

view to identify tribal, Govt. lands

By O. Staff Reporter

KHAMMAM, Dec. 12.

A survey will be conducted by the administration to identify the Government and tribal lands under illegal occupation in the scheduled areas of the district, according to the Minister for Major Irrigation, Mr. Tummala Nageswara Rao.

Addressing a meeting of the District Development Review Committee here on Thursday, he said the Government was keen on resolving the tribal land issue and accordingly it had been making allout efforts to ensure a fair deal to the tribal farmer whoever was deprived of on account of the land deals effected in violation of the scheduled area regulations. The meeting was presided over by the district incharge Minister, Mr. Simhadri Satyanarayana.

Seeking the cooperation of all political parties for dealing with the situation, Mr. Tummala Nageswara Rao said the officials concerned should also strive to extend possible help to the tribals to get their lands restored. Law-enforcing agencies would not be able to play any role in the row over the tribal land unless the survey was completed. He pointed out that certain elements were trying to create trouble in the countryside taking advantage of the issue and it was quite undesirable.

Dr. Y. Radhakrishnamurty, Rajya Sabha member, said that the district administration

should take due interest for resolving the land problem over which certain sections of people were agitating in Mulakalapalli mandal. Some of the land-related cases represented to the district administration by the CPI(M) district committee were yet to be resolved.

Mr. Koneru Nageswara Rao, MLA of Kothagudem, said that the endowment lands of the Annapureddipalli temple were proposed to be purchased by the ITDA for distribution to the tribals. He said it would be better to hasten the process as the lands were generating hardly any income for the shrine.

The District Collector, Mr. Neerabh Kumar Prasad, and the Joint Collector, Mr. Mohd. Ali Rafat, said Revenue Divisional Officers were entrusted with the responsibility of going into the merits of each case represented to the administration. Meetings were held at the divisional level to discuss land-related issues as part of the effort to resolve them.

The Joint Collector said that another meeting would be held in the third week of December on the land issue. Mr. Puvvada Nageswara Rao, MLA, and Mr. Koneru Nageswara Rao, MLA, suggested to officials to invite representatives of all political parties to the meeting in addition to the CPI(M), which represented the cases.

The ITDA Project Officer, Mr. G. Asok Kumar, said that a meeting was held with the mandal revenue officers of the sub-plan area on Decem-

ber 4 last to discuss the land problem involving the tribals. The MROs were all given the necessary guidelines to deal with the cases. A legal cell was also constituted to give legal aid to the tribals whose land was involved in litigation. The committee would file revision petition on behalf of tribals, if necessary, in any case.

Mr. S. Venkata Veeraiah, Palair MLA, wanted to know as to what measures the district administration was initiating to extend relief after declaring 41 out of 46 mandals in the district drought-hit. He pointed out that the District Development Review Committee in a unanimous resolution adopted at its previous meeting, appealed to the Government to declare the entire district drought hit, but still five more mandals were left out.

Replying to queries, the District Collector explained that as much as Rs. 11 crores was available for the employment assurance works and Rs. 3 crores for the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The Agriculture Department had prepared a plan for distribution of seeds on subsidy in the affected areas. All possible steps would be taken to cope with the scarcity conditions, he added.

Mr. Kunja Biksham and Mr. Ramreddy Venkata Reddy, both MLAs and Mr. Shamsheer Singh Rawat, Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad, were among those who attended the meeting.