

Reddy asks collectors to take up plantations in forest land

Hyderabad (PTI): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy has directed district Collectors in the State to take up coffee and rubber plantations in forest land being distributed to tribals.

He also wanted them to take up other horticulture schemes as well in these lands, according to a press release from the Chief Minister's office here on Saturday.

The Chief Minister, who is spending a week-long holiday with his family in Goa will return to the State on Sunday, will distribute about 40,000 acres of forest land to tribals in the Paderu agency area of Visakhapatnam district.

The CMO said Mr. Reddy reviewed the progress of the scheme through a tele-conference today.

More than 4.17 lakh acres of forest land was distributed under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, and 70,480 claims were settled so far. Another 7.95 lakh acres would be distributed by this month end, the CM's Office said.

The Collectors have been directed to complete issuing land title certificates to beneficiaries in the entire State by involving ministers and local representatives.

The 2006 Act aims at recognising and recording the rights of dwellers who have been residing in and depending on the forests for their livelihood needs.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/004200907111880.htm>