

9. Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan

Orissa was amongst the first few states to bring out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy for water resource projects. However, there are no similar policies for industrial or other developmental projects either in the State or at the national level. In a way, this is understandable since R&R issues are site and project specific. As a result, the R&R plans for any project have to be evolved taking into consideration the needs of the local population, their socio-economic conditions and the available infrastructure facilities.

The proposed Resettlement and Rehabilitation plan suggested for Gopalpur, which has been prepared after careful considerations to ensure **total rehabilitation**, could form a useful basis for the development of a State and National Policy for resettlement.

The R&R plan for the steel plant project of Tata Steel at Gopalpur forms a crucial component of the project and has been prepared after incorporating significant improvements over the earlier R&R plans implemented in other developmental projects as well as after drawing upon the past rehabilitation experience of some of the completed projects. In preparation of this R&R plan, three major initiatives have been taken:

- On the policy front, a comprehensive plan has been prepared.
- On the institutional front, a structure is being established delineating responsibilities for individual R&R activities.
- Continued commitment of Tata Steel towards the long term sustainability of the resettled villages.

✓ The Resettlement and Rehabilitation plan is aimed to make provisions to ensure **TOTAL REHABILITATION**. The primary objective of the policy is that the economic condition of the project affected persons **must improve significantly** after resettlement and rehabilitation. The rehabilitation measures besides providing compensations, and means of livelihood, will also include steps for physical, social, economic, educational, environmental, occupational and cultural development. To realise these goals, the main thrust of the R&R programme will ensure:

- That the displaced people are physically resettled in a manner which represents their rights and takes cognisance of their dignity as individuals.
- The conversion of displacement into a potential beneficial opportunity for the economic betterment of the inhabitants.
- Full integration with the host communities on the basis of equality, mutual respect and understanding.
- Appropriate supporting community services.
- Ecologically self sustainable resettlement site.

Towards these objectives, the R&R plan envisages:

- Expansion of definition of family to include: unmarried daughters, divorcee women, widows, physically and mentally retarded persons, and minor orphans.
- Empowerment of women by protecting their rights to property.
- Improved entitlements to those displaced and enhancement of rehabilitation and resettlement grants.
- Entitlements for homestead-less and land-less encroachers.
- Providing access to training and employment opportunities in the new project and Government aided poverty alleviation programmes.
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation including evaluation of the developmental impact by independent consultants.

The process of resettlement is being viewed in this exercise *as a short term inconvenience for some, for sustained long term benefit not only for those displaced but for the State and the country as a whole*. The resettlement of any family from a well established household, however poor, brings in a feeling of a certain amount of trauma. It leads to the *fear of the unknown*. Issues like extent of benefits (fair or unfair), the suitability of the place of resettlement, ability to adjust to the new surroundings, uncertainty about the future income, overall peace and tranquillity in the new surroundings, etc., haunt the families. They dread the possible disintegration of their previous background, spiritual values and loss of individuality. These are often exploited by opportunistic groups to meet

their own ends. Lack of proper information often further adds to confusion and distress. Specific measures have been taken in this particular case to counter these misgivings by providing accurate information, establishing a communication centre at Chatrapur and arranging widespread access to official communications by way of news letters, audio-visuals, print media articles, etc. Several opinion groups comprising local youth, senior citizens and students from nearby educational institutions have also been formed to facilitate communication.

The displaced families will be resettled near the Sitalapalli and Luhajhar villages in a land area of about 540 acres. The rehabilitation site has similar surroundings and identical socio-economic and cultural background as the present abode of the villagers so that amicable integration of the project-displaced persons with the host population is easy. The establishment of the new site near these villages would also enhance the infrastructural support base of the existing villages.

✓ The resettlement site has been planned as a model town (Table 11) and should serve as an example for others to emulate. The highlights of the township are:

- Planned colony with fully developed infrastructure like approach roads, internal roads, electricity, running water, ponds, cattle grazing area, etc., with nearly 50% open area for a better environment.
- Community facilities like schools, panchayat ghar, seeds store, community centres, TV dish antennae, children's play ground, village tank, vocational training centre, health centres, cremation ground, etc.
- Religious places like temples for the village deities.

✓ The details of these facilities are being finalised in consultation with the project affected families and the R&R Committee.

The process of any rehabilitation is necessarily multi-dimensional and involves physical, social, socio-economic, educational, occupational and cultural issues. The *total rehabilitation* package evolved for this purpose will address the individual requirements of all these facets. The Government of Orissa has formulated special resettlement and rehabilitation guidelines for this project taking into consideration the local conditions (Enclosure 1).

Table 11. Provision of Infrastructure Facilities at the Rehabilitation Site

Area (in acres)	537.20	
Residential plots (nos.)	2356 (each 0.1 acre)	
Area (acre)	235.9	43.92%
Roads (km)	46.04	
Area (acre)	104.7	19.49%
Open space (acre)	14.50	2.70%
Education facilities (nos.)	8 (7 primary and 1 high schools)	
Area (acre)	34.06	6.34%
Health (nos.)	1	—
Area (acre)	5.0 (included in others)	
Shopping (nos.)	10	
Area (acre)	9.46	1.76%
Burial and cremation (acre)	(included in others)	
Community centre (nos.)	10	
Area (acre)	8.43	1.57%
Temples (acre)	5.50	0.84%
Others (acre)	125.63	23.38%

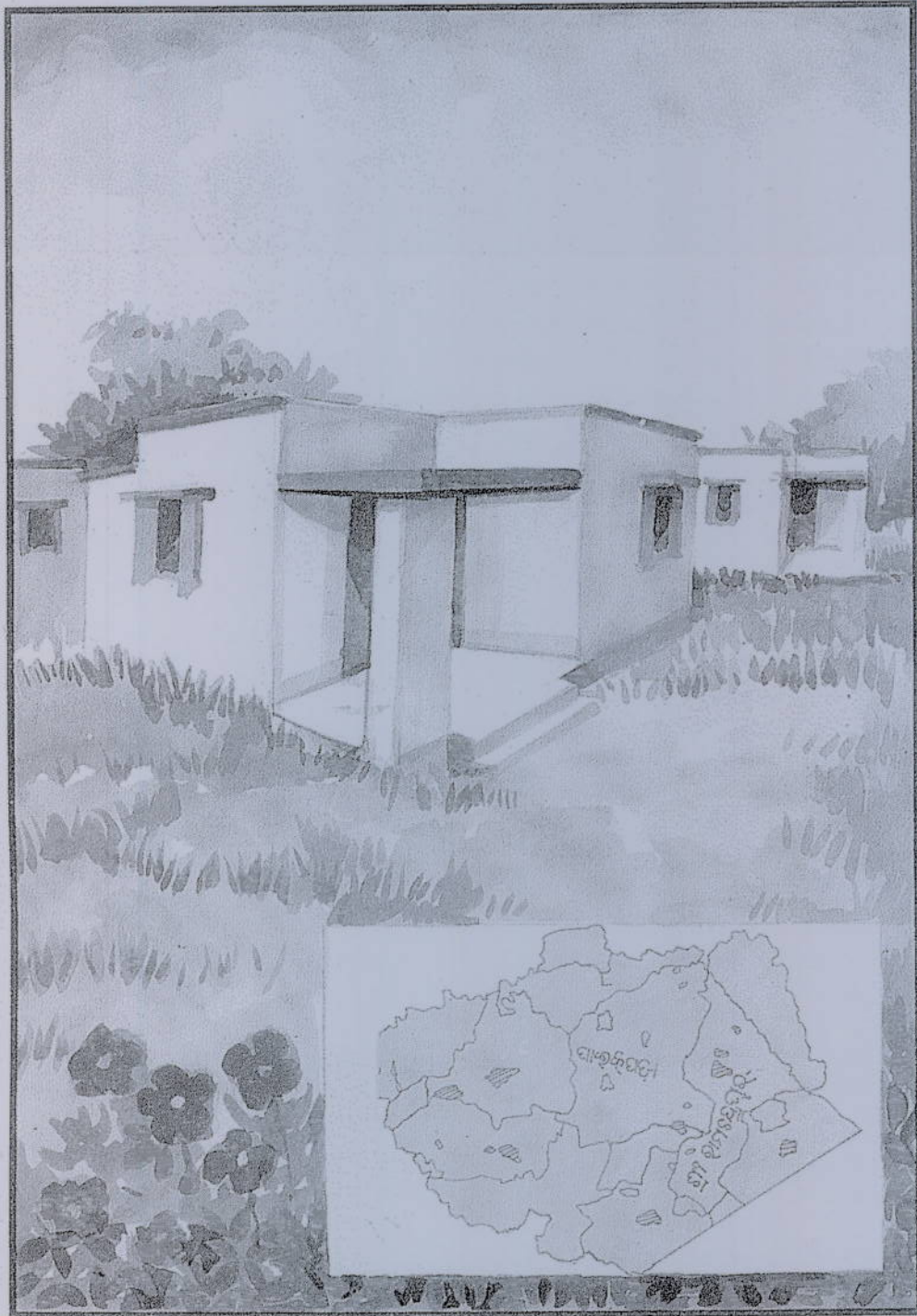
The details follow.

Physical: The compensation for the land acquired, allotment of suitable dwelling sites, construction of houses, etc. in the rehabilitation site constitute the physical aspects of rehabilitation. The project affected families are eligible for the following entitlements:

Compensation for land acquired: Under the Land Acquisition Act 1894, as amended in 1984, State commits to pay the market price of land to be acquired. Recognising the involuntary nature of acquisition provides for a 30% solatium and interest payable at prevailing rates in case of delays in payment. For the purpose of this entitlement, the date of announcement of 4(1) notification is considered as the reference date.

Entitlement under R&R plan: In addition to the above, the proposed R&R plan provides for the following benefits to those families whose land is being acquired:

- Access to skill improvement plans, training plans and employment opportunities in the future projects.



- Access to the poverty alleviation programmes of the Government.

Recognising the hardships of the poorer section of people losing land, Tata Steel will provide an exgratia assistance of up to Rs.30,000 per acre of land to make up the minimum benefits to Rs.1.0 lakh per acre acquired for the project over and above those entitlements mentioned in the R&R guidelines issued by the Government of Orissa.

Entitlements to project displaced persons: In addition to the above entitlement for land, each displaced family will be provided with:

- One tenth acre of land with built up infrastructure in the rehabilitation site, free of cost.
- Assistance of Rs. 3000 for construction of temporary sheds.
- Full compensation for the homestead land, trees, etc.
- Self rehabilitation grant of Rs 30,000 in case the displaced family is desirous of building the house on its own
- Maintenance allowance of Rs. 500 per month for one year after displacement.
- Option for a built up house by the project authorities on depositing the compensation amount.

Socio-cultural: The villages near the rehabilitation site by and large belong to the same cultural background and have close ethnological and cultural affinity with the villages at the plant site. All traditional beliefs and customs followed in the existing villages will be respected and rituals related to moving of the village deity, commencement of house construction, entry into a new house, etc. will be strictly observed. These activities will be conducted in close association with the senior citizens from the villages being acquired so that the existing social and cultural ethos of the displaced families is maintained in the post-rehabilitation period.

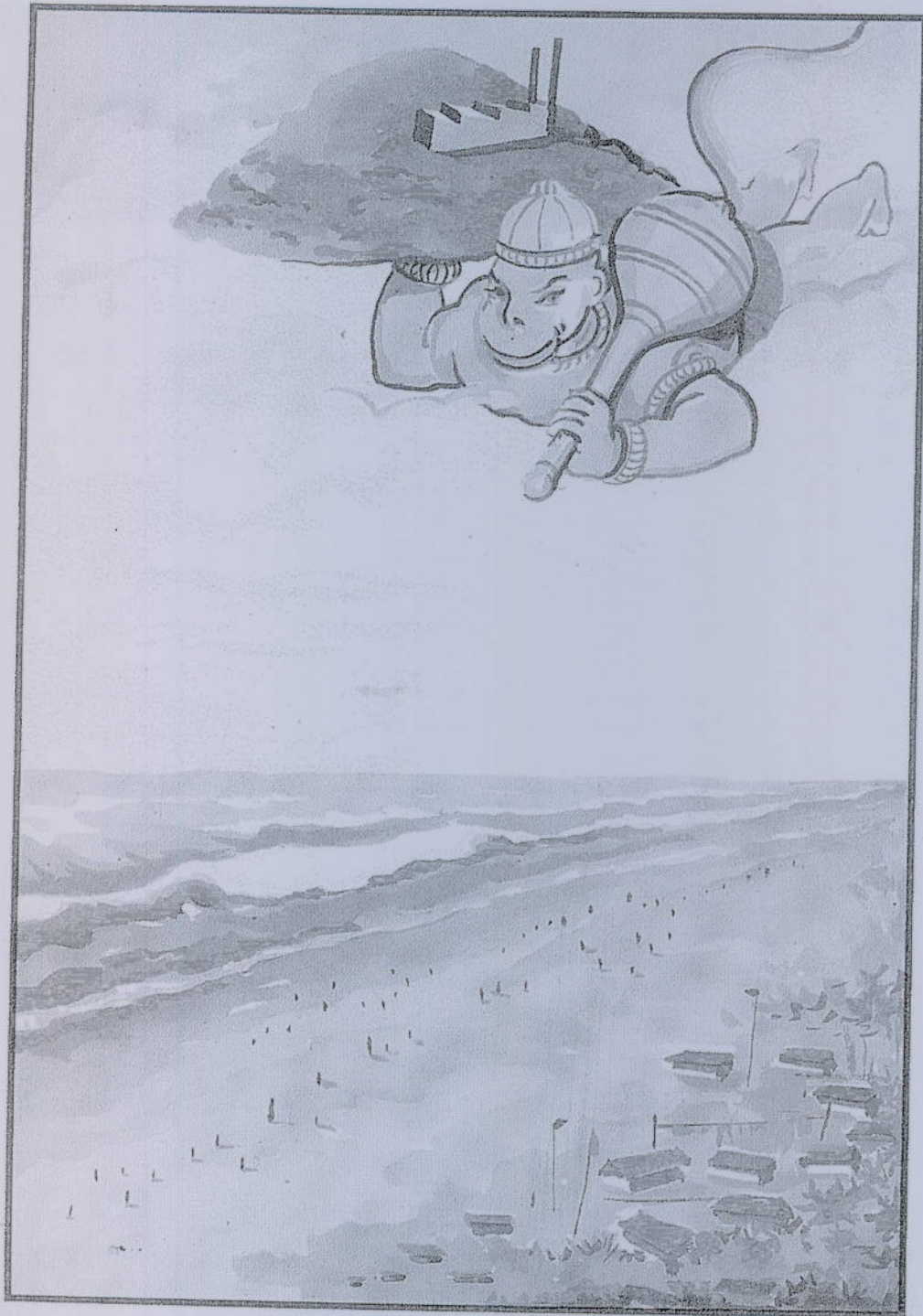
Educational: Since the literacy levels are very low in both the project affected villages and those adjoining the rehabilitation site, primary and middle schools for imparting educa-

tion to children are being provided at the new site. Further, to obviate the difficulties of having to travel long distances, a high school is being planned for higher education of the youth of the displaced families. In order to improve the literacy levels amongst the adults, adult literacy classes will also be arranged.

Environmental: In order to ensure and sustain resettlement in an ecologically friendly manner, it is planned to provide facilities like clean drinking water, healthy sanitation, all season roads with avenue plantation, etc. in the model town. Further, plantation of trees, development of kitchen gardens, etc. will enhance the greenery and improve the environmental conditions in this area. Smokeless *chullas* will also be provided for a cleaner environment.

Agro-forestry: Each house in the rehabilitation site, to be built by Tata Steel, will also be provided with plants and trees aimed towards increasing the income for the family as well as to maintain the ecological balance. In the total land area of each household of nearly 400 square metres, the built-up house will occupy an area of about 31 square metres. The remaining vacant land is proposed to be used for agro-forestry purposes for income generation. The list of plant species selected for this purpose is given in Enclosure 2. Home-stead agro-forestry is on a multiplier system where the space is utilised to the maximum extent. It encompasses multifarious economic species which can provide the basic requirements of a family, including fodder for the animals. The plant species (numbers 1 to 8 mentioned in Enclosure 2) produce substantial amount of nutrition and other by-products. The establishment of *pandanus fascicularis* (Kewra) species which is native to the area can support the families in a way similar to that in their original site. *Sesbania grandiflora*, *leucanea leucocephala* and *gliricidia sepium* which are very fast growing, multi-purpose leguminous trees, can help in providing a good amount of fuel wood, fodder for animals and small timber. They can also support the *beetel* vine on them, by which additional income can be generated. The flowers and fruits of *Sesbania grandiflora* are also edible. *Bixa orallana* can provide a good economic return if planted along the boundary as fences. It is non-browsable and can also help in pollution control.

Fuel and fodder: The displaced inhabitants are prone to facing shortage of fuel and fodder for their cattle. With the help of modern agro-forestry techniques, special species of plants suitable for cattle will be grown. This will also help in providing fire wood and



increase the overall yield of the land. In addition, the villagers will be encouraged to set up bio-gas plants to help meet their fuel requirements. Bio-gas plants are eco-friendly since they utilise cattle excreta and provide clean fuel as well as useful manure for the gardens and fields.

Employment generation opportunities: The Founder of Tata Steel had faith in the individual and firm belief in his ultimate worth — the development of Jamshedpur and its residents is ample testimony to his dreams. Similarly, at Gopalpur, it is expected that over the years, many families will shift from traditional agriculture to alternative modes of employment owing to excellent opportunities and higher income levels which the establishment of the mega steel plant would provide. Besides some direct employment in the steel works, tremendous opportunities for indirect employment in the ancillary industries and associated infrastructure will be generated (Table 12).

Table 12. Potential of Employment (Number of Persons) in Steel Plant Activities.

Year	Direct	Construction	Direct Auxiliaries	Indirect Auxiliaries
1997 - 2002	2500	2500	10000	10000
2002 - 2007	↓	5000	20000	20000
2008 - 2012	↓	5000	25000	25000
2012 - 2017	8000	5000	30000	30000

In the quest for economic advancement and welfare of the area, it is intended to transform the hardworking villagers of the Gopalpur area into a well organised and well trained work force ready to handle the latest equipment, obtain high class results, and yet continue to show a sense of belonging to the region. To facilitate this radical transformation, it is planned to provide training facilities for improving the skills of the villagers to avail of the increasing employment opportunities. Towards this end, a modern technical institute is being built at Gopalpur, complete with all up-to-date equipment and facilities to train the youth of the project affected families. Considering the tremendous importance of this activity for the dawn of complete industrialisation of this region, training of the youth from the affected villages has already been started by Tata Steel. The first batch of 185 cadets has started training from October 1996 both at Behrampur and at Jamshedpur, wherein they are being exposed to modern systems followed in industrial operations so that their skills can be honed to meet the industrial needs. For their skill upgradation, special training manuals have been prepared for the trainees at the Shavak Nanavati

Technical Institute, Jamshedpur in the areas of Electrical / Electronics, Mechanical and Operational aspects of industrial operations. These manuals have been prepared by experienced professionals considering the specific needs of the trainees.

Besides imparting specialised training for the matric-passed boys and girls, Tata Steel has plans to implement a scheme for training the youth of Gopalpur villages who are not matriculates. Their training needs will be specifically focused to make them avail of vast opportunities in infrastructural development sectors like driving, carpentry, welding, masonry, tailoring, baking, etc.

Further, preferential job opportunities to the project affected families will be provided, both during the construction and operation phases of the steel plant. There also exists a vast potential in dairy and agro based industries in which the women folk of the region can be gainfully employed for supplementing the family income — this aspect will also be addressed by encouraging women to take their rightful place in the Gopalpur society. ✓✓


Improvement in Quality of Life: Besides the statutory entitlements of the project affected persons, an ex-gratia payment is being made by Tata Steel for facilitating enhanced earnings in the short term. This and other specific measures being taken to assure an improved quality of life are summarised in Enclosure 3.

The villagers in this region have an **emotional** attachment to the *Kewra* plant. **The fact of the matter** is that the extraction of the *Kewra* fragrance certainly has the potential to emerge as an important industry of this region, improve the socio-economic conditions, and create employment opportunities **provided** the seasonal nature of the produce and the lacuna that most of the value addition is at present being carried out outside the State are resolved. The distillation processes in vogue are still primitive and the yield of essence from the flowers is very low. Thus, the benefits of the recent boom in the demand for *Kewra* essence has not reached the villagers. What is even more disturbing is that the distillation units engaged in processing the *Kewra* flowers switch over to illicit distillation of liquor during the non-flowering seasons. This has a damaging effect on the social and economic milieu of the villagers. This cause for concern today can be converted into a "divine" opportunity in future if the picking of *Kewra* can be supplemented by other



perfumery plant-species which flower during other parts of the year. This would help realise the twin objectives of permanent utilisation of the distilleries for perfume extraction and provision of a stable source of income for the villagers.

To bring this about, the services of the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhubaneswar have been engaged by Tata Steel. Their study should provide technical and scientific inputs to improve the distillation practice and increase the yield of essence from the flowers. The collaborative programme, sponsored by Tata Steel at RRL, is aimed to enhance the income of the total population by increased yields of *Kewra* and efficient distillation methods. The entire cost of the research programme is being funded by Tata Steel. It is planned to help the villagers ultimately to establish a *Kewra* Co-operative to provide efficient distillation units, analytical facilities, marketing skills and all sundry requirements for the Ganjam villagers to become totally self-sufficient and benefit fifty to hundred times more than what they are doing today.


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