

Tribals seek implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006

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THE South India Adivasi Federation has urged the Central and state governments to provide all kinds of basic facilities in tribal colonies on a par with non-tribal areas by implementing the Forest Rights Act 2006.

A resolution to this effect was adopted at the South India conference on Adivasi Rights, organised by Tamil Nadu Adivasi Federation in the city on Sunday. The conference asked the authorities to undertake a proper census of the tribal population in coordination with the representatives of tribal communities. It emphasised the need for inclusion of Kuravar, Narikuravar, Pulaiyar, Lambadi and Kuruman communities in the list of Adivasis and effective steps for enhancing their socio-economic status.

Calling for creation of a separate ministry at state-level for tribals, the conference demanded that at least one parliamentary constituency should be reserved in Tamil Nadu for tribals. It also demanded that the government increase the reservation for tribals in education and employment.

Earlier, the federation observed World Adivasis Day, making a strong plea to the Central and state governments to lift Adivasi families from



Tribals including Nilgiris Todas taking out a rally on Sunday in Coimbatore where the Tamil Nadu Adivasi Federation had organised an Adivasi Rights Conference on the occasion of the World Adivasi Day

the brink of poverty. State president M Balan said that as the tribals were being driven from forests, they are left with no choice but to fight for their rights to live in their tradi-

tional habitats.

He said they were suffering without education and employment opportunities. State general secretary Selvakumar participated.

Toda tribals want agri loans upto Rs 1 lakh

Coimbatore: The Toda community has urged the government to take steps to increase agricultural loans from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh for augmenting production in the Nilgiris district. In a memorandum sent to district administration coinciding with World Adivasi Day, Adaiyala Kuttan, president of Todas Welfare Association, pointed out that at present Todas were given farm loans upto Rs 10,000 through Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks. Though there was a provision to obtain loans upto Rs 1 lakh, he said that Toda families could not avail it since they did not have proper titles for their lands. He demanded that the District Collector look into this issue and take a favourable decision.