Orissa allows EU delegation to visit Kandhamal

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Bhubaneswar, Jan 28 (PTI) A 13-member diplomatic delegation from the European Union is likely to visit Orissa's Kandhamal district next month.

The state government which was initially reluctant to allow the diplomats to visit the communally fragile district, however, gave its nod after the Centre recommended it, official sources said.

However, the state government has put a condition on the visit.

"Though they will be allowed to interact with the people, it should not be like a fact finding mission," a senior official at the home department said.

Besides meeting the people, the diplomats would hold discussions with the district administration. The district police would provide security to them.

The team could study the socio-economic situation at the ground level, he said. The date of the visit was yet to be decided.

Though diplomats of five European countries had visited the state last November, they were not given permission to visit Kandhamal district.