

'Encounter victim denied stretcher'



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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Shows govt.'s neglect of tribals: activist

The body of C. Kamaraj, the woodcutter who was reportedly killed in an encounter by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department officials in Kadapa district early this month on suspicion of being a red sanders smuggler, was tied to poles and carried for five kilometres to his house in Jawadu Hills, here on Tuesday morning.

Activists point out that the State should have at least provided a stretcher to the family for carrying the body. The final rites were conducted on the same day.

Kamaraj was reportedly killed in a firing by sleuths of Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force in Gollapalli forest, falling under the Srikalahasti constituency on September 2. Two days ago, the second post-mortem was conducted on his body at the Srikalahasti Area Hospital.

The body was sent to his home town in an ambulance and it reached the hills

during the early hours of Tuesday. “However, the government had not even arranged a stretcher to carry the body,” said Henry Tiphagne, executive director, People’s Watch NGO.

He said the State had failed to take care of its tribal population.