Dear Sir,

Please refer to the discussions held in your office on 15.7.2010 in connection with the review of implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and other schemes of the Ministry for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Rajasthan which was jointly chaired by Hon’ble Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Government of India and by Hon’ble Minister for Tribal Welfare, Government of Rajasthan.

Forest Rights Act, 2006

2. During the discussions, it was pointed out that the State Government should take immediate steps to (i) process all the pending claims and ensure distribution of titles to the eligible claimants at the earliest; (ii) furnish the break-up of the claims filed by the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and other traditional forest dwellers (OTFDs) and the title deeds distributed to the FDSTs and OTFDs separately; and (iii) take steps for convergence of all existing welfare and developmental programmes for the uplift of title holders in the forest land.

3. It was noted that very few claims for community rights had been filed in the State. Since most community claims relate to the ownership of minor forest produce, it was emphasized that the State Government should launch a special campaign for generating widespread awareness about the community rights, if necessary, by retraining the field level functionaries engaged in the processing of such applications. The Gram Sabhas in the State could be given instructions to facilitate the collection of more community rights claims.

4. It was mentioned by me that the State Government had not taken any action for implementation of section 3(2) of the Act for diversion of forest land for provision of developmental facilities specified in that section. The State Government should expedite action in this regard. The State Government should also intimate the status of determination of critical wildlife habitats under section 2(b) of the Act.

5. It was also impressed upon the State Government to formulate a strategy for completion of the entire process relating to the implementation of the Act in a time bound manner. The State Government may convene the meetings of the State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) on a regular basis to monitor the process of the implementation of the Act and to take stock of the field level problems.

Contd...
Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution

6. The performance of the State regarding utilization of the funds released under Article 275(1) of the Constitution was reviewed. It was pointed out that the physical and financial progress reports for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 had not been furnished by the State Government. Further, the utilization certificates for ₹ 401.38 lakhs for 2007-08, ₹103.35 lakh for 2008-09 and ₹ 1500.00 lakhs for 2009-10 were still pending. The State Government were also requested to furnish the details of the number of the students and the teachers in the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), sanctioned to the State, school-wise, and the problems, if any, faced by the State. The need for establishing a monitoring system for appraising the implementation of the projects was also stressed. The State Government were advised to have a study done to find out the extent to which the quality of life of the ST population in the State has improved due to implementation of the projects.

SCA to TSP

7. During the discussions, it was pointed out that there was accumulative unspent balance of ₹5067.01 lakhs with the State Government under SCA to TSP and the utilization certificates for ₹ 1667.01 for 2008-09 and ₹ 3400.00 lakhs for 2009-10 were still awaited. The progress report regarding utilization of funds during 2009-10 had also not been received. The State Government were also requested to expedite the information/ proposals sought vide this Ministry’s letter No.14020/2/16/2010-SG.II dated 21st June, 2010.

Educational Schemes

8. It was pointed out that the State Government were not furnishing the proposals under the various educational schemes implemented by this Ministry in time. The State Government were requested to furnish their proposals well in time so that grants-in-aid could be released early.

9. The State Government were requested to complete the construction work of 32 Girls Hostels well in time for which the first installment amounting to ₹1612.32 lakh had been released during the current financial year and also to furnish the formal proposal under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for ST student so that the balance grant could be released well in time.

10. The State Government was also requested to furnish the physical report and utilization certificates for the amount of ₹1503.83 lakhs released during 2009-10 for construction of 13 hostels.

Contd...
Schemes of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations

11. It was pointed out that grants under this scheme for certain projects could not be released during 2009 due to non-receipt utilization certificates, audited accounts and the inspection reports. The State Government was advised to send complete proposals along with utilization certificates, audited accounts and the inspection reports.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

(Dr. Bachittar Singh)

Shri Siya Ram Meena
Secretary
Tribal Development Department
Government of Rajasthan
Jaipur.