Dear Sir,

As you are aware, the Hon’ble Prime Minister, in the two-day Conference of Chief Ministers, State Ministers (Tribal Social Welfare and Forest Department) convened by this Ministry on 4th-5th November 2009, while highlighting the importance of completing distribution of titles under the Act speedily, had also stressed on the need of dovetailing all development and welfare programmes in tribal areas for a coherent strategy and coordinated approach involving all departments.

2. This Ministry has already advised the State/UT Governments to plan convergence of existing welfare and development initiatives for the potential title holders in the forest land under the Act so that their conditions improve and they are weaned away from the timber related activities. The Ministry is also advising the State Governments constantly to dovetail the funding under the programme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan with other States/ Central Schemes.

3. The Ministry of Rural Development has developed and disseminated Guidelines for convergence of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS with programmes/schemes of other Central Government Ministries. These guidelines are available on the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA website www.nrega.nic.in. Implementation of these Guidelines would also speed up development in the tribal areas.

4. I would request you to take advantage of this convergence of initiatives of the Ministry of Rural Development under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for the benefits of forest dwellers with certificates of titles under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

With regards,

Shri Ashok Kumar Tripathy
Principal Secretary
SC & ST Welfare Department
Government of Orissa
Bhubaneswar

D.O.No.23011/47/2009-SG.II(FRA)

Dated: 10.6.2010

Yours sincerely,

(A.K. Srivastava)