

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 647
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023

NATIONAL ALUMINIUM COMPANY LIMITED

647. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the problems of the people in Odisha who have been displaced by the projects of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited (MCL) in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the number of such displaced families; and
- (c) the steps taken to resolve their problems?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): The subject matter of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of displaced people in mining projects is in the purview of State Governments. As informed by National Aluminum Company (NALCO) and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), the problems of the people of Odisha who have been displaced by the projects of NALCO are being periodically reviewed by the Rehabilitation and Periphery Development Advisory Committees (RPDAC) constituted by Government of Odisha. In Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL), compensation against acquisition of land, trees/ crops and structures is assessed as per Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act, 2013) and being paid to the villagers after vesting of land with MCL under The Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act 1957 (CBA (A&D) Act, 1957).

(b) & (c): A total number of 636 persons were displaced by project activities in NALCO. Out of which, 601 persons were displaced in Damanjodi, Koraput District and 35 persons were displaced at Angul District. Out of 601 land displaced persons (LDP) at Damanjodi, 599 LDPs/ their nominees were employed in NALCO. Regarding balance two cases, nomination towards one case recently identified is to be approved by District Administration and for balance one case decision is awaited from District Authority due to non-finalization of the nominee because of their family dispute. Out of 35 LDPs at Angul, 34 LDPs/their nominees were employed at NALCO while one LDP had preferred for one-time cash assistant in lieu of employment.

In MCL, 17,262 families have been identified as project displaced families (PDFs) till date and 12,789 families have been given resettlement benefit. The issues of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of displaced persons are monitored and reviewed by RPDACs and the grievances of the displaced persons are redressed. The RPDACs have also constituted sub-Committees for redressal of the individual cases consisting of the local Hon'ble MP, MLA, Collector & SP of concerned District, Director(Personnel), MCL and CGM/GMs of MCL. Further, MCL is now holding regular grievance redressal meetings to address individual grievances and provides R&R benefits to all PDFs within and beyond the R&R Policy of Government of Odisha.
