

**Citizens Appeal to Hon'ble President to Ensure Justice to People of
Narmada Valley**

New Delhi, May 8th, 2017

Shri Pranab Mukherjee,
Hon'ble President of India,
Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi 110004

Copy to,
Shri Jagdish Singh Kehar,
Hon'ble Chief Justice of India

Sushree Uma Bharti
Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

Subject: Stop closing of gates of Sardar Sarovar Dam and protect the fundamental rights of life and livelihood of over 40,000 families.

Dear Sir,

We, the citizens of India, write to you on behalf of the people of Narmada Valley, artisans, farmers, labourers, fishworkers who are staring at submergence of their land and livelihood due to closing down of the gates of Sardar Sarovar Dam, at its full reservoir level of 138.68 meters. Closing gates of the dam will drown more than 40,000 families living in the Narmada Valley who are not rehabilitated yet. Along with the project affected people, millions of trees, a large patch of forest and the whole Narmada Civilization will be submerged.

You can still save them and ensure justice. We request you to urgently intervene and seek a status report from the Narmada Control Authority, which is meeting on May 9th, and is expected to decide in favour of closing the gates. We are disturbed by the situation that a state can take decisions without knowing the real status of displacement and rehabilitation of the region. The decision of closing the gates without completing the due process of rehabilitation will be in clear violation of the most recent judgment of the Supreme Court. There are clear indications from the Madhya Pradesh State government and Central government that they just want to close the gates of SSP and vacate the villages without ensuring complete and just rehabilitation.

As per the orders of Supreme Court, last date for giving compensation and ensuring complete rehabilitation was 8th May, 2017. Till now, the state has not done any survey which can list all the project affected families entitled for compensation and rehabilitation as per the rehabilitation policy, which caused many families to be left out from receiving the compensation. How can a state even think about evicting people without rehabilitation? **This will be a clear contempt of spirit of court orders and judgments along with murder of constitutional rights of project affected families.** This will prove to be a disaster as families are still without alternative land, livelihood and live-able rehabilitation sites.

The areas under submergence are full of prime agricultural lands, forests, cultural sites, schools etc. Are the rehabilitation sites being made considering all the heritage of Narmada Valley Civilization? What will be the impact on environment after drowning millions of trees and age old forests? Will that also be rehabilitated? All these questions clearly show the apathy and narrow approach on development followed by all stakeholders of the development paradigm.

After the SC judgment, the Narmada Bachao Andolan asked for the full list of people, but then Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA) or the MP state government failed to provide the full list of people in their affidavit. They claimed not having the lists earlier and then provided a list of 608 people against a number of 681 people as mentioned in the SC order. They have also not finalized it and said that it can change in the future. Actually there will be thousands of eligible families entitled for compensation and rehabilitation, for which the decisions are yet to be taken.

When will the Grievance Redressal Authority reply on construction of rehabilitation sites or issue orders for improvement of rehabilitation sites? When will the Narmada Valley Development Authority complete the required work? More than 60% of people are landless, when will they be able to build their houses if the compensation is not given? We can see the rehabilitation sites vacant all over in Nimad region. There are people from Scheduled Tribes thus enabling PESA Act but no consideration has been made for tribal rights and to the resolution of Gram Sabhas.

There are orders for forceful eviction after 31st July, 2017 if anyone is left in the submergence area. Will the people get the rightful rehabilitation, basic amenities at rehabilitation sites, land for land, house plots and livelihood for landless before the last date? We request you to intervene and ensure the following to stop the injustice and safeguard the constitutional rights of the people of Narmada Valley.

1. **Stop NCA, state govt. and central govt. from taking decisions in 9th May meeting on closing the gates of Sardar Sarovar dam till the complete rehabilitation and social audit of the same is ensured.**
2. **Direct State Govts. to do a comprehensive re-survey of project affected people and give priority to rehabilitation first by following orders of Supreme Court. Not a single family should be evicted without rehabilitation.**
3. **Direct State govts to take advice from every Gram Sabha following section 4 of PESA Act to arrive on their consent and advice on appropriate ways of making rehabilitation sites and providing amenities essential to them.**
4. **Please announce that with consent of Gram Sabha only, the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam or back water level of reservoir should be raised to prevent the submergence.**
5. **Order the State govts. and authorities to provide the benefits to farmers as per the Supreme Court orders and ensure alternative livelihood, rights of fishworkers on reservoir, rights of land to artisans on the bank of river, rights to sailors for free access to the river, new plots to shopkeepers or sufficient compensation by bringing adequate change in policies.**
6. **Direct authorities to provide lists of work done till today, number and details of applications received in various authorities, such as NCA, NVDA, GRA and others concerned so that remaining work can be planned in a more comprehensive manner.**
7. **Direct the Govts. to constitute a committee to assess the impact on environment, river and forest by submergence. And also the impact in downstream flow of the river. Last year, the sea ingressed into the River up to 40 kms, impacting the agriculture, industries and communities living in those regions. River has already been subjugated to mere notion of pipeline containing water and life of River has been threatened in the conception of Dam and subsequent rise in Dam height.**

We request you to intervene in this matter urgently as the President of this country and fulfill your obligation to safeguard the constitutional rights and essence of democracy before the State govts and authorities submerge the Valley. This will also ensure the faith of people in non-violent, democratic and constitutional struggle for their rights, since Narmada Bachao Andolan has led this fight for past 31 years now and knocked the door of every forum available for their rights.

Yours faithfully,

Aruna Roy, Nikhil Dey and Shankar Singh – Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) and National Campaign for People's Right to Information and NAPM

Prafulla Samantara, - The Goldman Environmental Prize Winner, Lok Shakti Abhiyan Odisha;

Shabnam Hashmi, ANHAD

Ashish Kothari, Kalpavriksh

Hannan Mollah, Former MP, General Secretary, All India Kisaan Sabha

Anil Sadgopal, All India Forum for Right to Education & Former dean, Faculty of Education, Delhi University

Binayak Sen and Kavita Srivastava, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)

Sandeep Pandey, Socialist Party of India, Uttar Pradesh

Maj Gen S.G.Vombatkere (Retd), NAPM, Karnataka

Gabriele Dietrich, Penn Urimay Iyakkam, Madurai, Tamilnadu

Geetha Ramakrishnan, Unorganised Sector Workers Federation, Tamilnadu

Medha Patkar, Narmada Bachao Andolan

P.Chennaiah, Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union-APVVU and National Centre for Labour, Andhra Pradesh

Ramakrishnam Raju, United Forum for RTI, Andhra Pradesh

Amit Sengupta, Journalist

Prof. Kamal Mitra Chenoy, JNU

Nandini Velho, Phd, Researchers for Wildlife Conservation

Suhas Borker, Journalist, Delhi

Soumya Dutta, International Energy Expert

Neeta Mahadev, Senior Social Activist, Lok Samiti, Gujarat

Chinmaya Mishra, Senior Journalist and Researcher

Subhash Pandey, Senior Environmentalist

Mamta, Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan

Deepak Pauranik, Social Activist

Himanshu Thakkar, SANDRP, Delhi

Sister Celia - Domestic Workers Union, Karnataka

Anand Mazgaonkar, Krishnakant - Paryavaran Suraksh Samiti, Gujarat

Kamayani Swami, Ashish Ranjan – Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan, Bihar

Mahendra Yadav – Kosi Navnirman Manch, Bihar

Sister Dorothy, NAPM Bihar

Dayamani Barla, Adivasi-Moolnivasi Astivtva Raksha Samiti, Jharkhand

Dr. Sunilam and Adv. Aradhna Bhargava - Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, Madhya Pradesh

Prashant Paikary, Spokeperson, POSCO Pratirodh Sangharsh Samiti

Ovais Sultan Khan, ANHAD

Abdul Jabbar, Bhopal Gas Peedit Sangathan

Meera Sanghamitra, NAPM Telangana-Andhra Pradesh

Lingraj Azad – Samajwadi Jan Parishad - Niyamgiri Suraksha Samiti, Odisha

Pramod Pradhan, CITU

Sanjeev Kumar, Delhi Solidarity Group

Anish, Ekta Parishad

Jasvinder Singh, Madhya Pradesh Kisaan Sabha

L. H. Hardonia, Senior Social Thinker

Rakesh Diwan, Social Activist, Madhya Pradesh

Rajkumar Sinha, Bargi Bandh Visthapit Sangh, Madhya Pradesh

Vinod Sharma, Swaraj Abhiyan

Yogesh Diwan, Janpahal, Madhya Pradesh

Arul Doss, NAPM Tamil Nadu

Arundhati Dhuru, Manesh Gupta - NAPM, Uttar Pradesh

Richa Singh, Sangatin Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan, Uttar Pradesh

Vilayodi Venugopal, CR Neelakandan and Prof. Kusumam NAPM, Kerala

Vimal Bhai - Matu Jan Sangathan, Uttarakhand

Jabar Singh, NAPM, Uttarakhand

Bhupender Singh Rawat – Jan Sangharsh Vahini, Delhi

Rajendra Ravi, Senior Social Activist, Expert on Urban Issues especially Transport System, Delhi

Shri Akhand, Journalist & Human Rights Activist, Odisha

Nanhu Prasad, National Cyclist Union, Delhi

Anjali Bharadwaj, National Campaign for People's Right to Information and NAPM

Kaladas Dahariya, RELAA, Chhattisgarh

Anupama Potluri, Asst. Professor, Computer Science, University of Hyderabad

Madhuri, Jagrit Adivasi Dalit Sangathan

Nasri Bai Ningwal, Jagrit Adivasi Dalit Sangathan

Harjinder (Laltu) Singh, Hyderabad

Malika Virdi, Maati Sangathan, Uttarakhand

K Ramnarayan, Himal Prakriti, Uttarakhand
E Theophilus, Munsiyari, Uttarakhand
Bilal Khan, Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan, Mumbai,
Madhuresh Kumar, NAPM
Sundar Rajan, Poovulagin Nanbargal, Tamilnadu
Shreerupa Mitra, Journalist, New Delhi
Shobha, Theatre Artist and Activist, Bangalore
K P Singh
Vinish Gupta, Jeevanshala, Sirsi, Karnataka
Karuna Morarji, Jeevanshala, Sirsi, Karnataka
Manasi Pinto, Pathashaala, Vallipuram, Tamilnadu
Pandurang Hegde, Chipko-Appiko Andolan, Sirsi, Karnataka
Tultul Biswas, Madhya Pradesh Mahila Manch, Bhopal Madhya Pradesh
Nirja Bhatnagar
Kamayani Bali Mahabal, Jan Swasthaya Abhiyan, Mumbai
Faisal Khan, Khudai Khidmatgar
J S Walia, NAPM Haryana
Kailash Meena, NAPM Rajasthan
Samar Bagchi, **Amitava Mitra**, NAPM West Bengal
Suniti SR, **Suhas Kolhekar**, **Prasad Bagwe** - NAPM, Maharashtra
Gautam Bandopadhyay, NAPM, Chhattisgarh
Dr. A. K. Khan, Social Activist
Rolly Shivhare, Social Activist and Researcher
Gayatri, JNU
Priyanka, Social Activist
Dharamvir Ahluwalia
Sanjeeb Mukherjee
Shankar Sharma
Bizeth Banerjee, Hyderabad
Arun Tiwari, Delhi
Muzzaffar Ali, LL.M. Student, NUALS, Kochi, Kerala
Subhas Roy
Samdani, Chennai

Debi Goenka

Krishna Yashwanth, Hyderabad

Shweta Kulkarni, Pune

Sham Lal, National School of Open Schooling, Delhi

Prasenjit Dasgupta, Delhi

Mission Justice Organisation, Odisha

Uma, National Organizer, NAPM

Himshi Singh, Researcher and Social Activist, NAPM

Amit Kumar, Researcher and Social Activist, NAPM

Aaquib Zabeed Mazumder, Social Activist, NAPM, Delhi