

Consultation on Land Policy of Resettlement and Rehabilitation

Dates : Sep 30 – Oct 02, 2012

Minutes of the Consultation on Land Policy and R&R issues related to Land reforms of the country

(Organized jointly by Sambhaavnaa and ICAN)

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1. We are fighting battles on grounds chosen by the Government, there is no way we can succeed. The battle at Noida was more for the price of land ie not only should I get more, I should get a share in the profits.
2. Land Aquisition is part of a bigger problem facing India the net result of **MARKET** based instrumentality are 90 times that of the Government based instrumentality and 21/2 time what land



distribution tried to do.

3. While the British period had to deal with famine, deprivation and immiserisation, the scale on which displacement has taken place post British and the callousness of the Government in dealing with this is unprecedented.
4. Number of technical improvements exist , Sattelite technology for instance can make agriculture more efficient if taken to the masses.
5. Need to deal with the wider question of land use and land use policy in this country. The fact that land is on the State list list cannot be an excuse.
6. How can the tremendous flow of **MONEY** into land through FDI (which is only jacking up the prices and not adding anything to the GDP), be stopped ? Building is now in the hands of Multinationals, this was not the case just 15 years ago.

Need for a moratorium on dealings in Land to burst the speculative bubble. Need for creation of a



National Land use commission.

- How to decommoditise land ? Socialisation of land. This kind of co-operativisation should not be confused with the cooperative movement in India which was primarily in the hands of the elite and facilitated the flow of **MONEY** and other benefits to relatives and friends. Limited success of Amul pattern restricted to a particular commodity.

Comments

1. Creation of Land banks and facilitating procedure of transfer of land by collectors.
2. Spurious procedures to acquire land eg biofuels. Ostensibly green fuel , development of wastelands, creation of employment. On the ground land having other uses so biofuel cannot be produced, however process for land identification and procedure for allotment set in place which is now being used for other purposes.
3. The need to carefully examine the agrarian crisis was felt.

Main issues related to the agrarian crisis

1. Based on the understanding that Agriculture cannot meet all the livelihood needs of the population.
2. Shift of livelihoods outside agriculture in America and Europe not possible in India . Even if we assume that development happens as planned at 8%, it will take 237 years to move people out of agriculture.
3. Need to change the paradigm drastically so that the fragile equilibrium does not go into a spin. Improve productivity by 'collectivisation' (caveats explained above). Need to build on full employment potential of the small and marginal farmers with support from common lands (animal husbandry, forestry and supplementary wage employment through development of allied activities in the vicinity).
4. Urban , rural divide , need to defragment this as a large section of the urban population have rural linkages, the demand for resources (land, water, electricity), which is then sourced from the hinterland ends up making agriculture unviable leading to the tail spin mentioned above.
5. Need to create a climate where basic necessities are not treated as **COMMODITIES**. How can science and technology help in this (motivation for the younger generation to enter into agriculture).
6. Which type of farmers are we talking about. One group has cornered all the resources, the other cannot survive without supporting wage labour.
7. Need for an agro ecological approach to agriculture, eg of the traditional system of Jaisalmer given and how this is being destroyed by short sighted policies that substitute capital as against working closely according to nature's cycles.

8. Need to link up various mass movements against corporate land grab so as to build pressure on Government for appropriate policy. How can the miners be made to pay for the destruction of nature. Historical shift of agriculture from production of goods to meet local needs to production for the market explained in the context of Karnataka. Issues related to pricing of commodities. Any scientific pricing system will have to take into account cost of production and livelihood needs. This will help factor in cost of working against nature. Support needed for the small and marginal farmers to produce what they can in the given agro-ecological conditions, this will help reduce the costs of external inputs to a minimum and consequently the problems related to petroleum and coal based development. (The former, skews the exchange system in favour of petroleum monopolies, the latter results in destruction of valuable forests).

The discussion on the R&R bill facilitated by Madhuresh of NAPM highlighted the following

1. Bill in current form untenable as it is based on the presumption of displacement.
2. How can the Gram Sabhas be empowered to resist unwanted displacement ?
3. The Bill addresses who gets compensated, but the main issue is that alternative suitable livelihood has to be adequately ensured along with the caveat in point 2 above.

There was consensus on the following demands

1. White paper on Use of land and displacement.
2. Formation of National Land Use Commission .
3. Moratorium on Agricultural Land transfers to non agricultural uses.
4. Repeal of the 1894, Land Acquisition act and SEZ Act.

The above keeps in mind the economics of survival, the dependence of small and marginal farmers on both private and common land for meeting their livelihood needs and the fact that the [MARKET](#) (commoditisation of land), does not reflect the many faceted uses of land to the local and global society. While the above reflect larger goals, day to day survival needs may necessitate compromise on the part of local communities. In order to ensure concerted political action on the part of the majority of the Indian population, sensitivity to immediate concerns and links with other like minded groups have to be taken into account.

Issues like spectrum etc indicate that common resources now exist in areas hitherto unknown. The result of public [INVESTMENTS](#) have created resources outside the realm and comprehension of farmers. these have to be factored in as well .

Downloads :-

[Bill for Land gives true value](#)

[Natural Resources and Governance](#)

[Concept Note on Natural Resources for ICAN](#)

[Whom do Natural Resources belong to ?](#)

[Paper by S.P.Shukla](#)