

**IPN REQUEST RQ 15/06**

February 02, 2016

**MEMORANDUM TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS  
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Request for Inspection**

**India: Andhra Pradesh Road Sector Project (096021) and National Highways  
Interconnectivity Improvement Project (121185)**

**Notice of Non-Registration**

**Summary**

1. On December 18, 2015, the Panel received a Request for Inspection sent by community members from several localities in East Godavari District of the State of Andhra Pradesh, India, claiming harms caused by the involuntary resettlement in the context of the widening of National Highway 216, allegedly financed by the World Bank. After conducting its due diligence, the Panel determined that the alleged harms are not linked to any projects or any other operation supported by IBRD or IDA. The Panel therefore decided not to register the Request.

**The Request**

2. In accordance with paragraph 17 of the Resolution<sup>1</sup> establishing the Inspection Panel (the “Panel”), I hereby inform you that on December 18, 2015, the Panel received two Requests for Inspection, followed by 28 additional ones (collectively referred to as “the Request”), sent by community members from Amalapuram, Anathavaram, Bhatnavili, Bodasakurru, Chippalapalem, Peruru, Yanam and other localities in East Godavari District of the State of Andhra Pradesh, India. The Request claims harms to the local indigenous community caused by the involuntary resettlement process implemented in the context of the widening of National Highway 216 (“NH 216”, formerly known as NH 214), allegedly financed by the World Bank.

3. The community members (the “Requesters”) from the affected villages submitted the Request on behalf of over eighty affected persons. One of them alleged “*hundreds of thousands of innocent poor victims*” will be forcibly relocated because of a rerouting of a road into areas where they have their dwellings as a result of the widening of NH 216. They state that they are

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<sup>1</sup> The World Bank Inspection Panel, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Resolution No. IBRD 93-10, dated September 22, 1993.

very poor and are “likely to suffer harm as the World Bank not recognized the rights and interests of several indigenous people and the harm caused to us.” Some of the Requesters asked that their identities be kept confidential.

### **The Projects**

4. The Andhra Pradesh Road Sector Project is a specific investment loan approved on October 15, 2009. Total project cost is approximately USD550 Million, out of which the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or the “Bank”) is financing USD264 Million.

5. According to the Project Appraisal Document, the project’s development objective is “to provide better quality, capacity and safe roads to users in a sustainable manner through enhanced institutional capacity of the Andhra Pradesh government in the road sector.” One of the project’s components comprises two activities designed to upgrade and maintain the core road network including: (a) upgrading about 429 km of priority state highways (284 km in Phase I and 145 km in Phase II) under public sector financing; and (b) maintenance of 6,241 km of the core road network. The project does not support works on National Highways (including NH 216), which belong to a different road network than State highways.

6. The National Highways Interconnectivity Improvement Project (NHIIP) is also a specific investment loan, approved on October 29, 2013. Total project cost is approximately USD1,146 Million, out of which the Bank is financing USD500 Million.

7. The Project Appraisal Document for the NHIIP states that the project’s development objective is “to improve the National Highway network connectivity to less-developed areas and low-income states (...).” According to this document, the civil works will benefit five states: Bihar, Orissa, Karnataka, West Bengal, and Rajasthan. The NHIIP does not support road-widening activities in Andhra Pradesh.

### **Concerns Raised in the Request**

8. The Requesters allege that the World Bank is supporting the road-widening activities on National Highway 216. They state that the planned road design includes alternative routing that are badly designed. They also state that along NH 216 there is “abundant straight line [with] freely available paddy fields vacant.” However, instead of using such vacant fields, the design shows “roads turn /twist either 'Z' Curve or 'S' Curve” with the expectation that it would encroach on their assets and result in their displacement.

9. They also claim that this design is based on a 2,010 survey which does not adequately reflect actual land-use along the road. They add that the road works were not awarded the required environmental permits.

10. Some Requesters state that they are of the “vysyas”<sup>2</sup> cast, while others state that they are “backward class.” They add that some houses are already marked for demolition, and that

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<sup>2</sup> The Arya Vysyas are a Trading caste of Southern India, who primarily spread from Andhra Pradesh to other parts of Southern India, mainly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The community has traditionally been engaged in business or trade.

the four-lane alignment will cause loss of livelihood to various indigenous people, including Dravidian and Settibalija, which is against World Bank policies.

11. They also state that after complaining to the competent authority and the local Member of Parliament, they were told, “go and tell the World Bank.” They urge the Panel to “*save our lives, our relocation, our livelihood, the integrity and sovereignty of the country (...)*.”

**Panel’s Determination**

12. In accordance with its Operating Procedures, dated April 2014, immediately after receiving the Request, the Panel issued a Notice of Receipt on its web site. The Panel conducted its due diligence by reviewing the information contained in the Request and Project documents. The Panel met with Bank Management on January 15, 2016, to seek corroboration of the results of its due diligence. During the meeting, Bank Management clarified that the World Bank is not financing the widening of NH 216 and shared with the Panel an email letter from the Andhra Pradesh Road Development Corporation, confirming that works on NH 216 are not supported by the Bank project it is implementing.

13. The Panel determined that neither of the Projects are financing road works on the National Highway NH 216, and therefore concluded that the Request does not meet all of the admissibility criteria for Registration. In light of the foregoing and in accordance with the Panel Resolution, its Clarifications, and its Operating Procedures, the Panel is not registering the Request for Inspection.

14. The Panel notes that, if in the future, the road mentioned in the Request comes to be supported by Bank financing, the Panel would be in a position to reassess the existence of a plausible link between a Bank-supported Project and the alleged harms. Hence, in such a case, the Requesters retain their right to re-submit a Request for Inspection concerning the issues raised.

Yours sincerely,



Gonzalo Castro de la Mata  
Chairman

Attachment

Mr. Jim Yong Kim, President  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The Executive Directors and Alternates  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development