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Women to get co-ownership rights in hubby's ancestral assets in U'khand

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Dehradun: The Uttarakhand government has brought an ordinance that will give co-ownership rights to women in their husband's ancestral property.

The landmark decision has been made keeping in mind the large-scale migration of male members from the Himalayan state in search of work. Through this, the government aims to provide economic independence to the women who are left behind in the hills and are solely

dependent on agriculture to meet their financial needs. CM Trivendra Singh Rawat said Uttarakhand is the first state in the country to do so.

The amendment made to the Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Reforms Act is likely to benefit around 35 lakh women in the state. In revenue records, the name of the wife will now be mentioned as co-owner.

"Uttarakhand has set a precedence for other states to follow," Rawat said. "This is the biggest reform of our go-

vernment. I'm confident that this reform will not be limited to Uttarakhand and other states will follow. We talk of equal partnership... this ordinance provides that to women."

According to the ordinance, in case a woman files for divorce and marries someone else, she will not be regarded as co-owner of the land owned by her first husband. But, if her divorced husband is unable to bear her financial expenses, she would be allowed co-ownership. Besides, if a woman di-

vores and does not have a child or her husband has been missing for a period of over seven years, she can also become co-owner of land that her father owns. "It was unfair that despite performing all the agricultural work, women could not take decisions or apply for loans as the land was in the name of their husbands," Rawat said.

State agriculture minister Subodh Uniyal told TOI: "Uttarakhand is the first state to give co-ownership rights to women in their husband's ancestral property."

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