

## Revenue and forest SDOs directed to issue certificates on forest land rights

[Rageshri Ganguly](#), TNN | Aug 18, 2012, 09.20PM IST

BHOPAL: Fresh review of rejected claims of forest dwellers in the state would be carried out as per the chief minister's orders.

In this context, sub-divisional officers of the [revenue](#) and forest departments have been directed to undertake tours of forest villages and examine [forest land rights](#) claims at meeting of Gram Sabha. Sub-divisional officers of the revenue and forest department will have to furnish [certificates](#) that now no case pertaining to individual or community claim on forest lands within five kilometre radius of 22,000 villages is pending. So far, land rights documents have been distributed against more than 1.5 lakh claims. Of these, more than 6,500 are community claims.

Directives have been given to district collectors to ensure that all the cases pertaining to forest land rights in their respective areas are disposed of till September-end.

As many as 22,000 villages in the state are situated within five kilometre radius of forest periphery. Forest land rights claims have been received from 9,753 villages. Besides scheduled tribes, forest land rights are also to be given to other traditional forest dwellers over lands under their possession under Forest Land Rights Act.

[Tribals](#) possessing forest lands up to December 13, 2005 are to be given forest land rights under the Act. It has been provided in the case of forest dwellers that their three generations should have occupied forest lands as on December 13, 2005. One generation means 25 years. Thus, a traditional forest dweller's family should have occupied forest land for 75 years.

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