

The technical Paper on “**e-Tool Monitoring of R&R Plans in Irrigation Projects**” by Mr. P. Madanaiah, FIE, Consultant of CGG presented during the All India Seminar on “ **LARGE DAMS – A BOON OR BANE TO THE SOCIETY?**” (on the eve of *109th Birthday Celebrations of Padmabhushan Dr K L Rao*, Hon. Life FIE) held by the Institution of Engineer (Hyderabad Centre) on 15 th 16 th July 2010. The same was published in their proceedings.

**Title/Topic:** e-Tool for monitoring of “**Rehabilitation & Resettlement**” plans in Irrigation Projects

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### **Preamble**

Development of Major irrigation projects often requires displacement of people from their homes, land and other means of livelihood. Such displacement has tremendous psychological, social and cultural consequences on the affected families and such effects of displacement spill over to generations in many ways. Hence the issues should be handled with utmost care, human touch and forethought. As the R&R activity is the preliminary and critical activity and should be effectively performed before execution of the project in a time frame.

Many State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings have been adopting their own Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policies or are in the process of formulation. A National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families were formulated in 2003, and revised in 2007. Based on reviews and experience of implementation and to address many related issues, a comprehensive National Rehabilitation and Resettlement policy Bill-2007 (NRRP-

2007) was introduced. It establishes to provide benefits and compensation for the people displaced by land acquisition, purchase or any involuntary displacement and addresses the rehabilitation and resettlement issues comprehensively. The State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings or agencies, and other requiring bodies shall be at liberty to put in place greater benefit levels than those prescribed in the Policy.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has embarked on creation of about ten millions acres of new irrigation facility. This entails displacement of lakhs of persons and partial or full submersion of many villages. The Government of Andhra Pradesh in 2005, has formulated a comprehensive and very liberal R&R Policy and issued required clarifications and amendments for effective implementation, based on experiences in implementation and feedback. In the second step, Government of A.P. brought the executive functions of the associated departments under one umbrella of Irrigation Department for effective implementation and monitoring of R&R plans. Government has appointed a commissioner for R&R responsible for supervising the formulation of R&R plans, effective implementation and redressal of grievances. For each project, one Project Administrator (PA) is appointed to exercise overall control and superintendence of R&R plans and execution. A Dispute Redressal Mechanism is also formulated to consider and dispose of complaints in a timely manner. In addition, a monitoring mechanism at State level and Project levels is constituted.

### **Need for e-tool**

A systematic and transparent approach in planning and execution of R&R activities is imperative for assuring desired project outcome. The present system followed for implementation and evaluation of R&R benefits is through routine files, which is found to be slow and ineffective to address the issues. The process also involves coordination of action plans of different Departments & Agencies in the process. Further, when number of projects is taken up for

construction simultaneously involving large scale displacement of the affected families, it is very difficult to monitor and control the rehabilitation activities effectively on day-to-day basis. The success of the R&R primarily depends on the active association of the stakeholders *which could be achieved to great extent by establishing total transparency* of the activities at all stages. Such information shall be at their door step of the holders to know the details without approaching various offices located at various places.

To overcome such problems and for effective and timely implementation, an

"e-Tool for Monitoring of "Rehabilitation & Resettlement" is considered to be the best alternative in the present system. One such e-tool has been developed for Government of AP by the Centre for Good Governance. The tool has been adopted with great success.

### **Objectives of e-Tool**

The principal aim of this e-Tool is to ensure transparent and effective service delivery for administration of resettlement and rehabilitation and to the displaced persons.

### **Online' Process of R&R Activities**

The development of the e-Tool for monitoring of R&R Plans requires the detailed study and understanding of the Policy of the respective State or Organization and its process for adoption. Such process shall be embedded in the Tool. The following general process for preparation and implementation of R&R plans is envisaged

- § Government declares by a Notification in the official gazette, the villages and localities as an affected Zone of the project and thereupon the policy shall be applied
- § Government appoints a project administrator (PA), for each project.

§ The State level monitoring committee for redressal of grievances is formulated by the Government and communicated

- The PA is given the Identification Number and Password, to enable to access the e-tool.
- The PA distributes the R&R activities among the R&R offices, according to the plan of rehabilitation and villages fixing time frame. The R&R officers are assigned with Identification Numbers and Password.
- The R&R officers have to enter the details of Socio Economic Survey (SES) of all PDFs/PAFs in the e-formats. At any stage of survey, the results could be immediately displayed and discussed in Gram Sabhas or other public forums. Such list(s) shall be communicated '*online*' to the PA.
- The PA after detailed scrutiny publishes the draft SES in the Gram Panchayats concerned inviting objections and suggestions from the PAFs
- After considering the objections and suggestions, the PA submits the plan to the District Collector for according approval.
- On approval of the Socio economic survey, the system automatically generates the eligible benefits and grants of all the PDF/PAFs as per the R & R Policy.
- The PA shall prepares a detailed draft Plan/Scheme of R&R and submit for the approval of the District Administration.
- On its approval, the R&R plan/scheme is published in the village /localities and also in District Gazette. Then the policy shall come into force for implementation.
- According to the approved R&R plans, the entitlements are given to the affected persons.

### **Report generation and Monitoring :**

The e-Tool envisages to provide very simple but well defined data entry fields, to capture the data of socio economic Survey (SES) and other related details.



- i) In indicate the facilities and amenities available in the village to be rehabilitated and provided at the resettlement centre/ zone with its stage
- k) Also enables to assess the socio economic impact before and after the resettlement and forms as the principal guiding factor for future programs.

