

Claims on forest lands to be disposed by September-end

RageshriGanguly, TNN Aug 13, 2012, 10.43PM IST

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BHOPAL: Directives have been given to sub-divisional officers of the revenue and forest departments for early disposal of individual and community claims on forest lands in Madhya Pradesh. Individual and community claims of 22,000 villages situated within five kilometres of forest lands will be disposed of by September-end.

In a letter to district collectors, tribal welfare commissioner AshishUpadhyay has said that forest land claims should be constantly reviewed so that they can be disposed of by September-end.

So far, sub-divisional officers of revenue and forest departments have received claims in 9,700 such villages by holding discussions with Panchayat representatives of forest villages. The district collectors have been directed to collect claims in the remaining 12,300 villages.

Forest land rights documents have so far been distributed against more than 1.5 lakh individual claims and 6,000 community claims. The state has been lauded by the Central Government for its prompt disposal of forest land rights claims as well.

Besides tribals, forest land rights are also to be given under Forest Rights Act to traditional forest dwellers occupying forest lands. As per provisions of the Act, forest land rights documents are to be given to those tribals who have been occupying forest lands before December 13, 2005. It has been provided in the case of forest dwellers that three of their 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 lands for 75 years. Committees have been constituted at four levels from village to district for disposal of forest land rights claims in the state.

Source: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-08-13/bhopal/33181814_1_forest-lands-forest-dwellers-forest-rights-act