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BJP demands amendment to Forest Dwellers Act

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Karwar: The BJP staged protest in all the taluk headquarters in the district on Tuesday, demanding amendment to the Tribal and Traditional Forest Dwellers (recognition of forest rights) Act, 2007. Memorandum addressed to the Governor were also submitted to the tahsildars, Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Commissioner.

The demonstration in Karwar was led by Prasad Karwarkar, district BJP president, Ganapati Ulvekar, municipal president, Jagdish Birkodikar and Rajesh Nayak, the taluk president, in front of Deputy Commissioner's office. The demonstrators shouted slogans against the Central government.



In a memorandum submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, it was pointed out that the Act in the present form was not helpful to tribals and poor forest dwellers. The norm that a family should be

living in the forest area least for 75 years or for three generations for recognizing forest rights was unrealistic since documents in this regard could not be obtained. In view of that, all families living in the forest area prior to 2005 should be considered to provide benefit of the act.

Karwarkar said that the Congress leaders had been blaming the state government for failing to implement the Act properly. "If they had real concern for the poor forest dwellers, they must approach the Central government led by their party. The Congress leaders are playing a political game in view of coming TP and ZP elections," he added.



In Bhatkal memorandum was submitted to the Assistant Commissioner office by BJP Bhatkal unit. BJP Bhatkal unit president Dinesh Naik, Zilla Panchayat member M M Naik, Subadra Devadiga, Taluka Panchayat Vice president Madev Naik, Ganesh Naik amongst others were present

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