



Civic group raised concern over Bureaucrats for neglecting implementation of Forest Rights Act in Orissa

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Bhubaneswar: The Tribal PRI DLC and SDLC members strongly raised concern over Bureaucrats for neglecting their role and involvements in the District and Sub Divisional level in the implementation of Forest Rights Act in the State.

Participating in the training cum Orientation programme on “the Forest Rights Act” organized by Campaign for Survival and Dignity, (CSD), Orissa, the Tribal PRI DLC and SDLC members strongly raised concern over their non involvements by the Bureaucrats in the District and Sub Divisional level in the whole implementation of Forest Rights Act in the State. Around 50 Tribal PRI DLC and SDLC members and CSD, Orissa members from 25 districts including the scheduled districts participated in the programme. Sharing the objective of the three days training programme, the CSD, Orissa, convenor, Gopinath Majhi said that CSD, has played a vital role in the enactment of the FRA in the Nation and is continued to pressurize the Govt. to implement the Act in its true spirit. The training programme for the DLC and SDLC members is in realization to that end. Pradeep Prabhu, the National convenor CSD said that the Act has assigned important role to the PRI members in the whole implementation process, but they have been neglected by the officials.

Addressing the media, The DLC/SDLC members said that even after the one and half years of implementation of the Forest Rights in the State, they have not been properly informed about the provisions in the Forest Rights Act and the Rules. They also informed that the Collectors and the Sub-Collectors in the DLC and SDLC hardly bother to inform them during the DLC and SDLC meetings and they decide and reject unanimously over the Forest Rights Claims. Emphasizing on the Community Rights over Forest, the DLC members of the Deogarh district, Mr. Vidyadhar Pradhan said that the Government is taking this Act as forest land scheme and trying to bypass the larger “Community Rights Over Forest” and not talking on the community rights forest. The DLC member of Sundargarh district, Sanjukta Oram said that there is great need of the training programme for both the officials and PRI representatives of the DLC and SDLC to implement the Act in its true sense. The DLC Member of Dhenkanal, Mr Manmohan Singh informed that after the enactment of the FRA in the State, Forest Department has lost its significance and trying to dilute the implementation of the historical enactment by promoting JFM/VSS which has lost its legality after the enactment of the Forest Rights Act. Many good circulars have been issued by the Govt. of Orissa but it is not reaching to the people and even to the implementing officials at the ground, said Premika Mandal, SDLC member of Gajapati District.

In the three days programme, on the first day the Special Secretary, SC and ST Dept, Govt. of Orissa Shri B.K. Nayak and Ramesh Behera (Assist. Director) participated in the training programme and listened all the concerns raised by the DLC and SDLC PRI members and shared the updates of the implantation of the Act in the State. They assured the PRI members to address them with sincerity in the coming months.

The other DLC and SDLC PRI representatives addresses the press and raised concerns are Satyanarayan Bhoi, DLC member of Bolangir district, Ramkrushna Bariha DCL member, Bargarh

district, Pareswar Barla from Sundargarh DLC, Kandu Kissan from Angul SDLC and Parada Kuliska from Koraput DLC, Hiranya Ku. Nayak from Keounjhar district etc. Besides, DLC/SDLC members from other district i.e Boud, Ganjam, Kandhmal, Nayagarh, Nabarangpur, Rayagarda, Kalahandi, Malkangiri participated in the training programme etc.

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