

## CHAPTER-VI-A

**6-A<sup>1</sup>**

### **SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SIA) OF PROJECTS**

- 6-A (1) Whenever it is desired to undertake a new project or expansion of an existing project, which involves involuntary displacement of four hundred or more families en masse in plain areas, or two hundred or more families en masse in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution, the appropriate Government shall ensure that a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study is carried out in the proposed affected areas in such manner as may be prescribed.
- 6-A (2.1) The above SIA report shall be prepared, in such proforma as may be prescribed, considering various alternatives, and using agencies accredited in the manner prescribed.
- 6-A (2.2) While undertaking a social impact assessment, the appropriate Government shall, inter alia, take into consideration the impact that the project will have on public and community properties, assets and infrastructure; particularly, roads, public transport, drainage, sanitation, sources of safe drinking water, sources of drinking water for cattle, community ponds, grazing land, plantations; public utilities, such as post offices, fair price shops, etc.; food storage godowns, electricity supply, health care facilities, schools and educational/training facilities, places of worship, land for traditional tribal institutions, burial and cremation grounds, etc.
- 6-A (2.3) The appropriate Government may specify that the ameliorative measures, which will need to be undertaken for addressing the said impact for a component, may not be less than what is provided in a scheme or programme, if any, of the Central Government or a State Government in operation in that area.
- 6-A (3.1) Where it is required as per the provisions of any law, rules, regulations or guidelines to undertake environmental impact assessment also, the SIA study shall be carried out simultaneously with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study.
- 6-A (3.2) In cases where both EIA and SIA are required, the public hearing done in the project affected area for EIA shall also cover issues related to SIA. Such public hearing shall be organised by the appropriate Government.
- 6-A (3.3) Where there is no requirement for EIA, the SIA report shall be made available to the public through public hearing to be organised by the appropriate Government in the affected area.
- 6-A (4.1) The SIA report shall be examined by an independent multi-disciplinary expert group constituted for the purpose by the 'appropriate Government. Two non-official social science and rehabilitation expert, the Secretary/Secretaries of the department(s) concerned with the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the appropriate Government or his (their) representative(s), and a representative of the requiring body shall be nominated by the appropriate Government to serve on this expert group.

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1. Added a new chapter VI-A vide G.O.Ms.No.134 IRRIGATION & C.A.D.(PW: LA.IV-R&R) DEPARTMENT dt:13-11-2009.

- 6-A (4.2) Where both EIA and SIA are required, a copy of the SIA report shall be made available to the agency prescribed in respect of environmental impact assessment by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and a copy of the EIA report shall be shared with the expert group mentioned in paragraph 4.1.above.
- 6-A (5) The SIA clearance shall be accorded as per the procedure and within the time limits as may be prescribed.
- 6-A (6) The SIA clearance shall be mandatory for all projects involving involuntary displacement of four hundred or more families en masse in plain areas, or two hundred or more families en masse in tribal or hilly areas, DDP blocks or areas mentioned in the Schedule V or Schedule VI to the Constitution, and the conditions laid down in the SIA clearance shall be duly followed by all concerned.
- 6-A (7) The Ministry of Defence, in respect of projects involving emergency acquisition of minimum area of land in connection with national security, may be exempted from the provisions of this Chapter, with due institutional safeguards, as may be prescribed, for protecting the interests of the affected families and achieving the broad objectives of this policy .

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1. Added after chapter VI as chapter VI-A vide G.O.Ms.No.134 IRRIGATION & C.A.D.(PW: LA.IV-R&R) DEPARTMENT dt:13-11-2009.