-Request to direct the state government and to intimate the

> > Government of India for the Redressal- reg-

Honourable Sir,

Pada yatra (Foot march) has been going on the issues and problems of the displaced people of Polavaram project from 20th June by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Andhra Pradesh committee. This yatra started at Nellipaka of Yetapaka mandal of ASR district and will culminate on 4th July at Vijayawada, where a Maha dharna is scheduled. It has been going on through about 400 km, covering all the mandals that will submerge in Polavaram project. V Srinivasa rao, CPI(M) state secretary is leading the Yatra with more than 500 tribes and other poor that will be displaced. We may please be permitted to bring the following problems and issues of the displaced people that have been observed during the Yatra and some long pending issues to your kind notice and to request your authority to intervene for the redressal.

Polavaram multipurpose project is intended to irrigate 7.2 lakh acres of land (including stabilization), cater drinking water to villages enroute including Visakhapatnam city and to produce 960 MW Hydro electricity. This National project submerges one lakh acres of land and forest and displaces 1.06 lakh families. Most of the submergence area is under the Fifth Schedule of the Constituion of India and the majority of displaced people are Scheduled Tribes.

The state and central governments have not been taking initiative to solve the problems of the displaced people. The problems of the displaced people are very serious and pathetic. Four mandals of ASR district and two of Eluru district were in flood waters for about hundred days in last year floods to the river Godavari. Thousands of families became shelter-less and suffered a lot. The government didn't assist them except paying Rs.2,000 per family. Essential commodities were not supplied and no compensation was given. Floods may occur this July, August also. We request that precautionary measures be taken now.

During the Yatra, people raised about and have been demanding for comprehensive implementation of 'The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013' to the Polavaram project displaced people. They appeal that the government to take precautionary measures in the flood prone mandals and to pay compensation to the flood affected families. The contour statistics have been wrong and they demand to redraw the contour statistics

scientifically. There are many other problems and issues that have been reported and observed by the pada yatra team.

We request that the following demands of the people be considered and conceded.

- 1. Displaced people should not be evacuated from the villages till the Relief and Rehabilitation measures are completely implemented.
- 2. The development and welfare measures to be continued as usual in the submergence villages.
- 3. Re-survey should be taken up on the basis of floods that occurred in 1986 and 2022.
- 4. Rehabilitation should be completed in all villages at a time and not in phases.
- 5. Mandal has to be taken as unit and all the affected people be provided with Relief and Rehabilitation.
- 6. Rs.20 lakhs shall be paid per acre for the land that the government takes from farmers in the submergence mandals.
- 7. Every displaced family should be given Rs. 10.50 lakhs irrespective of contour statistics, as per the assurance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the Assembly. Implement GO 224.
- 8. All the youth who have completed the age of 18 years should be awarded R&R package. Married women also to be given the package.
- 9. One member from each project displaced family should be provided with a government job.
- 10. The employees of the submergence areas shall be continued as they are in the Rehabilitated areas.
- 11. MGNREGA works should be taken up in the Rehabilitation colonies.
- 12. A comprehensive plan to be drawn for the schools and colleges in the submergence mandals to be re-established in the Rehabilitation areas.
- 13. One Super specialty hospital in every division should be established to render medical and health facilities to the displaced people.

Thanking You sir,

(Y.Venkateswara Rao)

C.P.M.State Secretariat Member

(K.S.Lakshmana Rao)

P.D.F. M.L.C

(Boppena Kiran)

(A.Ashok)

C.P.M. Dist Secretary, A.S.R. C.P.M.State Committee Member