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200 families allege not being counted

TNN, Mar 12, 2011, 12:45am IST

LUCKNOW: Over 200 families of dalits and tribals, who are taking shelter in tehsil premises of Sonbhadra after being uprooted from their villages, have lodged complaint with the state administration that they have been left out from the 2011 Census.



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These families belong to Magardah and Bhaisyatola villages. They have filed for land entitlement under Forest Rights Act, but were forced to evict their villages by forest mafia, who allegedly damaged their crops and houses.

Since February 28, the tribals and dalits are taking refuge in the tehsil premises.

Alleging that the district administration has not counted them in the 2011 Census, they said that this will deny them their forest rights. The matter was also brought to the notice of three-member delegation of NC Saxena Forest Rights Committee formed by the Centre. The committee members had pulled up district officials for not providing relief to displaced people.

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Officials of Sonbhadra district administration, said that they are looking into the matter.

They said that there are allegations against these people that they are outsiders and have encroached village land to avail benefit of Forest Rights Act, but other villagers in the area drove them out.

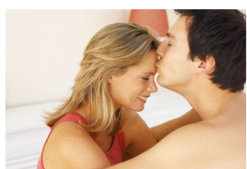
However, social activists supporting displaced families denied allegations and said that police records show them as resident of the Magardah and Bhaishiyatola.

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