



सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No. NCST/DEV-3192/AP/2/2024-ESDW(RU-III)

Date: 17.09.2025

To,

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Collector & District Magistrate,
District- Prakasam,
(Andhra Pradesh)-523001 | 2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
& HOFF,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, O/o PCCF
Aranya Bhawan, Mangalagiri
(Andhra Pradesh) |
|--|---|

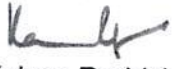
Sub: Representation dated 14.08.2024 received from S/shri D. Manthru Naik, D. Ramulu Naik, D. Chandra Naik, D. Swamy Sankar Naik and D. Siva Sankar Naik, Narajamula Thonda, Andhra Pradesh regarding trouble and atrocities caused by the Forest Department.

महोदय/महोदया,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of sittings held on 11.8.2025 under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Dilkusha Guest House, Hyderabad on the above mentioned subject.

2. It is requested that the action taken/to be taken in the matter may be intimated to NCST within stipulated time from receipt of the letter for placing it before the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


(डॉ. पी. कल्याण रेड्डी/Dr. P. Kalyan Reddy)
निदेशक/Director
Telephone No: 011-20819841

Copy to:

1. Shri D. Manthru Naik and others, Narajamula Thonda, District- Prakasam (Andhra Pradesh) -523327
2. PS to Hon'ble Member (JH), NCST.
- ✓ 3. NIC, NCST for uploading on the website of the Commission.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

Minutes of the Sitting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Dilkusha Guest House, Hyderabad in the case of Shri D. Manthru Naik, Cheruvu Neerajamala Thanda Gram Panchayat, Pullalacheruvu Mandal, Prakasam District regarding long standing issue of non-separation of Revenue and ROFR Lands.

Date of the Sitting: 11/08/2025, 11.00 AM
Participants in the Sitting: As per Annexure
NCST/DEV-3192/AP/2/2024-ESDW

Shri D. Manthru Naik and others have stated vide their representation dated 14.08.2024 that the forest department is creating significant hardships for the tribal communities, despite the existence of online records for revenue and ROFR lands passed down through generations. They highlight the continued struggles in protecting agricultural lands, particularly those in the Cheruvu area under the Nerajamala Thanda Gram Panchayat, Prakasam District, which were allocated to Sugalis and tribals by the then erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Jalagam Vengala Rao in 1976-1977. The petitioners assert that forest department officials, including Erragondapalem ranger and other guards, are subjecting tribals to physical abuse and extortion. They also request that the revenue department and forest department resolve issues surrounding the separation of revenue land and the establishment of appropriate borders for ROFR land.

2. The Commission issued notice to the Collector & District Magistrate, Prakasam and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HOFF, Government of Andhra Pradesh vide NCST letter dated 10.09.2024 seeking facts and comments within 30 days.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Andhra Pradesh vide letter dated 04.10.2024 stated that a factual inquiry was conducted, revealing that the disputed land is part of the Markapur Reserve Forest and not revenue land. The Forest Range Officer and Deputy Director, Project Tiger, Markapur, confirmed that the Nerajamala Thanda village is situated within the Reserve Forest, contrary to the petitioners' claim. It was also reported that revenue authorities had allegedly issued illegal pattas in the past. A joint survey involving revenue and forest officials is currently underway to finalize the matter. The allegations of harassment by forest officials were deemed false and baseless. Additionally, the request to fell trees to mitigate the monkey menace was rejected, citing legal and ecological concerns.

4. Collector & District Magistrate, Prakasam District, vide letter dated 25.11.2024 has submitted an interim report stating that villagers claim their lands were assigned to their forefathers around 1958-59 and that pattas and passbooks were issued subsequently. However, forest officials recently objected to cultivation, claiming the lands fall within Reserve Forest. Enquiry by Superintendent of Police found no evidence of harassment or abuse, and the dispute appears to be over classification of land. Field inspections revealed that Survey Nos. 516 to 565 were originally Reserve Forest lands but later demarcated as Revenue land with FMBs prepared in 1994; however, no de-notification orders or RSR records are available to conclusively prove the transfer. A joint inspection is underway involving multiple departments, and more time is required to obtain key records including denotified gazettes and revenue data. In view of the pending enquiry and unavailability of complete records, the Collector has requested the Commission to grant two months' time for submission of a final report.

5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh vide his letter dated 07.02.2025 has informed the Commission that detailed reports on the representation dated 14.08.2024 submitted by Shri D. Manthru Naik and others of Cheruvu Neerajamala Thanda, Prakasam District, alleging harassment by Forest officials, have already been furnished through previous correspondence. The reports clarify that the petitioners' claimed lands fall within Markapur Reserve Forest (Compt.No.182) and not in the revenue area, and that the revenue pattas were issued illegally about 20 years ago. A joint survey involving forest, revenue, and tribal welfare officials has been initiated to resolve the matter. The allegations of assault and harassment were found baseless and unsupported by any evidence. The request for tree felling to curb monkey menace was deemed impractical and violative of forest laws.

जाटोतु हुसैन / Jatothu Hussain
सदस्य / Member
भारत सरकार / Government of India
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

6. A sitting was scheduled on 26.11.2024 and 10.02.2025 but was not held. The petitioner vide letter dated 15.04.2025 has reiterated his grievances. Hence Hon'ble Member, NCST has decided to discuss the issue with the authority and the petitioner on 11.08.2025. Accordingly, a Sitting Notice was sent on 02.08.2025.

7. The petitioner has attended the hearing. The Sub Collector, Markapur, DFO, Prakasham District and Conservator of forests have attended the hearing.

8. The petitioner has reiterated that though their land is a Revenue land which is being cultivated since pre-independence times by their ancestors, basing on which the erstwhile CM Shri Jalagam Vengala Rao has assigned them the land and Hon'ble High Court has favoured it. Further for the purpose of bank loans and benefit of Government schemes the land is treated as Revenue land, however the compensation for the land acquisition for NH-565 is not given to them and the Forest officials are harassing them.

9. The authority has informed that the Gazette of De-notification of the said Forest land could not be traced

10. After hearing to both the petitioner and the authorities the following recommendations are made and the ATR may be submitted in 30 days time.

a. The Forest Revenue disputes may be settled immediately at the field level and the same may be coordinated at PCCF and CCLA level and the same may be corrected in the Revenue records as the issue is long pending due to which the ambiguity among the ST farmers and Forest officials arose.

b. The Borewell and electric lines may be permitted in the Revenue land and the Developmental rights may be facilitated as per the FRA Act in the Forest land.

c. In the event of unsettling of the dispute for the reason that the same is falling under the reserve forest, the revenue department may acquire alternate land and compensate the same to the affected ST famers for the livelihood of ST farmers.

d. The pending FRA Pattas to the leftover beneficiaries may be granted in accordance with the ROFR Act 2005

(Jatothu Hussain)

जाटोतु हुसैन / Jatothu Hussain

सदस्य / Member

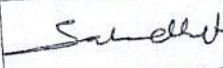
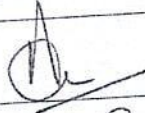
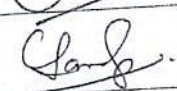
भारत सरकार / Government of India

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

List of participants of the sitting held on 11.8.2025 at under the chairmanship of
Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, NCST at Hyderabad.

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
I			
<u>National Commission for Scheduled Tribes</u>			
1.	Dr. P.K Reddy Director		
2.	NCST Officials		
II			
<u>Collector & District Magistrate, District - Prakasham</u>			
Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
	B. Saleem Venkat Touring 3AM	Sub collector Prakasham. Collector's Res	
III			
<u>O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HOFF</u>			
	A. K. Nait PCCF & HOFF	O/o PCCF, AP 9432339537	
	Sandeep K. Gundala	DFO, Markapur. 9440810059	
IV			
<u>Petitioner</u>			
	D. Manthare Naidu	NaraJasula Thandi 9701785804.	D. Manthare Naidu
	B. CHERRE NAIKE	State Girl Sch All India Baiton sare Sanyal	