



Most Immediate

सचिव, भारत सरकार

Secretary to the Government of India

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001

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25th February, 2008.

D.O. NO.17014/2/2007-PC&V ((Vol.VI))

गौतम बुद्ध मुखर्जी

Gautam Buddha Mukherji

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Dear

Kindly refer to my D.O. letter of even number dated 25th January, 2008, enclosing a statement indicating the major actionable points, along with the timelines, for the States and the Central Ministries concerned for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.

2. State-wise Information/ data regarding Implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 would now be required and for this a comprehensive web-based format is being developed, in consultation with NIC. But pending that, your State may begin by furnishing information on the following:

- (i) Status of formation of various Committees under the Act;
- (ii) Whether the Act and the Rules have been translated in the regional languages and arrangements made for their distribution to Gram Sabhas, Forest Rights Committees, the concerned Departments of the State Government;
- (ii) Steps taken to create awareness about the objectives, provisions and procedures laid down under the Act and the Rules through various means/methods of communication;
- (iv) Arrangements made for the training of PRI officials, SDLC, DLC members by the State Nodal Agency at State, District and Sub-Divisional levels;
- (v) Number of claims filed at Gram Sabha level; number recommended by Gram Sabha to the SDLC; number approved by DLC for title; number of titles distributed;
- (vi) Number of claims rejected and the level of rejection.

The first report may kindly be sent by 31st March and monthly thereafter.

3. As you would be aware, section 3(1)(h) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 recognises the forest rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitations, unsurveyed villages and other villages in forests whether recorded, notified or not, into revenue villages. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have already issued guidelines, vide their letter No.13-1/90/FP(5) dated 18th September, 1990 for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and settlement of old habitations. One of the actionable points for the States/UTs also relates to conversion of all forest villages into revenue villages. It is requested that necessary action may be initiated for conversion of all forest villages in your State/UT into revenue villages, in a time bound manner, as per the extant guidelines of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. This Ministry may be kept informed of the progress made in this regard (number of forest villages etc; number processed for conversion to revenue villages; number converted with number of families).

4. In this connection, the following directions are also issued under Section 12 of the Act with reference to the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules 2008 for implementing the provisions of the Act:

- i) **Rule 5** An officer of Tribal Welfare Department in-charge of the Sub-Division or where such officer is not available, the officer in-charge of the tribal affairs will be the Member Secretary of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee.
- ii) **Rule 7** An Officer of Tribal Welfare Department in-charge of the district or where such officer is not available, the officer in-charge of the tribal affairs will be the Member Secretary of the District Level Committee.
- iii) **Rule 9(g)** While constituting the State Level Monitoring Committee, where there is no Tribes Advisory Council and three Scheduled Tribe members are to be nominated by the State Government in terms of Rule 9(g) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules 2008, the nominees of the State Government should be from the Panchayati Raj Institutions out of whom one should be a woman.
- v) **Rule 10** In case of inter-state claims, the State Level Monitoring Committee shall also coordinate with other State Governments and State Level Monitoring Committee.

(These directions were also highlighted in the Conference of Secretaries Tribal Development/ Welfare), held in New Delhi on 18th and 19th February, 2008).

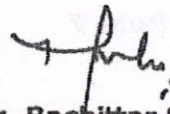
5. It is requested that these directions may be brought to the notice of all the authorities/departments concerned with the implementation of the Act.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(G.B. Mukherji)

Chief Secretaries of all States (except Punjab)
Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands,
Administrator, Daman and Diu & Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Copy to:-

The Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi for information. It is requested that the Ministry of Environment & Forests may also kindly initiate action, after individual rights have been vested, for conversion of 2474 forest villages/habitations in 12 States into revenue villages and any other such habitation as per provision of Section 3(1)(h) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, as a follow up of actionable points approved in the meeting taken by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.


(Dr. Bachittar Singh)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India