

श्रीतम बुद्ध मुखर्जी

G. am Buddha Mukherji

Tel. : 23381652

Fax : 23073120



सचिव, भारत सरकार

Secretary to the Government of India

जनजाति कार्य मंत्रालय

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

E-mail : secy-tribal@nic.in

Website : www.tribal.gov.in

FAX

D.O. No.TP/39/Secy(TA)/2009

2nd July, 2009.

Dear

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for making such excellent arrangements for the visit of the Cabinet Secretary and the Secretaries to the Government of India including myself to Jharkhand. I felt it proper to pen down gist of the discussions that took place between officers of the Tribal Welfare Department and myself, as well as in presence of the Cabinet Secretary and yourself.

2. In the context of the difficulties that are being experienced in working in extremist affected areas, including the non-availability of contractors, we have decided that we should concentrate on tribal welfare/development activities in areas which are still free from extremist influence (e.g. districts around Dumka and in the periphery of extremist affected areas).

3. We have also agreed that we will exert maximum energy and attention to the implementation of the Forest Rights Act essentially because it is bound to have popular support, and, therefore, unlikely to be obstructed by the extremists. We will emphasise on increasing awareness using traditional and non-traditional channels and, at the same time, entrust the revenue, forests and NGO machinery to facilitate the collection of applications and submission to Gram Sabhas. Special emphasis will be paid to the collection of claims for community rights (in the case of Jharkhand, this will relate to collection of minor forest produce as well as grazing) so that role of extremists on MFP revenue decreases. Even though the collection of claims on the date of meeting was only 4539 and the vesting of rights was only 72, we have to complete the exercise as per direction of the Hon'ble President of India by December, 2009.

4. Reaching development to the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PTGs) of Jharkhand, who are eight in number and their population, as per 2001 census, is about 2.23 lakhs, will be our next major focus. In the first instance, Jharkhand will get their CCD plan for the PTGs cleared as soon as possible and, thereafter, utilize the funds (Rs.15 crore approximately) placed with them during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Besides the items covered under the CCD plan, which should be in a non-dispersed area, and hamlet/village focused for saturation satisfaction, tribal welfare department should also push related departments to take up programmes that will provide emotional satisfaction to the PTGs as