

**Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Coordination –
Tamilnadu & Pondicherry
(TRRC)**

Presentation on G. O. 172
(15th July 2005)

G.O. 172 – Key provisions

- ❖ **Conditional rehabilitation**
- ❖ **No specification as to where and at what distance the communities will be resettled**
- ❖ **Relinquishment mandatory to become eligible for a new house**
- ❖ **Public use of vacated coast**

G.O. 172 Issues and Interpretations

- ❖ **Land allocation (limited land availability, officials fearing to buy land at market rates)**
- ❖ **Limited marking for HTL (100 / 1076)**
- ❖ **Silent about private properties and establishments**
- ❖ **CRZ and CZMA**

G.O. 172 related issues

- ❖ **Tamilnadu government's 'tourism development policy note' – Eco tourism, Hotel Leela Palace**
- ❖ **UNDP, ADB & WB – joint statement on Prawn farming**

❖ **Andhra experience**

G.O. 172 People's perceptions

(TTRC study & consultation with the Traditional Panchayatar)

❖ **Right to the coast**

❖ **Impact on livelihoods on vacating the coast**

❖ **Impact on socio-cultural setting**

❖ **Total disapproval for relinquishing**

❖ **Ambiguities over the term 'Public use'**

Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Coordination

– TamilNadu & Pondicherry (TRRC)

Report of the study on,

“People's Perceptions on G.O.172”

Study Coordinator

M. Louis

E-mail: louis@pwtm.org, Mobile: 098421 28521

TRRC

6, Vallabai Road, Chokkikulam

Madurai – 625 002, Tamil Nadu, India

Phone: +91 452 2531874, 2539520

E-mail: info@pwtm.org, Web: www.trrcindia.org

Key observations of the Sample study on, “People's Perceptions on G.O.172”

Key Findings

- **A large majority trust that the G.O. 172 will be withdrawn / nullified by another G.O, soon.**

It was surprising to learn that the fishing communities do not view this G.O that seriously. They have expressed that the government will sooner or later come out with another G.O that could make the present one null and void. In general, the fishing communities firmly believe that their demands will be appropriately and adequately responded by the government. They only view this possibility in relation to the coming elections and to the fact that these

fishing communities at large have been the strong vote bank for the present ruling party

➤ **95% people resist to relinquish their existing house / properties**

The 5% '*willing to relinquish*' people belongs to non-ocean / dependant communities who do not have any assets to relinquish. They view this as an opportunity to own a house and so open for any conditions, what so ever.

➤ **Resistance towards relinquishing has another dimension of their resistance to 'public use'**

Interactions with the communities reveal that the government's promise of keeping the relinquished space for 'Public use' is not acceptable to them. Their right on the coast was expressed in unequivocal terms. Still for all, they are not much bothered about the government's statement on 'Public use' since they are not going to 'relinquish' any way.

➤ **Relinquishment involves certain amount of spiritual and sensation issues since it requires indirect relinquishing of their places of worship**

One more reason for these communities to resist for relinquishment is their religious / spiritual believes and values. Be it of the church or temple or mosque, one can be constructed only after a series of rituals and almost each of the worship places has a native story behind it. People are of a fear that on relinquishment, these worship places will also be demolished which could adversely impact on their lives.

- **There floats a fear among many communities that there are possibilities of communal tension, on relocation.**

Although, 62% of the people feel say that the re-location will not create any caste / religious conflict, they do not completely deny such possibilities. They have justified their saying on the grounds that the communities will not agree for common settlements, but only for settlements of present composition, if at all they have to agree for re-location.

Other issues

- ❖ **Lack of a comprehensive rehabilitation policy**
- ❖ **Sectoral approach to housing reconstruction**
- ❖ **Ignorance of the UN guidelines on resettling IDPs in situations of disasters**

THANK YOU

For further information / queries, please contact the secretariat at louis@pwtn.org