



## Central delegation visits proposed POSCO site in Orissa

Friday, July 23, 2010

**Report by Kahnu Nanda, Jagatsinghpur:** A three members panel led by Asish Kothari , head of an Pune based NGO including Dr Arbajit Saikia from IIT Gouhati and Mr R Ravi visited Jagatsinghpur on Friday.

They held discussion with collector and other officials about the forest rights Act allegedly violated in proposed POSCO site villages during transfer of the forest land conversion. Official sources added the panel will go to POSCO site villages as Dhinkia, Gadakujanga and Nuagaon on filed visit on Saturday and collect the public views.

Report said that although POSCO has obtained union environment and forest department clearance for conversion of forest land but the local residents had complained Forest Rights Act has been violated as few people were living in the forest lands since decades and legally deserved rights for the land. As consequence taking growing allegations union environment department has decided to form a panel and would take field visit to access the ground realities.

Before going to field visit the panel held preliminary discussion with administration on Friday afternoon and collector N C Jena apprised the visiting dignitaries about the official proceedings about the forest land conversion and revenue department supplied the documents relating the matter.

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