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Repeated advocacy to the government. would have fallen on deaf ears

The tribes of the hamlet of Jajulabandha at Visakhapatnam Agency decided to build a 13 km “ kutchha ” road between their village and the nearest all-weather road, after being vexed by the indifference of governments and successive officials to the over the years to their advocacy of establishing a road to their village.

The road to Kutchha, the laying of which was resumed almost four months ago, is nearing

completion. The daily routine of the tribals for the past 100 or so days has been to leave the house early in the morning carrying crowbars, axes and other tools, in order to clear the jungle to facilitate leveling of the ground.

This road connects the village of Arla de Rolugunta mandal with Jajulabandha de Koyyuru mandal. It also provides connectivity to the villages of Pithrigedda and Peda Garuvu.

“We have been presenting representations for the construction of a road for several years, but no government has bothered to do so. Going to the hospital during an emergency becomes a nightmare. We are having difficulty even obtaining rations. The lack of road infrastructure becomes an obstacle to enjoying the benefits of various government programs,” said Korra Rajababu from Jajulabandha village.

“The state government spends millions of rupees for the welfare of socially and economically disadvantaged sections. But what is the point if the benefits do not reach the intended beneficiaries? This is happening in some of the remote tribal areas,” he said.

“The tribes, mainly women and young people, cleared the bushes and trees over an area of 7 km, while an earthmoving machine was deployed to dig and level the ground for the laying of the road which crosses two hills”, K. Govinda Rao of Girijan Sangham said *The Hindu*.

“An amount of 2,000 was paid by each tribal household for the employment of the digger,” he said.

The tribals hope that the government will now establish a pucca road to their village.