

Environmental Clearance

As per notification dated 14.09.06 of MOEF, Government of India issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 prior environment clearance of projects has become mandatory in respect of all new irrigation projects and for extension of existing projects. The applications for obtaining Environmental Clearance are submitted to the newly constructed State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) which will be examined by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

Initiatives taken during 2016-17

- A web site is being designed for real time implementation of LA and R&R activities with the help of NIC.
- Efforts made to settle the pending cases relating to forest land diversion and environment clearance by taking up the issues with the F&E Department, Govt. of Odisha, MoEF, Govt. of India, in its Regional Office at Bhubaneswar as well as at New Delhi.
- Special efforts made to sensitize Collector & DMs for compliance of Forest Right Act-2006.
- To facilitate the field work on LA&RR, retired RIs, Amins & Data Entry Operators are allowed to work in the field establishment of Spl. LAOS / Spl. LA & RROs / PD (R&R)s.
- To expedite the field work on LA and R&R, Govt. order has been taken for fresh recruitment of Revenue Inspectors and Amins.

Organization

The Directorate of R&R functions as a composite Directorate under the Dept. of Water Resources. The land Acquisition and R&R matter is dealt by Director R&R-cum-Joint Secretary who is assisted by Deputy Director-cum-Ex-Officio Under Secretary, Officer on Special Duty, Asst. Conservator of Forests, Asst. Director (CM), IPDP officer and other ministerial staffs. There are also three consultants working in the Directorate to manage the legal issues. In the field there are Spl. LA & RROs, Project Directors (R&R) and Zone Officers etc. who are responsible for acquisition of land and implementation of R&R. This Directorate closely interacts with Revenue & D.M Dept. on policy matters.

The principal jobs of the Directorate are

- To process land acquisition cases expeditiously to make land available to the project.
- To ensure that land losers get genuine compensation.
- Successful resettlement and rehabilitation with participation of displaced people and all stake holders.
- Emphasis on Land based rehabilitation in the ayacut area to the extent possible.
- Livelihood reconstruction through skill up-gradation.
- Make the displacement experience as less traumatic as possible.
- Expediting Forest and Environment clearance proposals for irrigation Projects.

The new Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition and Resettlement and Rehabilitation Act 2013 came into force from 1.1.2014. Special efforts have been taken to implement the Act as per the guidelines issued by Revenue and DM Department from time to time.