

## NHRC seeks ATR on plight of dam-displaced people

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
BHUBANESWAR, 24 MARCH:

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a detailed Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources, and District Magistrate Sundergarh, concerning the displacement of villagers, mostly tribals, due to construction of the Rukuda Dam.

Acting on a petition of human rights lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the apex rights panel called for the report within a period of four

weeks.

The petition cited the pain and plight of one displaced person Jitbahan Kandeiburu who lost both his son and father due to the displacement. More than 200 other residents of villages under Tikayatpali police station in Sundergarh district are displaced on account of Rukuda Dam Project.

The District Administration of Sundargarh District and Department of Water Resources, of Odisha had forcefully displaced the victims without proper rehabilitation.

The son of victim Jitbahan

Kandeiburu died on account of snake bite as the family was shelter-less and staying in a nearby jungle. His father was entangled in a false case for his protest against the displacement, who subsequently died sans justice, the petition stated.

The inhabitants of Bandhabhuin village and others have lost more than 30 Acres of FRA Land besides their Revenue land.

The Records of Rights and Land Patta in favour of victims are there. Though the state government has policy of Rehabilitation and Reset-

tlement and specific provisions of RECTLARR Act, 2013 ensure the rights of land losers, the rights of the displaced mass, yet the victims like Jitbahan Kandeiburu are yet to be rehabilitated, Tripathy contended.

He requested for the proper rehabilitation and resettlement of the displaced people due to construction of Rukuda Dam with bare necessities of life and other basic amenities.

The rights of FRA, CFRR and right to livelihood must be ensured, the petition added.

