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### **‘Implement forest laws in campaign mode’**

Staff Reporter

*Meeting of officials held*

KHAMMAM: V. Nagi Reddy, Principal Secretary (Tribal Welfare) on Wednesday wanted the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to be taken up in campaign mode.

Addressing a meeting of the officials and representatives of the various agencies involved in the implementation of the Act at the temple town of Bhadrachalam, he said that the forest dwelling communities were quite responsive in submitting the claims. The task of speeding up the process for issue of title deeds was resting on the forest rights committees and the official machinery.

He said that government was firm on issuing the title deeds as scheduled by the end of July next. The state-level monitoring committee was reviewing the implementation process from time to time. The stock taking process was completed in Adilabad and Visakhapatnam – two of the largely forested district like Khammam.

Though the completion of the process under a time bound programme was a hard task, the pace of issue of title deeds could be stepped up. It was the main issue on the agenda for the Cabinet meetings as well. He said the forest rights committees should entertain claims even for the land facing risk of submergence of the new projects.

He wanted the active involvement of all the members of the forest rights committees at the grassroots level in the survey process. If necessary, the members should be paid for making up the loss of their daily wage in the villages.

K.D.R. Jayakumar, special secretary and S. K. Chottray, chief conservator of forests, District Collector, Shashibhushan Kumar and the ITDA project officer, Budha Prakash Jyothi, were among those who took part in the meeting.

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