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Title of the Thesis: Land Alienation and Issue of Livelihood: A Study of Tribes in Jharkhand

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FINDINGS

The present study was carried out on the tribal communities who were dislodged from their resources i.e. land, forests and subsequently displaced by the Dimna Dam Project in the District of East Singhbhum, Jharkhand. This Dam was constructed between the years 1940-46. Its main purpose was to supply raw water to Tata Steel Works and domestic water supply for Jamshedpur Township. This project acquired lands measuring 1861.24 acres in 15 (Fifteen) villages, under the Land Acquisition Act 1894 by the then Provincial Government and possession handed over to the Tata Steel Company between 1940-46, for construction of a water reservoir and other connected works.

The analysis about the nature of land alienation and displacement which had occurred in case of the Dimna Dam Project revealed that it was forced upon the tribal communities and tribal people were ditched from the project authority. These innocent tribal people moved away only by relying on the verbal assurances given by the Steel Company to provide compensations and jobs. The distinctiveness and vulnerability of the tribal communities were not taken into account by the Steel Company. Dispossession of land became the main cause of the impoverishment and destitution of the tribal people. After being alienated tribal people were rendered landless, jobless, homeless and hopeless. It entirely shattered the economic foundation of the affected people. The first generation of the displaced have directly

experienced the miseries of this process. Moreover, the succeeding generations who have not experienced this process directly but their life has been badly affected by it to a great extent.

In the affected villages, due to land alienation and displacement, only 35.36 percent of households had some piece of agricultural land which they owned and cultivated. Hence, more than two-thirds of the respondents were deprived of agricultural land. The average size of landholding among affected households had reduced after the land alienation. The incidence of landlessness is maximum in the Saldoha and Bhadudih villages where more than 95 percent of respondents had not any type of land either agricultural or housing plots. For living purpose, most of the people of these villages were using the 'gair majarua' or government's land. Therefore, loss of land has become the main source of the deprivation and impoverishment among the displaced tribal population.