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Working days under NREGS to be increased

RAMPACHODAVARAM (EG dt): Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy has said that the working days under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) will be increased to 150 or 160 days from the existing 100 days per family.

Addressing a packed tribals public meeting at Government junior college grounds here on Sunday, he said that honouring the historical struggle of tribals seeking forest rights, the UPA Government sanctioned rights to tribals to cultivate their lands. Now tribals can cultivate their lands with dignity without any fear, he said. Tribals can plant rubber plants, mango, cashewnut, orange, lime or palm oil as per the local conditions, he added.

He said the State Government would also develop lands in tribal areas and the tribals will be paid daily wages under NREGS programme though they are working in their own land.

He said three lakh tribals will benefit under the Act as the Government provides forest rights to 12 lakh acres in the State. He said Rs 20 crore would be spent towards development of land in tribal areas.

The Chief Minister said special attention would be paid to supply protected drinking water in tribal villages within two years. He said roads would be laid in tribal areas and health needs of tribals will be taken care of under Arogyasri scheme.

Thanking the tribals for voting for Congress party in Rampachodavaram Assembly segment after a gap of 27 years, he said tribals voted in favour of the Congress party due to the welfare programmes.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated a tribal super bazaar and new meeting hall at ITDA office and inspected rubber plantations.

Ministers Botsa Satyanarayana, Pilli Subhas Chandrabose, Pinepe Viswaroop, Pitani Satyanarayana, Balaraju, Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Rajya Sabha member T Ratnabhai, MLA K K V V Satyanarayana Reddy, district Collector Gopalakrishna Dwivedi, Superintendent of Police Y Nagireddy, ITDA PO Yogita Rana, Sub-Collector Manik Raj and others were present.

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