

OCPL Adopts Humane Rehab

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Odisha Coal and Power Limited (OCPL) is adopting humane approach, while displacing the families to operate coal mines of Manoharpur. And the displaced families are happy over the positive approach of the State Owned Corporation.

Thanks to humane approach of Bishnupada Sethi, Chairman and Managing Director OCPL and Principal Secretary Energy, who has formulated innovative Resettlement and Rehabilitation Framework during his days in United Nations Development Program(UNDP).

The Ministry of Coal (MoC) has allotted the Manoharpur & Dip-side of Manoharpur Coal Blocks in favour of OCPL in 2015 to cater the fuel requirement of OPGC's expansion project (4x660 MW) at IB Thermal Power Station, Banaharpalli, in the dist. of Jharsuguda, Odisha.

The operation of Manoharpur Coal Mine requires physical displacement and shifting of two villages namely Manoharpur and Ghumudasan.

The physical displacement and shifting of Manoharpur village has been completed whereas the relocation of village Ghumudasan is in progress.

OCPL has adhered to the Orissa Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy, 2006 and declared a comprehensive R&R package for the Displaced Families (DFs), said Kshirod Brahma, Director OCPL, who is executing the program in the village level.

OCPL has set-up a model R&R colony with required basic amenities and facilities like School, Anganwadi, water supply, electricity, road, community centre, dispensary, veterinary centre, shops, kiosk, PDS centre, sewage treatment plant, children park, pond, crematorium, training centre, temple, Gram Devi Pitha, Rahasa Mandap, Orchard and outer trench with barbed wire fencing, said Mr.Brahma.

Pucca house of 1060 Square Feet (SF) with provision of 2 bed rooms, kitchen, cowshed, bathroom and toilet, courtyard with electricity and water connection has been provided to 233 eligible DFs opted for R&R colony.

Double cash compensation in-lieu of employment, annuity schemes, skill development & engagement under mining operation and promotion of sustainable livelihood are key components of rehabilitation package.

OCPL has been actively promoting sustainable livelihoods for the Displaced Families(DF). DFs in various farm based and non-farm based income generating activities through community mobilization, capacity building and exposure visits, business plan preparation, piloting, project activation, technical & handholding support and creating sustainable market linkages.

For effective realization of project objectives, MART, a global knowledge based firm, has promoted both group-based Income Generation Activities (IGAs) as well as individual-based entrepreneurial activities. On the collective front, five active Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been promoted.

Presently the groups are involved in production and marketing of mushroom, strawberry, processing and marketing of spices, trading in decorative items, food processing, phenyl production, incense sticks manufacture and garments stitching & marketing.

MART has also promoted individual entrepreneurs in production and marketing of disposable buffet plate and bowls, fabrication of steel structures, puffed rice manufacturing, poultry, beauty parlour, various kinds of retail shops and dairying. Job oriented trainings have been provided to eligible DFs under DDU-GKY and Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes.

The most significant aspect of this intervention is the productive utilization of compensation money received by the displaced families from OCPL for the income generating activities.

There is a positive sentiment amongst the DFs on the quality of interventions which in turn creates a rippling effect for remaining DFs to join in actively for securing their livelihoods.

For OCPL this is a small yet significant testimony to promote sustainable livelihood among displaced families in the post-displacement period so that the displaced families can lead a better and respectable life.