

Land losers to get jobs in refinery in phased manner

PARADIP: THE district administration on Thursday reviewed the issue of employment to land losers in Paradip Refinery Project here in the presence of IOCL authorities. The company officials had assured to provide employment to about 100 candidates of land oustees in its refinery project in a phased manner.

Nearly 1,752 families of 17 villages under Kujang tehsil had handed over 3,300 hectares (ha) of land to Paradip Refinery Project of IOCL. But they were deprived of job opportunities and other benefits from the IOCL.

Sources said following frequent agitations by the land oustees, the district administration had conducted a meeting in May and asked the IOCL to resolve the issue soon.

Later, the IOCL decided to sponsor 100 candidates of land oustees for skill development training at CIPET in Bhubaneswar and engage 50 candidates in polypropylene plant on contractual basis. However, no step was taken in this regard by the company officials.

Acting on several allegations over the issue, Jagatsingpur Collector Yamini Sarangi directed Paradip Additional District Magistrate Biswajit Biswal and other revenue officials to review the decisions taken at the meeting in May.

Sub-Collector Narahari Sethy said out of 100 candidates, IOCL has decided to sponsor 56 candidates for skill development training at CIPET in Bhubaneswar in the first phase.

The administration has asked the IOCL authorities to provide employment to 50-100 candidates in refinery project. So far, 22 youths have been engaged in the project.

Review meet will be held every four months to expedite the process, he added.

Among others, Chief Manager (HR) of IOCL Subasish Patnaik, leaders of Ekata Manch Nabin Pradhan, Sarada Jena and Jadumani Pradhan and police officials were present.