

DR. N. C. SAXENA, COMMISSIONER AND
HARSH MANDER, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT
IN THE CASE: PUCL Vs UOI & ORS. WRIT PETITION (Civil) NO. 196 of 2001

October 19th, 2007

Relief Colonies/Assam/514

Shri. P C Sarma
Chief Secretary
Government of Assam
New Secretariat
Dispur
Assam

Sub: Status of Internally Displaced Persons living in Relief Camps in Assam

Dear Shri Sarma,

This is with reference to our visit to Assam and our subsequent letter dated June 17th, 2007, requesting you to provide us with information on internally displaced people living in Assam in relief camps. These would include the Adivasi camps, the camps for the internally displaced Muslims and the camps in Karbi Anglong.

You had assured us during our meeting that while striving for a permanent settlement, the Government of Assam would also immediately seek to put in place basic schooling facilities with provisions for a Mid Day Meal and ICDS Centres, as per population norms in all the camps. The State Government had also assured us that they would ensure that Antodaya ration cards are distributed to all the families in the camps, and PDS shops that are geographically and socially accessible to them. In addition, job cards were proposed be issued to all the applicants who are willing to work and adequate employment as per the provisions of the scheme was to be provided to them. Similarly all aged persons were to be provided the benefits of the National Old Age Pension Scheme and Annapurna Yojana, pregnant women of the Janani Suraksha Yojana, and people who lose the family bread earner, the entitlements under the National Family Benefit Scheme.

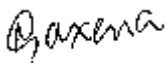
Since the numbers are not large and restricted to specific geographical areas, we had hoped that it would be done within three months. We had discussed that the State Government, realizes the imperative for a permanent solution to the problems of persons who are internally displaced by ethnic clashes and living in camps, both in the Adivasi and Muslim camps. But while this long term solution is unfolding, it is completely unacceptable that citizens of the country are living in conditions of destitution with chronic denial of their rights to food and livelihood.

We are not sure if any of these steps that were discussed have indeed been carried out by the Government of Assam. We would therefore request you to send us within a month an Action Taken Report on the situation in all the relief camps with internally displaced persons in Assam.

We would like the ATR to provide us with clear information on the following parameters, for each of the camps:

- a) Details of the numbers of BPL/ Antodaya and Annapurna cardholders who were displaced and whether alternative ration cards were distributed to them by the Government of Assam.
- b) An updated list of all relief colonies where internally displaced people are currently residing with populations.
- c) Does every camp have at least one ICDS centre per relief colony, and an additional one for every 1000 or part population in these camps? Status of services, particularly hot cooked SNP and immunization services being provided under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- d) Does every relief colony have a running primary and upper primary school, with hot cooked mid day meals provided for each child of school going age? Please provide us with a time frame in which the remainder will be covered, with reasons for non-coverage so far.
- e) Does every camp have a ration shop under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in each of these resettlement colonies? Please provide us with a time frame in which the remainder will be covered, with reasons for non-coverage so far.
- f) All IDPs in these camps should be covered under Antyodaya. How many of the IDP families have Antyodaya cards? Please provide us with a time frame in which the remainder will be covered, with reasons for non-coverage so far.
- g) Details of the numbers of adult camp residents, all of whom are eligible for wage employment under the NREGS in those districts which are covered by the NREGS, how many of them have been given job cards, how many days on an average has each resident family got work in NREGS?
- h) Details of whether these internally displaced persons have received entitlement under the National Old Age Pension Scheme.
- i) Details of the number of beneficiaries of the National Maternity Benefit Scheme / Janani Suraksha Yojana.

With regards,



Dr. N.C. Saxena



Harsh Mander

CC: Dr. Sunil Kaul and Ms Anju Talukdar, Advisors to the Commissioners to the Supreme Court, Assam.