



## **Villagers seek formation of panel**

Karwar: Over hundred people, including women of Binaga village near here, who mostly belong to tribal Halakki Vokkal Community, met the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday demanding formation of a forest rights committee in the village to decide their rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Rights (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules 2008.

In a memorandum submitted to the DC, they pointed out that Binaga village, which was a gram Panchayat earlier, had been included in the limits of Karwar municipality a few years ago.

Since then the village was considered an urban area. Although the government had formed forest rights committees at village level for regularization of forest land occupied by the traditional forest dwellers under the Act, such committees had not been constituted in urban areas like Binaga. Such people, who had their dwellings in forest areas coming under the limits of municipalities, were deprived of the benefits of the Act. In view of that, a forest rights committee should be formed in Binaga also, they demanded.

The demonstration was led by community leader Ramesh Gowda, Karwar block Congress committee president Deepak Waigaonkar, district INTUC president Shambhu Shetty, Vishnu Harikant and others.

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