

To, The Managing Director  
Teesta Urja Ltd,  
Teesta Hydro Electric Power Project Stage III,  
Singhik, North Sikkim.

**SUB: GRANT OF COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF LIVES AND PROPERTIES DUE TO DAMAGES CAUSED BY  
EARTH QUAKE IN TEESTA HEP STAGE III, PROJECT AFFECTED AREA**

Sir,

The Indigenous aborigines of Chungthang Gram Panchayat Unit and Shipgyer GPU in Lepcha reserve of Dzongu, had sacrificed their most precious ancestral landed properties for the development of Teesta Hydro electric power project stage III. At the time of acquisition of the land it was assured that the State Govt. and the company would ensure prosperity for the area and provide all kind of support in times of calamity and disasters, we had our own reservation on various issues of demographic and environmental concerns including flooding and earthquake, which were all overlooked at that point of time.

It is more than one month since 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011 when the most devastating Earth quake struck Sikkim and caused most severe and extensive damage in chungthang and other the Project affected areas of Teesta HEP stage III. The impact of the earthquake was so much that people are yet to recover from the Trauma due to loss of lives, properties and Fear Psychosis. It will take a herculean effort by the people, State and Central Government and all Agencies supporting the people to bring normalcy.

It is a stated fact that the intensity of the Earthquake was around 6.8 Richter scale all over the state and the epicenter still not being correctly agreed upon. It is also an unfortunate fact that though there has been damages to other parts of the state, Chungthang GPU and other Teesta HEP Stage III project affected areas like shipgyer, Ramom and safo are worst hit.

It is also a fact that as per report of the Sikkim police (RTI Query) that almost 20 persons had died in the project area prior to the Earth quake and now with the numerous deaths in the project area due to the earth quake it is more or less the project with maximum human casualty and what will happen in the future is uncertain, but it proved beyond any doubt the fear and apprehension of the people regarding the negative impact of the project were correct.

It is also known to us through various press releases that the Teesta Urja Ltd had contributed financial support to the Chief Ministers Relief fund and some relief has been given to affected people and the administration. But taking in consideration the magnitude of the devastation and colossal amount of money that project is going to generate for the developers, the relief given is absolutely Paltry.

Further, it is known and accepted fact that on the request of the affected people whose houses and other properties were damaged by rampant Blasting, the Hon'ble chief Minister had directed the SPDC to take necessary action. Accordingly, the Mines and Geology Department on request of the SPDC made a field visit to ascertain the actual situation and then released a report certifying the fact that the blasting

and other form of activities in the projects had caused the serious damages to the houses . The report further raised the issue of damage in the event of an earthquake.

Taking cognizance of the Report the district administration had undertaken survey of all such damaged properties through a Joint inspection comprising land Revenue officials of SDM office chungthang, Executive engineer of SPDC ltd, Engineers of BDO office chungthang, Teesta Urja ltd, respective Panchayat ,house owner and members of the public. Later on the damage was also assessed for shipgyer Gram Panchayat. Finally, claim for damage compensation for around 170 families was submitted by the Assistant Engineer, BDO office to the SDM and also with the Public request for onetime payment of three times the cost of visible damage and also insurance cover for all the houses.

The above official exercise clearly established the fact that there has been definite damage to public properties by the blasting in the project area located the environmentally fragile regions and that **when the earth quake struck ,the already damaged houses could not withstand the impact and most of the houses collapsed, while others were severely damaged. Thereby proving beyond any doubt that the all the project affected areas experienced the most damages as a result of earlier blasting and other activities.**

Under the circumstances it would be only fair and natural for the company to help the affected people in such difficult time as part of social corporate responsibility by providing immediate commensurate compensation to the affected families to **“Reconstruct their house and Rebuild their lives”** and also provide for other infrastructural Development to bring back normalcy in the area.

In the event our request is not considered we will have no option but to seek other form of redressal including legal measures.

Submitted in anticipation of favorable response please.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

(Blasting /earthquake affected citizens)

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