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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



Monday, 28 September 2009

MUMBAI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM KOLKATA HYDERABAD CHENNAI BANGALORE AIZAWL

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

**SHRI BHURIA URGES ORISSA CHIEF MINISTER TO IMPLEMENT  
FOREST RIGHTS ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY**

15:32 IST

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria has urged the Chief Minister of Orissa to expedite the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 in the State. In a meeting held here today with the Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Naveen Patnaik, the Union Minister pointed out that out of 2,92,000 claims, only 41,000 claims have been cleared by the State Government.

The Orissa Chief Minister informed Shri Bhuria that the State High Court has very recently vacated the stay on the implementation of the Act and now the State Government is vigorously working to clear the backlog of the claims.

Shri Bhuria also apprised him of the Prime Minister's concern over the issue and said that the Centre is convening a meeting of the State Chief Ministers in early November to review the implementation of Forest Rights Act and to resolve the problems being faced by the States in expeditious implementation of this law which aims at benefitting the tribal population across the country.

The Chief Minister requested for inclusion of some communities in the S.T. list of the State and financial assistance for ST Girls Hostels, increase in amount of Post Matric Scholarship etc. Shri Bhuria informed that the proposals will be examined by his Ministry and decision would be taken expeditiously. Shri Bhuria also informed that a sum of Rs. 64.26 Crore has been released by the Ministry to the State of Orissa on 22nd of this month based on the proposals of the State Government.

Shri Bhuria also accepted the invitation of the Chief Minister to visit Orissa.

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VBA/RS