AGM to resume stir

Staff Reporter

Three tribal people with the possession certificates for the land disbursed to them by the then Chief Minister Oommen Chandy in January 22, 2016.

The Adivasi Gothra Mahasabha (AGM) is preparing to resume its agitation in protest against the government's failure to keep its promises on rehabilitation and providing compensation to the tribal members involved in the Muthanga agitation.

Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, C.K. Janu, chairperson, AGM, said the organisation called off its Nilpu Samaram (standing protest) in front of the Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram, on December 17, 2014 after the government promised to fulfil their demands. Their demands included a rehabilitation package for tribal families involved in the Muthanga agitation and compensation for tribal children and other victims who were arrested in connection with the agitation.

Though the government had agreed to provide one acre of land each to 295 landless tribal families and as a part of it, former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy had disbursed possession certificates of one acre each to 24 tribal families among them in January 22, the land was yet to be provided to them. Moreover, the government had also promised to provide Rs.1 lakh each to 123 tribal children who had been arrested in connection with the Muthanga agitation. But the compensation was provided only to 35 children so far, Ms. Janu said.

The LDF government was trying to sabotage the agreement, Ms. Janu said adding that the recent statement of Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes A.K. Balan that the government would provide 25 cents of land and a house to all landless tribal family was an example for that.

The assurance of the former LDF government was to provide at least one acre of land each to landless tribal families in the State, she said. The AGM would stage a token fast in front of the Collectorate on August 5, Ms. Janu said.

If the government failed to keep its promises, the organisation would resume its indefinite agitation in front of the Collectorate, she added.