

Date:23/06/2009 URL:**<http://www.thehindu.com/2009/06/23/stories/2009062356860300.htm>**

[Back](#)[Other States](#) - [Orissa](#)

Action plan to solve tribal land disputes in Koraput

Staff Reporter

BERHAMPUR: An action plan is being prepared with alacrity to pacify the tense Narayanpatna block of Koraput district.

According to the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC), Satyabrata Sahu this action plan would be ready by June 27. Then it would be sent to the State government for approval. The newly appointed Sub-Collector of Koraput, Rajesh Patil has been entrusted to craft out the intricacies of this special action plan for Narayanpatna.

Mr. Sahu said this action plan would be a two-pronged approach to solve the core issues behind the recent tension in Narayanpatna block. The plan would deal with land related revenue issues as well as developmental plans.

Camp courts

The revenue officials have been ordered to hold camp courts to settle land disputes continuing in the area. "We have targeted to solve around 100 cases per month", Mr. Sahu said. The camp courts and revenue officials have been advised to take up land disputes related to alleged take over of tribal land by non-tribals suo-motu for settlement. It may be noted that a Joint Commissioner (land settlement) was deputed to Narayanpatna by the RDC to settle land, tribal land disputes to help in peace process in the area. He appealed all sections of society to come out to bring back peace in Narayanpatna area. He added that 1,636 pattas proclaiming rights of tribal families on the forest land on which they lived were ready to be handed over to tribal families in Narayanpatna block.

Pattas

These pattas are part of the 20,000 pattas ready to be handed over to tribals in south Orissa under the Forest Rights Act 2006. But a case by some retired forest officials in the High Court has stalled the handing over of these pattas.

Several developmental measures would also be part of the action plan for peace in Narayanpatna. These measures include provision houses under Mo Kudia scheme, roads and water harvesting projects through employment generating NREGS and other government schemes. Agriculture and horticulture would be promoted in a big way in the region.

The process of settlement of land disputes had started through camp courts in Narayanpatna area since May 10. Within a month 33 cases had been settled. But the recent spurt of

violence in the area since June 12 including the landmine blast by naxals that killed nine policemen disrupted the process. At present the region remains cut off from outside world since five days as the roads leading to Naryanpatna are blocked by trees cut down by miscreants. "We are waiting for the security personnel to clear up the roads and to initiate communication process in the Narayanpatna region to initiate administrative measures for pacification," Mr Sahu said.

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