



Government of India
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

6th floor, 'B' Wing,
Loknaya Bhawan,
Khan Market,
New Delhi-110 003.

No. 13/1/2014(MEETING)/RU-IV

Date: 24.02.2014

To

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| (1) Mrs. Archana Patnaik,
District Collector,
Coimbatore (TN) | (2) The Deputy Commissioner of Police,
Coimbatore,
Tamil Nadu. |
| (3) The Superintendent of Police,
Coimbatore,
Tamil Nadu. | (4) The District Forest Officer,
Coimbatore,
Tamil Nadu. |
| (5) The Revenue Divisional Officer,
Coimbatore,
Tamil Nadu | (6) The District Adi Dravidar and Tribal
Welfare Officer,
Coimbatore,
Tamil Nadu. |
| (7) The Special Tahasildar,
Adi Dravidar Welfare,
Pollachi,
Tamil Nadu. | |

Sub: Minutes of the meeting held on 05.02.2014 on Safeguards and Rights of Scheduled Tribes, Coimbatore District.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of the meeting taken by Shri R. Vijaykumar, IAS on 05.02.2014 on Safeguards and Rights of Scheduled Tribes, Coimbatore District for necessary action.

Action taken in the matter may be communicated at an early date.

918-287
25/2/14

Yours faithfully,

(K.D. Bhansor) Mrs.
Deputy Director

o/c

Copy to:

1) PS to Hon'ble Chairperson

~~2) SSA NIC~~



(K.D. Bhansor) Mrs.
Deputy Director

Minutes

Discussions on Safeguards & Rights of Scheduled Tribes, Coimbatore Dist.

In the Chair: R. Vijaykumar, PhD, Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Govt of India

Venue & Date: Collector's Office, Coimbatore; 5.2.2014 at 0900 AM.

Present:

1. Mrs Archana Patnaik, Collector, Coimbatore
2. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore
3. Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore.
4. District Forest Officer, Coimbatore
5. Revenue Divisional Officer, Coimbatore
6. District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officer, Coimbatore
7. Special Tahsildar, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Pollachi.

Based on the details provided by the SP, Coimbatore, it was seen that of three cases registered in 2007, 2009, and 2013 under the POA Act, 1989, monetary relief was given in the first two cases and the third case referred as mistake of fact. The first involved damage to a portion of the tribal's vegetable crop and led to conviction by June 2011. The second case which was of body injuries with hands and coconut stem is pending trial. In both cases, the persons were abused with their community name suffixed with the term 'dog' and hence, it was viewed seriously. Secretary advised that the courts should be pressed to not only punish the accused persons but also direct cash compensation for damage and/or costs for hospital treatment and after-care.

The quarterly meetings of the District Vigilance Cell take place regularly. Verification has been done for 13 certificates referred by the State Level Scrutiny Committee (1 Irula, 1 Kattunaicken, 11 Konda Reddy) and SLSC has cancelled 3 Konda Reddy certificates. To curb delay, notice for production of proof should be sent to both the employee and the employer. In case an employee does not turn up, the employer should be advised to ensure his attendance and their responsibility in this regard to obviate any abetment of the employee's behavior which could have penal consequences. In the rejection cases, it would be important to take a few cases and prosecute them and obtain exemplary punishment. It was mentioned that community certificates are issued promptly and there are no complaints.

TSP is not being implemented in the district. Secretary advised the Collector to devise some special programmes of culturally suited housing or livelihood promotion through country chicken or other programmes. Further, during a discussion on livelihood support options, the Collector was advised to




consider pressing for the expansion of PDS to allow procurement of millets grown by tribals at market prices and provision to the the tribals of the processed millets at prices subsidized under PDS.

A complaint had been made that local tribals were not allowed to put up shps/stalls next to the temple in Kunjapannai village of Nilgiris district by the DFO, Coimbatore in whose jurisdiction this area lay. The DFO agreed to permit the villagers if they applied directly and was not willing to grant any approvals for NGOs to operate. (This was later conveyed to Shri Alwas, NAWA to advise the villagers to meet the DFO in this matter).

Progress in implementation of FRA, 2006 was reviewed. Of 83 identified tribal habitations, only 25 FRC and Gram Sabhas had been formed which left 58 pending. It was reported that 457 community claims and 877 individual claims had been filed from the Gram Sabhas formed and no claim had been rejected. Secretary observed that it would mean that claims had been noted only in Gram Sabhas formed which seriously underestimated the actual claims that existed. Further, without registering claims or getting them approved, there was no protection of the traditional livelihood of tribals. This would also be reflected in the state level figures. The RDOs, with the assistance should quickly form the Gram Sabhas within two weeks and ensure registration of claims. The DFO should also take up a drive for holding awareness camps to advise tribals on their rights to which the RDO should also be invited. The Secretary requested the Collector to ensure that adequate publicity was given to the matter and to review the progress in awareness building among the tribals of the district.

Secretary also advised the officers to ensure that there was no interference in the tribal rights to collect MFP/NTFP and for movement for own use and sale since these were livelihood support systems. The Forest Rights Act had recognized the stewardship responsibility of tribals and had shifted this from the forest department in favour of the tribals which was a major policy shift from the colonial policies of the 19th century. Further, the tribals continued to possess pre-existing individual and community rights in old or new tiger reserves and these cannot be taken away without proper compensation and rehabilitation.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


(R. Vijay Kumar)
Secretary
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
Govt. of India
New Delhi