

Perform or face the music: Minister

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By Our Staff Reporter

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On the second day of two-day meeting to solve the problems of people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes firm decisions have been taken up. One of the decisions pertained to distribution of certificates of forest rights. Department Minister Jagannath Singh took a touch stance in this regard. He told the officers to get the work done by June 30. He warned that separate review of districts will be made where the performance is less than 50 per cent. He said strict action against the concerned officers would be taken. On this occasion Minister of State for Forests Harishankar Khatik was also present.

The present state government has taken this as a sensitive issue. The Forests Right Act introduced by the state government last year was commended by other states. As part of this Act, distribution of certificates of Forests Rights should reach the right persons at the earliest. The government has been issuing directives from time to time. When the work was reviewed it came to light that pace of the distribution work is very slow.

Time limit

According to the new time limit the officers should see that the forest rights committees should certify the real owners latest by June 10. The Gram Sabha should pass resolution and decision at the sub-division level should be made latest by June 20. The final step in this direction at the district level should be over by June 25 and the certificates shall be distributed by June 30.

Nitin honoured

Nitin Tandekar from Dindori district who topped the High School merit list this year has been honoured at the meeting. Jagannath Singh and Harishankar Khatik has given Nitin Rs 50000 and a memento on behalf of the Tribal Welfare Department.

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