

Monitoring of Resettlement and Rehabilitation Activities of Rampur Hydroelectric Project

(Second Quarter Final Report for the Period 1.10.2007 to 31.12.07)

Introduction

The monitoring of R&R and SCDP activities of Rampur Hydroelectric Project (RHEP) was assigned to Agro-Economic Research centre (AERC), H.P. University, Shimla in October 2007 for a period of two years. The ToR required the activities to be monitored quarterly during the first year and biannually during the second year. There are 15 activities under R&R and SCDP components of RAP. The implementation of such activities has been monitored for the period ending 31.12.2007. The details of present status of these activities have been presented in Annex.-1. The methodology (Annex.-2) adopted for the monitoring of activities mainly relied on group discussions, focused interviews involving various categories of stakeholder. All the villages, where R&R and SCDP activities are under progress, were visited by the monitoring team (Annex.-3).

The monitoring team came out with the following findings.

A. Activities Under RAP

1. Private Land Acquisition

Private land of 29.10 hectares was acquired from **141 families comprising 202 land owners / co-owners**. Out of these 35 families become landless. Compensation of Rs.6,50,000 per Bigha has been paid as per norms and the beneficiaries are more than satisfied with the amount of compensation which is many times higher than the prevailing market rates. From the compensation amount one family from Averi and two from Bayal have purchased land in neighboring villages. Others reported that the land prices have escalated and presently land is not available at affordable prices and they would wait for land prices to fall. Some of the landless families suggested that they should not be provided with any cash compensation but equal amount of land in the nearby villages should be allotted to them. Majority of families have deposited the money in bank and one family has invested in Mutual Funds. All the families desired that the project Authorities should provide them with technical and market knowledge for adoption of non-land based income generation activities. Three families in Bayal have started functioning as sharecroppers also. Two families in Averi failed to identify the income generation activities compatible with local demand and supply scenario. This compelled them to use the compensation money for meeting out part of consumption requirements.

2. Rehabilitation Grant (RG)

Rehabilitation grant has been provided to all the 35 landless families certified by Deputy Commissioner, Kullu. All the PAFs are satisfied with provision of **RG of amount vanging from Rs. 45000/- to 65000/-**.

3. Provision of House/ House Plots (Resettlement Benefits).

Plots for construction of house have been allotted to 15 houseless families (5 plots at village Averi and 10 plots at village Bayal). Initially, it was planned to provide the plot of size 60 Sq. Meters for construction of houses. Later on, the size was increased to 280 Sq. meters greatly benefiting the affected household. The demand for higher plot size emerged from the fact that it is not only the affected family which has to be accommodated it is also the farm and other animals, which need sheds nearby. The demand was

reasonable and accepted by the authorities. The authorities also wanted to provide plots at one place so that it might become feasible to provide requisite infrastructural facilities. But the beneficiaries had some inhibitions arising out of caste considerations leading to demand for plot at different places. The project authorities were also considerate to accommodate the displaced families in the village itself whereas the earlier plan was to provide them plots in village Bayal. All these families belong to Schedule Caste category. The plots have been developed by the project.

There are 10 families who have two houses each and one of these is acquired for the project activities. By definition adopted, they have not become houseless as they still have one house and they are not treated at par with **houseless families**. This category is demanding that they should be treated at par with houseless families and should be provided with plot for construction of houses. The demand of compensation of Rs. 1,80,000 per family by the project authorities is still under consideration. The enquiry revealed that the second house was being used as accommodation for labour and livestock. Only 2 families were living in new houses which have been acquired.

4. Transit Allowance

All the families made clear their satisfaction at the amount of **transition allowance** and the period for which it has been made available. Most of the affected families are staying with the relatives and it appears that they are making savings out of the shifting allowance. The only apprehension is whether the house construction will be completed within 18 months. Three families in Averi village have postponed the construction due to death in family. Temporary tin shelters provided by RHEP have come in handy. The families have also made use of the materials from the old houses acquired after paying the requisite amount of 5% of the house compensation.

5. Assistance for Construction of Houses

The acquired houses have been evaluated by a private agency and the compensation paid accordingly. For the construction of new houses 40 % of the total amount of Rs. 1,80,000 has been received by all the 15 families do not have any problems in this regard. Two families have constructed houses at Averi and two in Bayal have started the construction work. These families are now demanding the release of second installment for timely completion of their houses. Eight families in Bayal have yet to start the construction, as the plots are yet to be developed.

6. Income Generation Activities

The activity is yet to **be started. Certified list of PAFs is yet not received from DC Kullu.**

7. Provision of Technical Education

Of the 70 students sponsored for technical education in various ITIs, three students have been reported to drop out of courses. The parents of 12 students were interviewed. Though they were satisfied largely with the scheme, they **are expecting enhancement of scholarship amount which is at present Rs. 700/-**

8. Merit Scholarship

One application from project affected family and 4 from project affected area were received for Merit scholarship. Total amount of Rs 29,000/ has been released to them. Five applications have been received which are under process. All the students/ parents were satisfied with the amount of the scholarship and its disbursement.

9. Regular Employment in the Project

SJVNL has given employment to project affected families through contractors. Five Data Entry Operators have been employed through contractor. The Major contractors provided employment to 220 persons from project affected area. Although, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour requirement is fulfilled

from project affected areas and families, the population, at large, demanded that all they should receive preferential treatment even at the executive level. The argument in their favour was that it is these families that have been deprived of their resources or livelihoods or at least have been affected in some manner and hence social justice demands that they be separately treated on the line of reservation for SC and ST. The employment being offered to them involving work in the tunnels and blasting is not preferred by majority and hence losing employment opportunities.

10. Hiring of Vehicles

Out of 20 light vehicles 12 numbers have been hired from project affected families/residents of project affected area. People want to hire out the vehicle to RHEP but had two main complaints. First, an amount of Rs. 15,000 per month was uneconomical which needs to be increased to Rs. 18,000 to 20,000 per month. If this happens they would be glad to invest their compensation money for purchase of vehicles and hire them out to RHEP. Second, the condition of terminating the contract as soon as the vehicle completes 1,00,000 Kms. The vehicle covers this mileage within 1 – 1.5 years where as if they get it financed from bank etc, it takes minimum of 3 years for repayment.

11. Petty Contracts

D- Class works **of the value upto Rs. 10 lacs** have been earmarked for contractors from project affected areas. Besides SJVNL, the major civil contractors are also further sub-contracting their works to the contractors from project affected area. Works with a total value of Rs 16.39 Crores have been awarded to the local contractors out of which 32 works amounting 1.81 cores have been awarded to local contractors. The main problem in this regard is non-issuance of EPF numbers by the Labour Department and hence the desirous and industrious entrepreneurs are not able to take advantage of reserving D- Class contracts to the local population. The popular demand in this respect was that RHEP authorities should take up the matter with Labour Department Authorities. The sub-contracting by the private contracting firms was reported to be heavily biased towards influential persons with political shelter.

12 Compensation for losses caused due to blast damage The families (12 families) affected by blasting, around the surge shaft in Bayal, have moved out. The R&R department has very conveniently, for the benefit of affected families, has ignored the fact that the houses of these families are constructed on government land.

13. Health Facilities

The health facilities provided are in the form of dispensary at village Bayal and provision of mobile health unit. So far 17,694 patients from project affected panchayats have been benefited. A 20 beds hospital is also coming up in Bayal. The interviewed persons are largely satisfied with the health facilities including consultation and medicines. However, some of villagers complained that the Mobile Health Van does not stop at the specified locations and hence they are deprived of the facility (Village Averi). The R&R department has now issued the health cards which are supposed to be waived when someone needs the van to be stopped on road but the people are not aware of this provision.

14. Compensation for losses caused to crop

Twenty four families which have been suffering on account of heavy dust from dumping yard have been assisted (8 families having house and land, 9 families having only land and 7 families having only house affected due to dumping muck)). The assistance has been twofold; the affected families have been provided same assistance as is available under transit plan and also they have received an assistance of Rs. 7,455 per bigha (0.08 ha) for loss of crop. All the families are satisfied from the assistance. Simultaneously, the families in Averi have not moved out and are also cultivating their field. The benefits are therefore doubled for the families affected by dust. The farmers have reported steep decline in crop yields (30-40 % in case of fruit crops and 15-20 % in field crops) due to very high level of SPM in air resulting in poor cross pollination, especially in fruit crops like

almond and plum. The field crop scenario, like vegetables, is also not any better either. There is no provision presently for this eventuality in R&R plan. The project authorities have, however, approached the H.P. Agriculture University for identification and remedial action for the problem. They will also access the crop damages and may be the compensation on this account will be contemplated.

15. Grievances Redressal Committee

The Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ani, district Kullu and has total of 4 members including BDO, Nirmand and two members from project affected families. The Committee has not met so far due imposition of model code of conduct after the declaration of assembly elections.

Suggestions/Aspirations of PAF

1. The families which have been provided **house** plots for houses, **have** demanded jeep-able approach road for facilitating the carriage of construction material. Presently they claim that they had to spend about Rs. 20,000 to 35,000 on this account alone, so either the project should reimburse the amount or make provision of road. The project authorities showed their inability as they have to provide only path way to the plots, which has been done.
2. The parents of students availing the facility of technical education felt that the amount of Rs. 1500-2000 per month would be more realistic and appropriate. They also want that the amount should be released every month as they are unable to spare money for meeting out the expenses of their wards. In such eventualities, they are forced to borrow money.
3. Most of the students under provision of technical education have taken up the trades of welding and electrician, which are compatible with the skilled labor employment of the project. The parents wanted that it must be made mandatory to absorb the sponsored students in the project or at least they must be given priority. In any case they felt that the student must get job with in two months of completing the course.
4. The PAF felt that they have been deprived of their resources or livelihoods or at least have been affected in some manner and hence social justice demands that they be separately treated on the line of reservation for SC and ST. This should be applicable for all level of posts.
5. The rate for hiring of vehicles should be revised to Rs. 20,000 per month and condition of maximum of 1,00,000 Kms be withdrawn. The payments should be made within one week of submission of bills.
6. Panchayat Pradhan of Gadej was of the view that in order to avoid the delay in execution of small development activities, the development works involving expenditure up to Rs. 1,00,000 should be carried out only through Panchayat.

Recommendations and Policy Issues

1. Introduction and popularization of non-land based activities for the landless families can go a long way in improving their **socio-economic** status. The activities like small dairy farming, poultry farming, fisheries, mushroom production, bee keeping etc, based on natural resource endowment of the area. Cottage industries like weaving etc can also be introduced as income generation activity.
2. Due to land acquisition there is tendency towards marginalization land holdings. In order to make them financially viable intensive high pay off crop diversification be introduced.

3. The activities recommended at No. 1 above can also be beneficial for generating additional income on small and marginal farms.
4. Water conservation techniques like rain water harvesting can be highly beneficial for villages like Averi which are totally dependent on rains.
5. Development of private and community grazing lands, adoption of silvi-pastoral model.
6. The PAF should have exclusive rights on the dumping sites for fuel, fodder and timber once these are developed after the dumping is completed.
7. Organization of cooperative societies for marketing of output and provisioning of input for PAF.

B. Activities Under Sustainable Community Development Programmes (SCDP)

The infrastructure and community development works have been initiated after the resolution to the effect and prioritizing the works on the basis of local needs was passed by Gram Sabha. This clearly indicates that the works undertaken are based on local needs and aspirations. The current status of these works has been monitored by the civil engineer and the details are presented below.

#	Name of the Work	Evaluation	Response of Community
1	Provision of Irrigation	1400 meters of masonry water channel constructed at Bayal. There is no problem reported by the beneficiaries.	The flow of water has increased by 20-30 % greatly saving the time required for irrigation. The provision of masonry channel has also greatly reduced the repair works which were frequently required earlier.
2	Foot path and foot bridges	One foot bridge was repaired across Satluj and 5 footpaths were paved with plain cement concrete in villages Badari, Bakhan, Lower Badhari and Koyal. These paths are 3 feet wide and quality of work is of desired level. The width should ideally be 4 ft wherever it is possible. Steps have been provided at many places where the slope is more than 25-30° making the paths safer especially during the rainy season.	The community as a whole has been satisfied with the paving of footpath but felt that the activity should be extended to other places also. They felt that width should also be increased. About 30 % persons felt that the quality has been compromised in the construction and hence the project authorities should be stricter with quality control.
3	Streetlight	The street light works in Poshna and Bayal were executed through HPSEB. Despite the heavy expenditure there is much left to be desired. Only half tubes are used on full height poles making the light dim. Full tubes must have been used.	The people claimed that flexible wires of substandard quality have been used which is not a standard practice and especially with such a large investment. A few persons felt that alternative layout of poles would have been more effective. Solar light could also be used. People also demanded mercury lights.
4	Fair and festivals	It is very prudent to facilitate local fairs and festivals by providing financial grants. It is effective way of earning peoples goodwill. The project also facilitated sports activities by providing grants to tournaments. Cricket kits were distributed to Panchayats under RHEP.	The people largely appreciated the goodwill gesture of RHEP.
5	School infrastructure	The activities under this head included construction of classrooms, store, basket ball and badminton courts and leveling of play grounds, retaining walls etc. The work has been executed as per norms and end users are satisfied from it. The play ground of Dutt Nagar school could be made more even as it becomes risky to play hockey etc there. Marking of basketball court is still pending. Play ground is constructed in Bayal by providing bulldozer. The 49 schools falling in RHEP area have been provided with infrastructure like computers, furniture etc. In order to generate environmental awareness, schools have been provided financial grant for purchase of nursery for tree plantation etc. The fencing of play ground in Chatti school has been shown to be completed whereas it is not.	The students and their parents are satisfied from the activities. Some parents were highly appreciative of RHEP for conducting such activities.
	Miscellaneous activities	Providing and fixing of CGI sheet roofing in temple and community hall in Bayal. The quality of work is up to desired level. Two storied RCC Panchayat ghar is being constructed at Brow and brick work in first floor is in progress. Crematorium has been constructed in village Koyal, no roof has been provided. The crematorium should have been made on improved lines.	People appreciated the activity but felt that such works should be taken up on priority and work execution be expedited. People of Koyal wanted the roof on crematorium and some provision for people to sit on.

Note: A certificate of satisfactory completion of works should be obtained from the end users, specifically stating that the work completed has been up to desired level and fulfills the requirements.

ANNEX-1

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES UNDER R&R PLAN OF RHEP

Sl. No.	Activities	Target	Revised Target	Progress during the quarter	Cumulative progress	% of progress	Remarks
1	Private Land Acquisition						
2	Rehabilitation Grant						
3	Provision of House Plots						
4	Transit Allowance						
5	Assistance for Construction of Houses						
6	Regular Employment in the Project						
7	Hiring of Vehicles						
8	Petty Contracts						
9	Income Generation Activities						
10	Provision of Technical Education						
11	Merit Scholarship						
12	Compensation for losses caused due to blast damage						
13	Health Facilities						
14	Compensation for losses caused to crop						
15	Grievances Redressal Committee						
16	Financial assistance for construction of cattle shed						
17	Infrastructural facilities to school of project area						
18	Upgradation of infrastructural and community development works						

Annexure-2: Methodology

The methodology adopted was based on repeated visits of monitoring team to the villages. The team was split in to two sub-teams; one comprising of two social scientists and other of civil engineer. The sub-teams relied on observations, individual interviews and group interviews with stakeholders. The observations were cross-checked with the responses of Project Management before accepting and presenting these as monitored values or responses.

Annex.-3: Monitoring Team

The monitoring team comprised of following:

1. Dr. Ranveer Singh – Social Scientist
2. Dr. C.S. Vaidya – Social Scientist
3. Er. Sanjay Bhardwaj – Civil Engineer

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Assigned By

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