Survey of Forest Settlements Under Bhoomi Keralam Nearing Completion

by Anil S

Kochi: The survey of forest settlements for tribals undertaken by the Kerala Land Information Mission (KLIM) as part of its Bhoomi Keralam project has been facing disputes and objections in four districts - Wayanad, Thrissur, Malappuram and Palakkad. However, in three other districts - Kollam, Idukki and Kannur - KLIM was able to complete the survey successfully.

As per the official records, the data till March 31, 2011, goes like this. In Kollam district, Bhoomi Keralam was able to complete the survey of 22 settlements which had 1,082 claims in an area of 1,062 acres. The records have been prepared and handed over to the District Collector. Similarly in Idukki district, the project surveyed 88 settlements with 8,984 claims in an area of 19,591.33 acres. The survey of 33 settlements with 1,039 claims in an area of 1,590 acres has been completed in Kannur district.

"As far as the survey of forest settlements for tribal people is concerned, Bhoomi Keralam was able to successfully complete the survey and hand over the records to the District Collector in almost all the seven districts. However, there are some minimal disputes in four districts. There is a slight confusion in the data prepared by the Forest, Revenue and Tribal departments," said a top official with the Revenue Department.

In Thrissur district, where survey of 30 settlements with 945 claims for an area of 933.1998 acres was completed, nine colonies with 116 claims have come up with objections. The objections come from colonies including Sholayar (22 claims), Adukkalappara (6), Anavari (2), Kombazha (6), Perumthuma (8), Karadikkundu (5), Pottimada (15), Poovanchira (49) and Erappanpara (3). As per the official records, all the 116 claims were rejected as these were without possessions.

In seven colonies - Kuttala, Pattakkarimbu, Vettilakolly, Attinpara, Chettiyanpara, Naranapoyil and Mathippotti in Malappuram district - the survey is currently under dispute.

In Wayanad district, where there are major claims under the Forest Rights Act, survey and record transaction of 243 settlements with 5,289 claims for an area of 3,617 acres have been completed. The remaining settlements are not surveyed owing to non-possession and boundary dispute.

As per the final figures, the Bhoomi Keralam project was able to survey a total of 540 settlements with 19,612 claims for an area of 30,517.298 acres of land.

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