

# NHRC notice to Govt. on plight of 65,000 people displaced from tiger reserves

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

BHUBANESWAR, 14 JANUARY:

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to submit Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the alleged human misery due to displacement of 65,000 people of 591 villages in Odisha and other States.

The top rights panel, which had earlier taken cognizance of a petition filed by human rights lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, issued reminders to the authorities concerned to comply with ATRs latest by 19 February, 2025.

The petitioner has drawn

attention of the Commission towards the plight of the villagers especially living in the core areas of National Tiger Reserves and sought for Commission's intervention in ensuring rehabilitation and resettlement of the residents.

These families are being forcefully displaced and are subjected to forced relocation, without proper consultation or compensation, and without following the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act 2006, Forest Rights Act, 2006 and Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the petition pointed out.

Prior to relocations from the critical tiger habitat of tigers, the Government ought to furnish details of resettlement and rehabilitation process

implemented till date in accordance with Forest Rights Act.

The petitioner, who espoused the cause of displaced people in Satkosia Tiger reserve in Angul district of Odisha alleged that "for more than a decade the people have been agitating for proper rehabilitation and resettlement. Earlier due to lack of funds from the NTCA, the rehabilitation was delayed".

The petition sought for the safeguard of the recognition and vesting of forest rights of forest dependent schedule tribes and other traditional forest dependent communities in all villages in the areas notified as tiger reserve and other protected areas, in villages falling within both the critical tiger habitat and buffer areas.

## **NHRC notice to Union Govt. on plight of 65,000 people displaced from tiger reserves**

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/nhrc-notice-to-union-govt-on-plight-of-65000-people-displaced-from-tiger-reserves-1503386383.html>

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Statesman News Service | Bhubaneswar | January 14, 2025 3:13 pm

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The petitioner has drawn attention of the Commission towards plight of the villagers especially living in the core areas of National Tiger Reserves and sought for Commission's intervention to ensure rehabilitation and resettlement of the residents of 591 villages comprising 64,801 families in notified areas under core areas of the Tiger Reserves with NTCA proposing their relocation through an order dated 19 June 2024.

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## **NHRC seeks report on relocating villages from tiger reserves**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-seeks-report-on-relocating-villages-from-tiger-reserves/articleshow/117244104.cms>

Jan 14, 2025, 10.51 PM IST

Bhubaneswar: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on its queries regarding relocation of villages from core areas of tiger reserves.

Human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy filed a petition with NHRC alleging forceful displacement, based on which the commission sought replies. NHRC stated that NTCA's Dec reply was not satisfactory and was a repetition of an earlier reply. It asked for a fresh response before Feb 19.

"NHRC has sought an action taken report from the ministry of environment, forest and climate change, and NTCA on the relocation of 591 villages in India. After NTCA notified its proposed relocation order in June last year, I filed a petition in Sept with NHRC, which has sought response," Tripathy told TOI.

Tripathy, who also took up the issue of Satkosia Tiger Reserve, stated in the petition that displaced people have been agitating for proper rehabilitation and resettlement. "I requested NHRC to take cognisance of the matter. The commission has been requested to issue notice to the NTCA and ministry seeking the status of rehabilitation and relocation of the inhabitants from core areas," he added.

G Banumathi, deputy inspector general of forests (NTCA), clarified its stance on alleged mismanagement in the relocation of villagers from various reserves for habitat recovery and to ensure inviolate space. "The guidelines issued by NTCA in respect to voluntary relocation have to be implemented by the state govt concerned. NTCA assists the state by funding after scrutiny of the proposal," the reply from Banumathi read.

NTCA recently observed that Satkosia is now almost fit for big cats to be reintroduced. In 2014, the management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) rating for Satkosia was 'fair' with a 53% score, which improved in 2018 to 67%. In 2022, the MEE rating was 'very good' with a 75% score. The MEE rating encompasses all basic requirements of a tiger habitat.