

# SEZ's in India : Special Reference to Polepally

- The most affluent and the most miserable of the human race are to be found in the countries that are called 'civilised'. Poverty, therefore is a thing created by that which is called civilised life. It exists not in the natural state. On the other hand, natural state is without those advantages which flows from art agriculture, science and manufacture.
- : Thomas Paine in Agrarian Justice

# SEZs in India

- SEZ notified so far : 582
- Operational : 130
- Total land proposed to be acquired for SEZ : 1,50,000 Million Hectare

Loss feared by experts : 212 Crore annually

This beautiful landscape belongs to Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar district in Central Uttar-Pradesh where a proposed 1320 Megawatt Thermal Power Plant shall be developed.

**Sengur river might disappear after the construction of the proposed plant.**





The region is famous for pulses, lentils and beans like black grams, red grams and green grams.



Sengur River flows through this area and finally merges in river Yamuna which is about 2 kilometers away from this place.

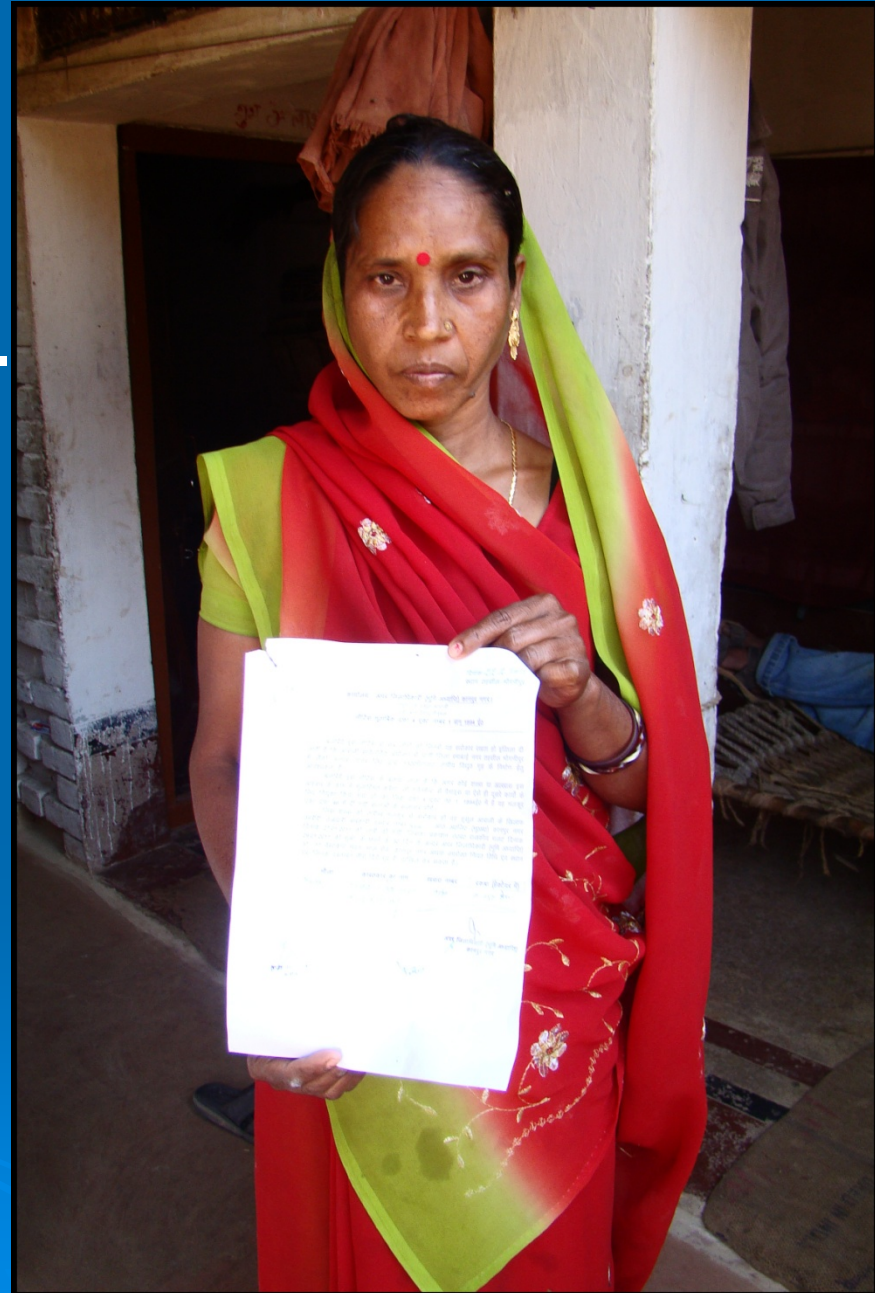




The government plans to acquire over 3,300 bigha land for the proposed plant.



This Dalit woman will become landless after her land is acquired. She has got notice from the authorities that her land would be acquired and she would be punished if she creates any obstacles in the work of government officials.





The farmers are opposing it as they fear they would lose everything and the area would turn into a coal mine zone. They visualize the threat to environment and their habitat. They have signed a petition asking the government to stop the acquisition in the name of development.







The farmers in Delhi were up in arms against the 'illegal land grab' in the name of 'industrialization' of the area. The women threatened to raid the offices of the higher officials of the government and refuse to leave it unless their demands are met with. The green belt of Delhi was threatened by an ill timed action of the government by proposing the agricultural land to industrial houses on throw away prices. The strong protest of farmers put the government on defensive.



People's Movement against illegal land grab in India took a decisive turn from West Bengal, first in Nandigram and later in Singur. Tata's famous Nano car was supposed to be manufactured here.



West Bengal's left front government acquired huge tracks of land without seeking any consent from the farmers. The people rose in protest and ultimately forced the Tatas to retreat and take the factory elsewhere.





We are in the agency areas of Andhra Pradesh and Chhatishgarh. These areas are 'protected areas' where some of the indigenous tribe groups live. Here the government of Andhra Pradesh, Chhatishgarh and Odisha are planning to build a big dam. It will cater the need of the farmers in Andhra Pradesh but the environmental and human cost would be very high. It will supposedly uproot nearly 300,000 tribal. Such beautiful locations are under the very threat of our developmental agenda.

# Land Grab in Andhra Pradesh

- APICC allotted total land : 47,337 Acres  
for 7,399 units

Total land acquired : 82, 792.87 Acres

Total government land out of it : 61, 557.88

( Between 2004-5 : 2010-2011)



# Promises : never fulfilled

- Proposed Green Bank
- Rehabilitation still not done
- Water contamination : villagers procuring water
- The compensation neither reached people nor adequate

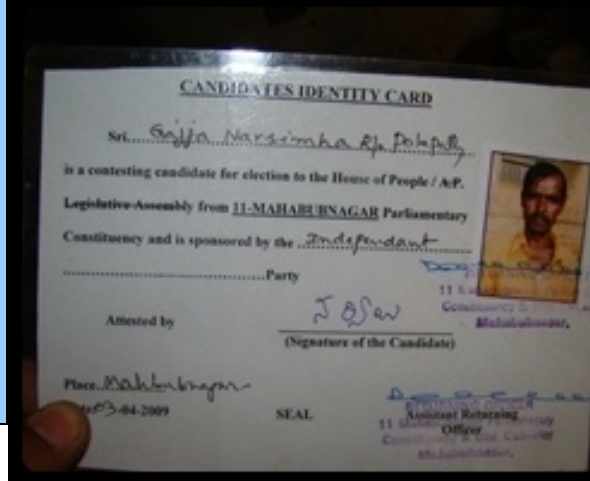
We are now in Polepally. The broad roads and concreted structures have replaced the green patch of the area.





Polepally's people protested democratically but the state of India refused to heed their cries. Some of these landless peasants contested election for the Indian parliament as a mark of protest against the existing apathy of the political parties for their cause.

Though they could not win yet they were able to gather a combine of nearly 1,18,000 votes.



Polepally water is under threat. There are not many fish catch at the moment and people have to procure water now.





The village is historical and many artifacts were found in the village during the digging. There were some old structures of the Nizam period and many old statues of Jain era.



# Survey Stats

- Total number of respondents : 370
- Affected villages : 3
- Affected communities
- OBCs : 52%
- SCs : 30%
- STs : 8%
- UCs : 6%
- Muslims 4%



# Acquisition Statistics

- Total number of Acquired Land : 1150
- No notices given to people
- Consent manufactured
- Notices serve through dubious and non existent newspapers
- Democratic protest ignored and movement suppressed by the authorities

# Compensation

- For Assigned Land : Rs 18,000 per acre
- For acquired land : between Rs 50,000-Rs 1,80,000 per acre
- 31% got less than Rs 50,000
- 29% got between Rs 50,000-Rs 100,000
- 3.4% got around Rs One million
- 7.6% got no compensation



# Resettlement

- 26.83 Acres of land were kept aside for 200 sq yards plots for each house. So far nothing visible.
- Employment was wage labour work for the villagers
- Most of the people particularly youngs migrated to other places for jobs

# Impact

- Loss of asset
- Loss of social status of individuals and families
- No social security of the affected
- Loss of agricultural land
- Loss of water resources
- Loss of live stock and trees and plants

# Its neo-liberalism

- 400 million people benefited
- 800 million lost their livelihood
- Agricultural production declining from 30% in 1991 to 17% in 2009
- Number of people suffering in hunger and malnutrition.
- Has affected the livelihood of Dalits, tribal and other marginalised communities.



# Profile of Polepally

- District Mahboobnagar in Andhra Pradesh
- Surrounded by Rangareddy, Nalgonda and Guntur districts
- Total area of the district : 18, 432 sq km
- Over 52% of the population below poverty line
- Total population of the district : 35,03,876
- $\frac{1}{4}$  of them SC-ST

- Women's literacy lowest 3.1%
- Total Rural population : 89.4%
- Migration : 10-15 lakhs per year

# Latest from the field

- 658 Acres of land is still vacant in the acquired area still after so many years
- The companies which have started are L&T, Arvind Pharma & Hetro Pharma
- Most of them are established on assigned land.
- No work for the people.
- A movement for separate state of Telangana is peaking at the moment.



Polepally's story is of coercive acquisition in India where every thing is created on the paper, consent is manufactured and paper work is done according to law of the land so that the 'process' is completed 'legally'.

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