

BEFORE THE HON'BLE UNION MINISTER
FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
Mr. JUEL ORAM

MEMORANDUM

most humbly submitted by
B.GANGADHARAN, Convener,
KARAPUZHA ADIVASI AVAKASA SAMRAKSHANA SAMITHY

Subject: Aid to the Rehabilitation of the affected Tribal Families-
Karapuzha Irrigation Project regarding.

Hon'ble Sir,

I beg to invite your good self's kind attention to the issue of Rehabilitation of more than 250 tribal families affected by the implementation of the Karapuzha Irrigation Project of Wayanad.

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

The Karapuzha Irrigation project is the first Irrigation Project taken up in Wayanad District. With a view to irrigate more and more area under paddy cultivation to overcome the deficiency in ^{Food} grain production, a few major Irrigation projects have been investigated in Wayanad area, out of which Karappuzha project was found to be the most feasible one and was taken up for execution during the 5th Five Year plan.

The Project is to construct an Earthen Dam at Vazhavatta in Vythiri Taluk. This is purely an Irrigation project which envisages the construction of storage reservoir and canal system to irrigate a net area of 5221 hectares for two crops. An independent Division called "Karapuzha project Division" started functioning from 2/77, onwards with headquarters at Kalpetta for the execution of the project. The partial commissioning of the project was to take place in 1984-85. But due to various reasons even now the has not been meterialised.

The project was cleared by planning commission originally for Rs.7.6 Crores based on 1976 schedule of rates. The original estimate of Rs. 7.6 Crores shoot us to Rs. 225 Crores in 1997.

PROJECT AFFECTED TRIBALS

A large number of tribal families will be affected very much on account the implementation of the project. By various notifications the Govt. of Kerala acquired a total extend of 855 hectares of land for the construction of the Reservoir of which about 300 acers are tribal lands. About 15 Tribal colonies have been acquired. The number of affected Tribal families are calculated to be nearly 250, with 1500 members. Most of the project Affected Tribals are poverty -sticker.

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REHABILITATION PACKAGE & IT'S PRESENT STAGE.

A package for the Rehabilitation of the Affected Tribals has been adopted in the year 1994. An amount of Rs. 76.30 Lakhs has been reserved in this regard. The said package envisages the building new blocks of houses for those who have already received some amount towards compensation (less than Rs.50,000/-) for the lands acquired from then. An amount of Rs. 19.95 lakhs has already been disbursed to about 57 tribal families and than they have been left out of the perview of the said plan.

It may be noted that though the total lost of the project has been revised so many times, the Funds allotted for the implementation of the Rehabilitation has been remained untouched.

The most deserving among the project Affected people, the 'land less' tribals have been vrtually thrown out into wilderness with no assistance. They are still left untouched.

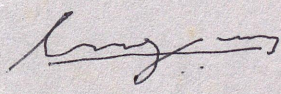
The Rehabilitation package which only envisages building new blocks of houses to Tribals. The package does not contain any soots of employment opportunities to the Affected. As most of the project Affected Tribals depend on agriculture for their Livelihood and an they are not able to depend further on Agriculture in the proposed Dam site, it is essential to find out means of employment. Such a view is completely lacking in the present project.

While the acquisition of lands for the project had started right in 1976 itself, the Rehabilitation plan has not been materialised even now for lack of Funds and Care.

The above facts requires urgent attention and necessary action of the Union ministry. Director's and orders to enhance the Fund allotted for the Rehabilitation of the project Affected Tribals is utmost necessary. It is also highly necessary to direct the state Govt. to complete the Resettlement plan without any further delay.

Hence it is humbly requested that your goodself, be pleased to take urgent necessary steps in this regard.

Dated this the 4th day of July 2000.

B.Gangadharan 
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