



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHWORKERS

2nd July, 2025

National Federation of Small-Scale Fishworkers (NFSF)

Protests Inordinate and Unjust Delay in Rehabilitation of Small-Scale Fish Workers Ousted by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT)

Demands

Immediate and Proper Settlement of the Fish Worker Families Languishing in Transit Camps

Shame to both the Central Government of India and the State Government of Maharashtra that the small scale fishers ousted by country's mega JNPT port project are languishing in transit camps for 40 years without the rehabilitation promised to them by the Governments.

Shame that our governments are formed by elected representatives of the people and hold their authority by the constitution that promises to protect the interests of the people by the rule of law.

The small scale fishing communities of the Nhava Sheva creek had been forced to leave their dwellings in the Sheva village to make space for the JNPT Port project. The creek was almost encroached by construction of berths blocking all fishing activities. Width of the creek mouth was reduced from 1500 meter to 50 meter thereby causing major long term disaster to the fisheries based livelihoods. The fishing communities lost their lifeline. The government promised them proper rehabilitation and had put them in transit camps like Hanuman Koliwada.

For 40 years these small scale fishers have been running from pillar to post to get their promised rehabilitation. Every government they approached and every minister they had spoken to promised them that they will be rehabilitated very soon. But nothing happened.

Frustrated and desperate, the small scale fisher families approached the Maharashtra Assembly on 1st July 2025, the opening day of its monsoon session. The police immediately pounced on them and took them to the local police station.



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After detention for hours they were taken to meet the Revenue Minister very briefly, who promised to give them a longer hearing later in the week. Leaders of different political parties also met them and promised to take up their issue.

NFSF vehemently condemns the police action and criticises the insensitivity of the government of Maharashtra towards the displaced communities of Nhava Sheva village. The Government of Maharashtra and the Government of India must realise that they ousted the fishing communities and they are responsible for the problem. They should be ashamed for not keeping their promise and discharging their constitutional responsibilities.

NFSF stands in unflinching solidarity with the small scale fishing communities waiting for rehabilitation in the transit camps. We shall fight and win together.

NFSF Demands –

Immediate Implementation of Full and Final Rehabilitation for the Residents of Nhava Sheva Village Ousted by JNPT.

Pradip Chatterjee

President

Sebastian Rodrigues

General Secretary

National Federation of Small-Scale Fishworkers