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## Orissa performs well in implementing forest land right act

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BHUBANESWAR: Orissa government was ahead of many other states in terms of implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of forest rights) Act, 2006, according to the three-member joint committee appointed by the ministry of environment and forest and ministry of tribal affairs.

"Orissa has progressed little more than other states as its officers are pro-active," one of the committee members Asish Kothari told newsmen.

However, though the state government had an edge over others in giving individual land rights, it had to do a lot in terms of community land right applications, Kothari said.

Stating that a mine owner might not be happy over implementation of forest right act in the state, Kothari said the committee was today appraised by some people that they were deprived of getting land documents as their places of living inside forests were proposed to be given for mining purpose.

The team would undertake a survey on Forest Right Act at three gram panchayats under Ersama block in Jagatsinghpur district where Posco-India proposes to set up its mega steel plant.

Of the total 4,26,284 applications made, seeking right over forest land, the state had so far provided land records to 2,02,516 families living inside forests, official sources said.

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