

TEHRI DAM & HPP (1000 MW) & KOTESHWAR HEP (400MW) **Rehabilitation & Resettlement**

1. Tehri Dam Project, commissioned in 2006 included construction of a 260.5m high Dam, which has a reservoir spread of 42 sq. km. Due to the submergence caused by the reservoir, Old Tehri Town and 24 villages were fully affected, while another 88 villages were partially affected. In addition, 13 more villages were fully affected due to acquisition of land for the project purpose and establishing new colonies.

The Rehabilitation Plan is broadly divided into Rural Rehabilitation and Urban Rehabilitation. Affected families under Rural Rehabilitation are categorized as Fully Affected or Partially Affected. The families whose 50% or more land is being acquired are treated as Fully Affected while those families whose less than 50% land is being acquired are categorized as Partially Affected and are not to be relocated. Urban rehabilitation related to the R&R of old Tehri Town.

2. R&R POLICY & PACKAGE

2.1 The R&R Policy for Tehri Dam had been evolved and decided by the Government of erstwhile composite State of U.P. after interaction with the representatives of the local population, when the Project was under implementation in the State sector. After the incorporation of THDCIL, the rehabilitation work was handed over to THDCIL in 1990. The policy as evolved by the State Government was fully adopted by the Corporation and in course of time the amounts of compensation were enhanced where appropriate. The basic principles that had guided the formation of the Rehabilitation policy are:

- Rural oustees to be compensated through allotment of agricultural land or cash in lieu thereof.
- The rural oustees should be settled in large blocks so that the fabric of their social life remains intact.
- Ousteers or their representatives be involved to the extent possible in selecting the rehabilitation centers.
- To the extent possible, consideration be given to the preference of the oustees for settlement at a particular centre.
- Community facilities be provided at each of the rural rehabilitation centers at the cost of the project even if these did not exist at their earlier settlements.

A notable feature of the Tehri R&R Policy is that apart from compensation for property, every rural family was given 2 acres of developed irrigated land in rural area or 0.5 acres of developed irrigated near urban agglomerations of Dehradun / Hardwar. This dispensation was extended to even landless people, but engaged in agriculture related activity as wage earner or otherwise. Also, while resettling the displaced communities from a particular habitat, care was taken to locate them closely in a similar close knit habitat, so that their social fabric remains intact.

2.2 Improvements by Hanumantha Rao Committee (HRC)

On the demands for further improvements raised by the local population, the Government of India in September, 1996 constituted a Committee under chairmanship of well known economist Dr. Hanumantha Rao, referred to as the Hanumantha Rao Committee (HRC) to examine the Rehabilitation Policy of the Project and suggest further measures / improvements. The Government of India after examining the recommendations of HRC, accepted certain additional benefits / measures, which were incorporated in the Rehabilitation Policy issued in 1998.

The major recommendations of the Hanumantha Rao Committee, approved by the Govt. in regard to rehabilitation of the affected population include definition of family so as to make all major sons and major daughters who attained the age of 21 years, and dependent parent (Mother/Father) of the fully affected entitled land owner on 19.07.1990 eligible for ex-gratia payment of 750 days minimum agricultural wage each, grant of house construction assistance to the urban land owner families linked with the progress of construction and shifting, allotment of one constructed shop, recognition of the right of people living in the villages upstream of Tehri reservoir over the water from Bhagirathi and Bhilangna rivers and tributaries for drinking and irrigation purposes.

2.3 Further Improvements

Various improvements in the package were further carried out in the R&R package on the request of the State Govt with the approval of Government of India, including enhancement of compensations / benefits in view of the long drawn process of R&R to compensate for the escalation in prices, as also to meet the genuine aspirations of the affected section of population. The benefits included (i) increase in the House Construction Assistance admissible to the land owners of the Old Tehri Town, (ii) reduction in the cost of flats and shops constructed later to the level of the cost charged from the earlier allottees (iii) further changes in rural rehabilitation which included grant of house construction allowance, increase in the amount of cash grants for shifting of house-hold goods, and purchase of seeds and fertilizers; and increase in the amount of cash in lieu of land allotment to INR 5 lacs as against the existing limit of INR 2 lacs, (iv) Payment of compensation to Rural Shopkeepers; (v) eligibility to persons for land allotment who have sold their part land after 1978, but before notification under section 4(1)-17 of Land Acquisition Act, or 02.05.01 whichever is earlier.

Apart from increase in compensations, the measures also included additional funds for opening of Degree Colleges, Inter Colleges, and Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), construction of Hospitals / Dispensaries, electricity & distribution requirements etc. Similarly, funds were also provided for relocation and reconstruction of public facilities for those who would continue to reside above submergence level.

THDCIL has also established an Engineering Institute at Bhagirathipuram, which will benefit the local population.

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF R&R POLICY

On the recommendations of HRC accepted by the Govt., it was directed by Govt. of India in Dec.'98, that the State Govt. shall take over direct responsibility of the entire

rehabilitation task to be handled directly by its officers under the overall supervision and control of Commissioner, Garhwal. The funds for rehabilitation shall be made available by THDCIL as approved by Govt of India. Since the creation of Uttarakhand, the R&R is being implemented by Uttarakhand State. Policy decisions are taken at Govt. of India level.

4.0 STATUS OF R & R

4.1 Urban Rehabilitation (Old Tehri Town) : The Old Tehri Town comprised of Urban Population of 5291 families, categorized as fully affected. The Old Tehri Town has been completely Rehabilitated at New Tehri Town (NTT), or at Rishikesh and Dehradun as per the option of the rehabilitees.

The Old Tehri town was vacated in January, 2004. Status of Urban Rehabilitation is as under:

S. No.	Description of affected families	Total Nos. of PAFs	Rehabilitated	Balance
1	Landowners / Benap House Owners / Father Land etc. (as per 1985 Survey)	3,001	3,001	nil
2	Govt / Semi Govt / Institution employees / tenants etc. (excluding labours and unauthorized families)	2,290	2,290	nil
	TOTAL	5,291	5,291	Nil

Source: Rehabilitation Directorate, GOUK

The affected families have been allotted plots / flats as under :

Plots : 2,438
 Flats : 2,853
 Commercial Shops : 787

The NTT, newly developed, is at a height of 1350 to 1850 m., overlooking the Tehri lake, with a panoramic view of the Himalayas. The New Township has all the modern facilities for education (including ITI and a University), 75 Bedded Hospital, Financial Institutions, District Administration Offices, Markets, Bus Stand & places of worship etc. – all developed at the cost of the Tehri Project.

4.2 Rural Rehabilitation:

The total affected Rural families are 11,712 out of which 5,299 Rural families have been categorized as Fully Affected Families which were to be relocated.

Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of Tehri Reservoir is EL 830 m. and land has been acquired upto EL 835 m (Maximum Flood Level). All the fully affected rural families of fully affected villages residing below EL 835 m have been rehabilitated through allotment of land / cash compensation. The status of Rural Rehabilitation is as under:

S. No.	Description	Fully Affected families	Families Rehabilitated
1	Fully submerged/ affected villages	3,442	3,420
2	Partially submerged/ affected villages	1,857	1,852
	TOTAL	5,299	5,272

Source: Rehabilitation Directorate, GOUK.

(Land has been allotted to balance 27 families)

The affected rural population has been resettled in 18 resettlement colonies (7 in Haridwar Distt and 11 in Dehradun Distt). The rural resettlement colonies have been provided with all civic facilities, like electricity, irrigation, piped Drinking water, roads, schools, dispensaries, places of worship and community centres etc. even if they did not exist at the earlier place of residence. The Partially Affected families are entitled to cash compensation for their land coming under submergence or allotment of equivalent land taken over from fully affected families without dislocating them from their existing locations.

5.0 CONNECTIVITY & PUBLIC FACILITIES IN CUT-OFF AREA

The aspect of connectivity to the affected areas has been accorded highest importance by THDCIL and the Government. The major measures towards connectivity provided at the Project Cost include:

- In lieu of Tehri - Dharasu Road, Chamba - Dharasu (71 km) road at higher altitude has been constructed at Project cost.
- 41.25 km of Ghansali – Pratap Nagar road has been constructed to provide connectivity to Pratap Nagar from Ghansali.
- In lieu of Tehri – Ghansali road submerged, Tehri – Bhagirathi Puram – Tipri - Ghansali road has been constructed.
- Two medium motor vehicle bridges one each in Bhagirathi Valley i.e., Siyansu bridge and Bhilangana Valley i.e., Pipaldali bridge have been provided alongwith approaches.
- Ferry boat services have been provided at Project cost till such time bridges and approach roads were completed to facilitate the people living in cut-off areas.
- Cut off areas have been provided with alternate roads on account of submergence of Bhaldiyana bridge and all possible alternate arrangements have been made.

- Essential infrastructure facilities for the population residing above EL 835 m. (full reservoir level) like educational institutions, medical facilities, electricity distribution arrangements etc.
- Re-construction and relocation of public facilities existing below EL 835 m. at higher elevation for use of population residing above submergence level.
- Drinking water schemes for partially affected and project affected villages.
- A heavy motor vehicle bridge across Bhagirathi river near village Dobra with a span of 440 m, being constructed with funding by State Govt. & GOI. The cost of Dobra Bridge, initially estimated as INR 90 cr. has escalated to over INR 150 cr. This is in addition to the original package for cut off area as sought by State Government.

6.0 GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

As per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it was directed that, in order to look into the complaints of the Project Affected Families (PAF's) relating to compensations, allotments etc, the services of a retired District Judge shall be made available so that he can work along with the District Magistrate and sort out the problems of the PAFs. In compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a Grievance Cell has been constituted to sort out the grievances of the affected persons of Tehri Dam Project. A Retd Judge for the grievance cell has been nominated by the Hon'ble High Court, Uttarakhand. The grievances of the PAF's of Tehri Dam Project are being examined and decided by Grievance Cell headed by Retd Judge.

The status of disposed cases as on Dec.'2013, which were registered in Grievance Cell is as under:

Total registered cases in Grievances Cell	- 2817
Total disposed cases by Grievances Cell	- 2734
Balance	- 83

7.0 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

The Project has immensely contributed to the economic and social development of the region as well as Uttarakhand State by way of direct and indirect employment / economic opportunities.

a) Employment

i) For employment in THDCIL, preference is being given to the dependents of the project affected families, particularly in the category of workmen & supervisors, subject to vacancies and their meeting the necessary laid down qualifications and experience requirements.

ii) Apart from this, the contractors deployed a sizable work force from the local area on the Project.

iii) In order to provide gainful employment to the local population, THDCIL awarded small value contracts to the local people.

iv) For the treatment and soil conservation work in the Catchment area, the forest and other concerned departments have employed local persons.

b) Income Generating Schemes

Since it was not possible to give direct employment to all youth from PAFs in the project, THDCIL helped the resettled families to take advantage of various schemes of Self-employment, Income Generation being implemented by various Govt. and Semi Govt. agencies, detailed as under:

i) THDCIL organized awareness camps at Athoorwala, Pattri Block and Raiwala for PAPs to come forward as rural entrepreneurs. Officials of various State / Central Govt. agencies like Khadi Village & Industry Commission, State Horticulture & Food Preservation Deptt., State Sericulture Deptt., State Fisheries Deptt., Lead bank & Poultry Deptt., etc. were invited to give detailed knowledge about various existing schemes, training activities, loan procedure etc.

(ii) THDCIL arranged Training through UP state Horticulture & Food Preservations Deptt., Dehradun for Mushroom cultivation for commercial purpose.

(iii) In order to create additional source of income for PAPs one Khadi production cum training centre was opened by Khadi Village & Industry Commission (KVIC) and Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Dehradun at resettlement site Athoorwala. About 30 PAPs were trained at this centre on New Model Charka Units (NMC). The NMC unit along with revolving funds for working capital has been

provided by KVIC, whereas training expenses and space shed for training was given by THDC.

(iv) Training centers for ladies in tailoring and embroidery work were established at Athoorwala, Raiwala and Pathri Block. The centres have been strengthened and expanded by providing sewing machine, Knitting machine, typing machines, multipurpose peeko and fashion designing machine and raw material.

8.0 EXPENDITURE ON R&R

The total cost towards R&R (including land acquisition, compensations, development of facilities etc.) etc. works out to INR 1,484 cr. which is nearly 18% of the total cost of the Tehri Dam Project. This cost of R&R is one of the highest in the country for such Projects.

9.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES

A Socio Economic Study of the families rehabilitated was conducted by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) in March, 1993. The study was updated in May'2009, when the R&R process was substantially completed, to compare the results

of the first study and to understand any changes. In its report, ASCI has concluded that in the R&R for Tehri HEP, which was carried out on a massive scale, the facilities under this Project were much better compared to other Hydro Projects. The study has inter alia concluded that:

- Average size of land holding has increased from 0.8 acre before displacement to 1.9 acre after displacement. Irrigation facilities have increased significantly and as a result farmers are cultivating three crops in a year. Even landless PAFs have benefitted as they were allotted irrigated land.
- After rehabilitation, the PAFs have pucca houses as compared to slate or semi-pucca houses in their earlier locations.
- Civic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation and other community infrastructure, common facilities developed by the THDC created healthy atmosphere in the rehabilitated sites.
- Employment and income levels have increased significantly.
- PAFs have not only come out of food insecurity, but are also saving income from agriculture.
- Level of education has increased partly because THDC / State Govt. took initiative in establishing schools within reach of households; accessibility to schools is also made easy with the road network developed by THDC.
- Due to better access to health care and clean drinking water facilities created by THDC in rural and semi-urban rehabilitation centres, the infant mortality and other health indicators have improved.

The study has concluded that there is improvement in living standards of PAPs when compared with the areas where they stayed earlier. The modern facilities available at the resettlement sites were not available in their earlier settlements. The PAPs are in a much better position both socially and economically.

THDCIL has earmarked upto 2% of its net profits towards CSR activities and a large number of schemes in the region, not covered under the R&R package / measures are being carried under CSR.

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