

## CM to start Van Adhikar Yatra from Sept 25

Category » [Bhopal](#) Posted On Thursday, July 29, 2010

By Our Staff Reporter

Bhopal, July 29:

The Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will start Van Adhikar Yatra in predominantly tribal districts from September 25. He would review distribution of titles of forest rights, issues relating to lands of tribals concerning departments of forests and revenue. He would also evaluate the performance of tribal development schemes.

This was informed at a meeting of State Tribes Advisory Council at Vidhan Sabha here today.

Addressing the meeting Shri Chouhan said that protecting interests and rights of the tribal families is top priority of the state government. So far, one lakh 22 thousand 466 titles of forest rights have been distributed to the eligible tribal families. The number is highest in the country.

Shri Chouhan announced to appoint a high level committee to inquire into inclusion of land of tribals in the reserve forests by the forest department about forty years ago. Minister for Scheduled Tribe Welfare Shri Vijay Shah, Minister of State Shri Harishankar Khatik, Principal Secretary Forests, Tribal Welfare, Deputy Inspector General Police, Shri Ashok Awasthi would be included as members in the high level committee. The Committee will submit its report in a month.

MLA Shri Premnarayan Thakur said that compensation for tree felling on such lands has been given to non-tribals but not to the tribals. Shri Chouhan said that action would be taken against those responsible for this. Responding to the suggestion of MLA Shri Gyan Singh, the Chief Minister gave instructions for plantation of mahua and achar next year saying that it would help tribal families earn additionally.

The meeting discussed issues like distribution of forest rights titles, re-examination of cases in Burhanpur, Umaria and other districts, cancellation of applications for forest rights in the areas around national parks and sanctuaries.

It was informed that a weeklong campaign would be launched for giving titles of forest rights. Gram Sabha meetings would be organized across the state. Elderly persons would be persuaded to attend the Gram Sabha meetings for meaningful discussions as they command respect in their community.

The Chief Minister instructed to extend the recruitment drive for filling backlog posts and furnish details about the department and district wise vacancies.

Minister for Tribal Welfare and Vice Chairman of the Council Shri Vijay Shah, Minister of State for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Welfare Shri Harishankar Khatik, members of the Council MLA Sushri Meena Singh, Smt. Gita Singh, Smt. Shashi Thakur, Sarvshri Kunwar Singh Tekam, Jai Singh Naravi, Rampyare Kulaste, Bhagat Singh Netam, Champalal Devda, Anar Bhai Baskale, Dhul Singh Dhabar and Prem Singh Patel.

Principal Secretary Shri Devraj Birdi gave details about the compliance of decisions taken in the previous meeting.

Director General Police Shri S. K. Raut, Additional Chief Secretary Forest Shri M. K. Rai, vice chairman of Narmada Valley Development Authority Shri O.P. Rawat and senior officers attended the meeting.

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