



सत्यमेव जयते

**राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग**  
**National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)  
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

F. No.: Odisha/1/RourkelaSteelPlant/2016/RU-III(ESDW)

Dated: 09.05.2025

To,

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**Subject: Visit report of team of NCST regarding implementation of recommendations of the NCST in RSP on Rehabilitation Resettlement and employment of Displaced ST families.**

महोदय,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited above and to enclose the Visit Report of the Team of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) headed by Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, NCST to areas of Displacement of Scheduled Tribes (STs) due to projects of RSP and South Eastern Railway (SER) in Rourkela Township and surrounding areas in District-Sundargarh (Odisha) from 10.04.2025 to 11.04.2025.

It is requested that action taken / to be taken on the recommendations / suggestions made in report may be sent to the NCST within the 15 days to decide further course of action by NCST.

Yours faithfully,

(P. Kalyan Reddy)

Director

(Ph No. 20819841)



**National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

**F. No.: Odisha/1/RourkelaSteelPlant/2016/RU-III(ESDW)**

**Visit Report of the Team from the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) headed by Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, NCST to areas affected by Displacement of Scheduled Tribes (STs) due to projects of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and South Eastern Railway in Rourkela Township and Surrounding areas, District Sundargarh, Odisha**

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is a Constitutional body set up under Article 338A of the Constitution of India to investigate and monitor all matters relating to protection, welfare and socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes in the Country. As per the Constitutional provisions, the Union and every State Govt. shall consult the Commission on all major policy decisions affecting Scheduled Tribes. The Commission presents its Reports to the Hon'ble President of India and all such Reports of the Commission upon the working/implementation of the Constitutional safeguards provided for Scheduled Tribes are to be laid before each House of Parliament along with Memorandum explaining the Action Taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

As per mandate, the NCST has considered the representations regarding ownership of land rights to the STs surrendered by the Rourkela Steel Plant to the Govt. Of Odisha. On these representations, NCST has taken up the issue with the State Govt. of Odisha, Rourkela Steel Plant and South-Eastern Railway to resolve the problems of Scheduled Tribes. NCST had also conducted several Sitzings with the officials of the organisations/agencies but the problems of STs remained unresolved. In February 2025, representatives of Scheduled Tribes from Barhabans, Distt.-Sundargarh and the President of Rourkela Steel Plant & Marshalling Yard Displaced Committee, Rourkela had again requested NCST to consider the petition and send a team to assess the situation. The request was considered and NCST decided to send a team to visit the concerned villages/locations as mentioned in the representations.

It is pertinent to mention that NCST has submitted a special report on 'Status of measures taken by Government of Odisha and Steel Authority of India (Rourkela Steel Plant) on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of displaced tribal' on 15.01.2020 to the Hon'ble President of India. Thereafter, the 'Action Taken Memorandum' of the Special Report was presented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the Lok Sabha on 13.03.2023 and in the Rajya Sabha on 15.03.2023. In the report, it has been mentioned that the State Govt. of Odisha has taken action and 1742 *Pattas* were distributed to displaced ST families for 'Land for Land (housing purpose)'. In addition to this, 942 nos. of displaced families have been provided 'Land for Land (Agriculture purpose)'. The land was distributed to the Local Displaced Persons (LDPs) during the years 1954-55 to 1959 in 15 Reclamation camps as per the availability of Land.

Accordingly, NCST constituted a team headed by Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, NCST along with team members namely Dr. P. Kalyan Reddy, Director, Shri R.S. Misra, Consultant, Shri Akash Tripathy, Senior Investigator, Shri Ashok Kumar Lakkarasu, PS to Hon'ble Member and Shri Deepak Kumar Palai, UDC, RO, NCST, Bhubaneshwar. The team visited the Rourkela Township, Steel Plant and affected villages/areas on 10.04.2025 – 11.04.2025 and interacted with affected ST persons of the villages/localities. As per schedule, the team arrived at Rourkela on 10.04.2025 at 04.00 PM.



Thereafter, a team of NCST along with District Administration officials directly proceeded from the Airport to the villages/localities/affected areas:

**1. Bandhposh locality (nearby Airport of Rourkela):**

The displaced ST members informed that they were residing there for 3 generations (~75 years) and were occupied in agriculture activities. In the year, 2023, the District Administration, Distt. Sundargarh has started suddenly damaging their crops without prior Notice and started constructing for Adarsh Vidyalaya in RTU-2 area. The official of the District Administration informed that the lands had been surrendered by Rourkela Steel Plant and accordingly, Govt. of Odisha has allotted the land to Odisha Mining Corporation for the construction of the School and suggested that the claim of residents is baseless. It was also informed by residents that there is vacant land available with RSP but the administration has constructed the school in the occupied land only. It was also informed by ST members that there is a proposal to construct an Agriculture Development Centre (Krishi Vikas Kendra) nearby on a 50-acre land adjoining the school building. It shows that the administration knowingly harassed the ST members.

**Recommendations:**

- a. The affected area is notified under the 5th Schedule to the Constitution of India, therefore, provisions of the 5th Schedule may be implemented for ST members residing in the area. The District Administration and State Govt of Odisha may ensure for proper implementation of provisions of the 5th Schedule.
- b. The most of residents of the affected locality are landless. Therefore, the Revenue Department of District Administration, Sundargarh may prepare the list of residents of that area/locality/village in consultation with the local Gram Sabha/Panchayat. The list then must be endorsed to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes within 45 days from receipt of this report. Thereafter, compensation for damaged crops and necessary facilities like 'land for land (housing)' and 'land for land (agriculture)' may be provided to affected ST members.

**2. Baghbudi village (Chhend locality), RSP Township:**

The area of Baghbudi village in Chhend locality was divided by a connecting road. The land in possession of the villagers is said to be more than 60 years old and constitutes about 400 acres. A Shopping Mall has already been constructed on the land occupied by the ST members. It was also informed by the ST members that the Administration is planning to occupy the remaining land of the residents, which is utilised for agricultural purposes. The NCST team visited the spot and enquired with the District Administration officials regarding the issue and ownership rights. The District Administration officials did not answer to the satisfaction of the Commission.



**Recommendation:**

- a. The Gram Sabha may prepare the list of ST Members who occupied the lands in the Chhend area which are likely to be taken by District Administration/RSP for official purposes.
- b. The Revenue Department, District Administration, Sundargarh and RSP may also conduct a joint survey regarding the list of ST families who are occupying the lands.
- c. The Survey no. of lands which is occupied by villagers/residents of Chhend area may be supplied.

**3. Barkani village (Bandamunda):**

The NCST team reached the Barkani village, Bandamunda at around 06.30 PM on 10.04.2025. The team was received by approximately 300 ST members including petitioners and a Member of the Legislative Assembly (Odisha), Shri Joseph Tirkey. The NCST team observed that there was a semi-constructed proposed (railway track) was under construction nearby to the hamlets/houses of the residents. During the interaction with local ST members and officials of RSP, the officials of RSP alleged that there was an old railway line existed in the same space which was 'stolen' by the ST members of the village. The villagers opposed the allegations and submitted that there was no such railway line and this proposed construction is a recent development of the RSP to expand its business. The residents demanded that this proposed construction of the railway track be stopped immediately, unless and until a substitute compensation or land/house is provided by the RSP to the affected ST members.

Sarpanch, Barkani Village has informed that the District Administration has not provided/issued Pattas in favour of the ST members/residents as they are residing for 3 generations. The official of RSP informed us that the proposed Railway track is from RSP to Dumerta Railway Yard the land of villages/localities is under the jurisdiction of RSP and villagers have no rights to compensation etc., as they are residing illegally. The Member of Legislative Assembly (Odisha), Shri Joseph Tirkey has supported the claims of ST members of Barkani village/localities and demanded that the land for land (housing) and land for Land (agriculture) and employment to the affected ST members be given by the District Administration/RSP, as compensation for their survival.

At the end of the meeting with ST members/residents, Hon'ble Member, NCST requested/suggested the RSP and District Administration officials to stop the proposed construction of the railway track immediately. He further suggested that the plan of action for rehabilitation and resettlement of the residents of the village may be discussed with the management in a Gram Sabha meeting.

**Recommendations:**

- a. The Sarpanch of Barkani village may convene a meeting of Gram Sabha to ascertain the ST families who will be affected by the RSP Railway project.
- b. The RSP and District Administration may coordinate and work in tandem to supply a detailed list of survey no. on which the Railway Track is proposed.
- c. A bridge connecting the road to affected habitations by ST members of the Barkani village may be constructed/planned, which would allow access to the main road of affected habitats of Barkani village.



- d. Drinking Water facilities may be extended in the Barkani village by the RSP under its CSR projects.
- e. Primary and Secondary Education facilities may be provided by RSP under its CSR activities in Barkani village.
- f. The RSP management and District Administration, Sundargarh, are advised to not initiate any action for the construction of the railway track until further plan of action for resettlement and rehabilitation of affected ST members is not finalised by them, in consultation with Gram Sabha of Barkani village (Gram Panchayat, Bondamunda).

#### **4. Jharmunda and Bijuband villages:**

The visit was a follow-up decision that came out during the interaction with ST members of Barkani village, where ST members informed that the villages of Jharmunda and Bijuband have no electricity and other basic facilities. The NCST team visited the Jharmunda and Bijuband villages located in the peripheral boundary of the Rourkela Steel Plant and under the possession of Indian Dynamite Limited (IDL) at around 08.00 PM on 10.04.2025. The residents of these villages informed us that there are no basic facilities as the village is situated on the land allotted to IDL. The officials of the District Administration informed that the lands have been given by the State Govt. of Odisha to IDL on lease. The IDL has not conducted any developmental activities yet so far. Almost all the residents of these villages are landless.

The NCST team observed a similar situation as informed by the ST members during the interaction in Barkani village regarding the availability of basic amenities.

#### **Recommendations:**

- a. The particular of residents of these villages (including Adhaar card no., Ration Card no. and survey no. of land occupied by them) may be prepared by District Administration, Sundargarh and to be submitted a copy to NCST within 30 days of receipt of this report.
- b. The landless ST members of these villages may be provided land for agriculture.
- c. A plan for holistic development of villages may be prepared by The District Administration, Sundargarh / Rourkela and the same may be intimated to Govt. of Odisha.
- d. District Administration, Sundargarh may provide basic facilities such as electricity and drinking water on an immediate basis.
- e. The Revenue Department, Govt. of Odisha may re-consider the lease granted in favour of IDL as the IDL has not conducted any activities in occupied land.

#### **Visits on 11.04.2025 At 10.00 AM**

##### **5. Jalda Village:**

On 11th April 2024 at 10:00 AM, a team from the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) conducted a field visit to Jalda Village, located in Lathikata Tehsil of Sundargarh District, Odisha. During the visit, the residents brought to the team's attention a critical issue concerning land



allotment. It was reported that a portion of land, originally belonging to Scheduled Tribe (ST) community members, had been allotted to a non-ST individual. Further, the said individual is not a resident of Odisha but belongs to another state, raising serious concerns about the legality of the transaction and its implications on tribal land rights. Despite the matter being brought to the attention of the authorities, the land remains under the possession of the non-ST individual. No corrective action has been taken by the Revenue Department of Sundargarh District. In addition to the land-related grievances, the residents highlighted the lack of basic infrastructure and essential public services in the village. Despite the presence of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) in the region, which has Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligations, the facilities provided by RSP have not been extended to Jalda Village. The village currently lacks access to safe drinking water, adequate education infrastructure and basic healthcare services. There is no proper water drainage system in the said area, leading to unhygienic conditions, particularly during the rainy season. Furthermore, the community centre established in the village has no appointed caretaker, resulting in its neglect and under-utilization. Residents also expressed concern that RSP is attempting to acquire the remaining land in the village. This ongoing attempt at land acquisition, without transparent consultation or adequate compensation, has raised fears among the local ST members of further displacement and erosion of their traditional land rights.

### **Recommendations**

- a. The Revenue Department, District Administration, Sundargarh may take corrective measures to restore land rights to the ST members and ensure enforcement of tribal land protection laws.
- b. The Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) may initiate its CSR activities towards Jalda Village, particularly in the areas of drinking water supply, healthcare, education and maintenance of the community centre.
- c. A comprehensive survey and impact assessment should be conducted before any further land acquisition by RSP, ensuring free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of the ST residents.

### **6. Kukuda Gate (Bondamunda):**

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 11:30 AM, a team of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) visited Kukuda Railway Gate on the Rourkela-Bisra road, following a request for a spot visit by representatives of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community from Kapatmunda Village, located in Bisra Block, Sundargarh District, Odisha. During the site visit, members of the ST community raised serious concerns regarding the non-payment of compensation for land that had been acquired as part of the infrastructure project. They informed the NCST team that although construction of the railway overbridge is currently underway, the requisite compensation has neither been sanctioned nor disbursed to the affected ST landowners. Further, the ST community members expressed serious concerns over the response of law enforcement authorities when they attempted to voice their protest against the construction of the flyover. They reported that during their protest against the construction of the flyover, police personnel resorted to coercive and brutal methods. Allegedly, despite the highhandedness faced by the protestors, no First Information Report (FIR) or complaint was registered by the police in favour of the ST members.



The villagers of Kapatmunda emphasized that their land was taken without due process and without transparent or adequate compensation, which they believe is a violation of their land and constitutional rights. Moreover, they highlighted the absence of proper communication and consultation prior to the acquisition raising issues of involuntary acquisition of land and non-compliance with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, particularly its provisions for Scheduled Tribe communities.

**Recommendations:**

- a. The District Administration should initiate a time-bound enquiry into the claims made by the affected ST landowners. This should include verification of land records, the extent of land acquired, and the current status of compensation. A dedicated team comprising revenue officials and South-Eastern Railway should be constituted to carry out this assessment.
- b. Upon verification, all pending compensation must be sanctioned and disbursed without delay in accordance with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, ensuring adherence to the special provisions for Scheduled Tribes under Sections 41 and 42 of the Act.
- c. A senior-level officer of District Administration, Sundargarh should be appointed as the nodal officer of contact to coordinate between affected families, the construction agency (Railways or PWD), local administration and the other concerned agencies to ensure timely resolution of all pending issues.

**7. Kapatmunda underpass:**

The ST members of Kapatmunda (Bartoli) have submitted a formal memorandum to the concerned authorities demanding the construction of an underpass on the Orga-Dumerta Railway Line under the Chakradharpur Railway Division. The proposed location for the underpass lies between railway pillar numbers 580/9 to 579/20 and 579/45. In their representation, the villagers have highlighted the serious difficulties being faced by the residents, particularly the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities residing in Kapatmunda and other nearby villages. The lack of a proper underpass has significantly disrupted their daily lives, affecting access to agricultural fields, schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential services.

To assess the situation on the ground, a joint field survey was conducted on 20.03.2025 by officials from the South-Eastern Railway and the District Administration, Sundargarh. Based on the findings and community feedback, the villagers have also emphasized the need for fair and timely compensation for the land that is to be acquired for the proposed construction. They have urged that the compensation process be completed and disbursed before the commencement of project execution to ensure transparency and justice for the affected landholders.

**Recommendation:**

- a. The South-Eastern Railway may consider the joint survey conducted by SSE/Works/Line/CKP dated 20.03.2025 with Tehsildar, Bisra, Superintendent engineer, R&B Division, Rourkela and ADEN/WEST/CKP for the construction of the underpass between pillar numbers 580/9 to 579/20 and 579/45 at Kapatmunda.



- b. Local Gram Sabha(s) must be consulted to maintain transparency and participatory planning in the project.
- c. The District Administration, Sundargarh and South-Eastern Railway Administration should initiate the land acquisition process under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.
- d. The District Administration, Sundargarh and South-Eastern Railway Administration Ensure that compensation is assessed transparently and disbursed prior to the commencement of any construction activity.

#### **8. Nepali Yard/Marshalling Yard, Bondamunda:**

During the visit of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on 11.04.2025 at 12:00 PM, representatives of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community and residents of Nepali Basti informed that the South Eastern Railway (SER) has commenced construction of a marshalling yard on a piece of land traditionally cultivated and occupied by ST members for the past three generations. The affected community stated that the land in question comprises approximately 9 acres and has served as the primary source of livelihood for the ST families residing in Nepali Basti. It was alleged that prior to the commencement of construction, the community was subjected to forced eviction, during which standing crops were destroyed, resulting in significant economic losses. It was further reported that no compensation has been provided by either the management of South-Eastern Railway or the District Administration, Sundargarh for the loss of crops or displacement of the affected families. During interactions, officials from SER and Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) informed that the RSP had surrendered the said land to the State Government of Odisha, and the State Government subsequently allotted the land to SER. Accordingly, the RSP has clarified that it has no further role or claim over the said land of the Marshalling Yard by ST members.

During the field visit, NCST observed that construction activities by SER were actively underway at the proposed Marshalling Yard site. The displaced ST families have not been provided with any alternative land or employment opportunities, as these ST members have been cultivating and residing on the land for three generations and the loss of land without rehabilitation has severely impacted their means of survival.

#### **Recommendations:**

- a. The District Collector, Sundargarh may assess the loss of standing crops and livelihoods due to the forced eviction and ensure timely compensation (Compensation should include both crop damage and livelihood disruption).
- b. The State Government of Odisha may provide alternative cultivable land or employment opportunities to the displaced ST members on an immediate and urgent basis as most ST members are landless.
- c. The District Magistrate, Sundargarh in coordination with the South Eastern Railway to submit a detailed action taken report (ATR) to NCST within 30 days, outlining steps taken for compensation, rehabilitation and resolution of grievances.



### **Meeting with Land Displaced Persons and representatives of ST communities of Rourkela Township:**

During the field visit of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on 10.04.2025 at 09:30 PM, the team met with Land Displaced Persons (LDPs) and representatives of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities of Rourkela Township at Rourkela House, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). During the interaction and discussion with the ST members, the following issues were raised by the community concerning long-standing grievances related to displacement and resettlement:

1. The displaced ST families stated that despite land acquisition and repeated assurances, Rourkela Steel Plant has not provided employment to many eligible members of the displaced families. This has resulted in long-standing unemployment and economic distress among those whose lands were acquired during the establishment and expansion of RSP.
2. ST members alleged that individuals not belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category have managed to fraudulently secure employment under the displaced ST quota. These fake ST beneficiaries have taken advantage of job reservations, thereby depriving genuine displaced ST persons of their rightful employment opportunities.
3. The Hon'ble High Court of Odisha recently passed an order directing RSP to employ 163 eligible incumbents from displaced families. However, the ST members reported that the directive of the Hon'ble Court has not been implemented.
4. It was informed that land is still available with RSP and the ST members demanded that such land be allocated to the original ST landholders or their descendants.
5. The ST representatives raised concerns that resettlement colonies lack essential infrastructure, such as clean drinking water, sanitation, healthcare, electricity, education, roads and housing.
6. It was strongly emphasized that any unutilized land currently lying with RSP should be returned to the original ST landowners, rather than being diverted for commercial, third-party or non-ST usage.
7. The Gram Sabha must be consulted before initiating any new project or expansion activity in the township by RSP.
8. The survey numbers of land, surrendered by RSP to the State Government of Odisha may be made public in Odia and English vernacular.

### **Recommendations for the State Government of Odisha:**

1. The State Government may take immediate steps to ensure that eligible displaced ST families are provided employment as per the rehabilitation policy and judicial directions, including the recent order of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha regarding 163 incumbents.
2. The State Government may identify surplus land surrendered by Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and facilitate its reallocation to the original ST landowners or their legal heirs, especially those who have neither received employment nor proper rehabilitation.



3. Immediate action may be taken to upgrade basic infrastructure facilities in ST resettlement colonies, including roads, housing, sanitation, safe drinking water, electricity, education and healthcare, especially in projects undertaken by IDL, DBCL and RSP.
4. In all cases where new projects or expansion activities are proposed on land inhabited by ST communities by RSP, the concerned Gram Sabha(s) must be consulted. This will ensure free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of the affected ST population.
5. The State Government may assess and ensure compensation for damage to standing crops, especially in cases of forced eviction, such as those reported in Nepali Basti and Bandhposh.
6. The survey numbers of lands acquired, utilized and surrendered by RSP to the State Government of Odisha may be made publicly available.
7. Provisions of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 may be implemented for compensation to displaced ST members in the RSP.
8. Provisions of the 5th Schedule to the Constitution of India may also be taken care of in respect of the RSP of Sundargarh District.
9. It is also suggested that the PESA Act, 1996 may be also considered for implementation in the districts of Odisha for the betterment of ST of the State.



