



Spot-verification of forest rights claims begins

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Margao: With the state government outsourcing the work of spot-verifying claims made under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), the private agency engaged for the task has begun surveying the 270-odd cases that have been cleared by the district level committee formed under the Act. Once the land is demarcated, sanads (land titles) will be issued to the beneficiaries.

The state directorate of settlement and land records (DSLRL) issued the work order to Theovel Surveys, a Bengaluru-based firm that bagged the tender for survey, demarcation, preparation of plans and fixing of boundary stones for claims received under the Forest Rights Act. An agreement has been inked between DSLRL, the directorate of tribal welfare and Theovel Surveys.

Sources at the directorate of tribal welfare said that the agency has begun the spot verification exercise of the 270-odd cases and is likely to complete the task within the next two months.

Minister for tribal welfare Govind Gaude had said that the government had to outsource the task due to inadequate number of surveyors with DSLRL who could be deployed for the FRA cases. “The team of surveyors of directorate of settlement and land records would be able to complete just 2-3 cases of spot verification in a day, and this would result in delay of disposal of the claims,” Gaude had told reporters recently.

So far, of the 10,136 claims received by the government under the FRA, only 46 sanads have been issued to the beneficiaries.

The agency has been asked to complete the spot verification of all these cases within a year once they are cleared by the district level committee.

As per the provisions of the FRA, when a forest dweller files a claim for the land title, it passes through three levels of checks — the gram sabha, the sub divisional level committee and the district level committee. A person acquires the land title (sanad) only when it is approved by the district level committee.

Source:<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/spot-verification-of-forest-rights-claims-begins/articleshow/87560401.cms>