

Land disputes: CM moots Khammam model

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By Our Special Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Oct. 4.

The Chief Minister, Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, has commended the Khammam model to resolve land disputes in the agency areas of West Godavari district.

He called a meeting of Ministers, MLAs from West Godavari, and senior officials at his residence late on Friday to discuss the ongoing dispute between tribal and non-tribal farmers over possession of land in agency areas. Some representatives of non-tribal farmers were also present.

Mr. Naidu referred to the experience in Khammam district where the problem was amicably settled between tribals and non-tribals and said it could be adopted in West Godavari district as well, according to a press note from the Chief Minister's office.

In Khammam, a survey was being conducted in the presence of both parties and where farmers were found to be in possession of land without patta, such land was instantly distributed among the deserving tribals. Similarly, tribals agreed not to trespass into patta lands in possession of non-tribals.

Police and revenue departments were playing a crucial role in implementing the agreement.

Mr. Chandrababu Naidu asked the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. K. Vidyadhar Rao, and the

Minister for Energy, Mr. Kalidindi Ramachandra Raju, who belong to West Godavari, to proceed to the agency areas of the district and strive for better understanding between non-tribals and tribals on the Khammam lines.

A special officer with powers of a revenue divisional officer would be posted to implement the decision and a special survey team would be appointed. Non-tribal farmers from the district who met the Chief Minister assured him all cooperation in implementing the decision.

Messrs. Thummala Nageswara Rao, Minister for Major Irrigation, who is credited with fashioning the Khammam understanding, G. Nagesh, Minister for Tribal Welfare, P. Singanna Dora, P.V. Krishna Rao, MLAs, K. Madhava Rao, Chief Secretary, and senior officials attended the meeting.