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State moves HC for vacation of stay on Forest Rights Act

Correspondent

CUTTACK: State Advocate-General (AG) Ashok Mohanty on Friday moved the High Court to vacate a stay imposed by it (the HC) last year on Forest Rights Act.

According to sources, the move taken by the state government is to benefit the tribal persons settled in jungles to get the land rights. The HC is likely to take up the matter next week, sources disclosed.

It is believed that around 30,000 to 40,000 tribal persons would be benefited by the move. Particularly a substantial number of tribal persons in Koraput, Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts would get the jungle lands on which they have settled.

The state government has so far identified about 20,000 tribal persons in these districts who are traditional forest dwellers but hold no land rights.

Friday's move is a follow-up of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's visit to troubled areas of Narayanpatna of Koraput district last month.

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