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‘Supply land sketch to FRA beneficiaries’

Staff Reporter

*Wilful negligence attracts action, says official**Those not given sketch can collect it in phased manner*

BHUBANESWAR: The Orissa Government has ordered supply of sketch map of land being recorded in favour of forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

In a letter to district Collectors, Ashok Kumar Tripathy, Secretary of ST and SC Development, said sketch map of land was not being given in Deogarh under the Forest Rights Act. “We have ordered the district administration to hire retired revenue inspectors and purchase handy GPS. But land being allotted to families must be demarcated properly,” Mr. Tripathy said. Beneficiaries of earlier land distribution schemes such as Vasundhara and Mo Ghara Mo Diha suffered due to lack of proper demarcation.

“We have allowed district administrations to hire more amins and revenue inspector for proper demarcation of land or use GPS. But beneficiaries of FRA must be supplied with land sketch. Those who have not been given the map could collect in a phased manner,” the Secretary of ST and SC Development said.

Continuous wilful negligence on the part of district-level committees and subdivision-level committees would invite action, Mr. Tripathy warned. The State Government so far distributed 1,19,259 certificates of titles under the FRA. However, most of these certificates were without land sketch.

Welcome move

Y. Giri Rao, activist working for facilitating proper execution of the FRA, said it was a welcome move as a very few States had made properly demarcated land sketches available to beneficiaries. He said the State Government’s initiative to intimate people whose applications under FRA were rejected would also help them appeal for review. So far, district-level committees rejected 527 claims against 35,275 by sub-division level committees.

According to latest projection, 7,36,298 families would be benefited by the scheme.

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