

कांतिलाल भूरिया  
KANTILAL BHURIA



मंत्री  
जनजातीय कार्य  
भारत सरकार  
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001  
MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110 001

D.O. No.23011/29/2009-SG.II (FRA)

6<sup>th</sup> May April, 2010

Dear Shri Ramesh ji,

Complaints are being received in this Ministry that some Scheduled Tribe persons living in National Parks and Sanctuaries are being forced to leave these areas without their rights, under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, being decided one way or the other. Complaints are also being received that Forest Departments of State Governments are persuading the nodal departments (Tribal Welfare) not to take up the settlement of rights in these areas. At this point, specifics are not being provided, but such statements are widely being made.

As you are aware, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 envisages the recognition and vesting of forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land in the National Parks and Sanctuaries also.

As per the information available with the Ministry, critical wildlife habitats in the National Parks and Sanctuaries are yet to be determined and notified, and therefore, no action has been taken by State / UT Governments for the recognition and vesting of rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers occupying forest land in the National Parks and Sanctuaries.

It may be mentioned that the recognition and vesting of the forest rights under the Act is not related to the determination and notification of critical wildlife habitats in the National Parks and Sanctuaries under section 2(b) of the Act. There is no provision in the Act to defer the process of vesting of forest rights till critical wildlife habitats are determined and notified. In fact, the rights need to be recognized first in the National Parks and Sanctuaries before undertaking any exercise for resettlement. No eviction and re-settlement is permissible till all the formalities are completed.

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कान्ति लाल भुरिया  
KANTI LAL BHURIA



वंश  
जनजातीय कार्य  
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We would be happy if you would issue instructions to all State Forest Departments to faithfully implement the provisions of the Forest Rights Act before any decision is taken on the eviction of the Scheduled Tribes living in these areas. We would be happy to be told by you that the complaints of forcible evictions are baseless.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Kanti Lal Bhuria)

Shri Jairam Ramesh,  
Minister of State (I/c) for Environment  
& Forests,  
Paryavaran Bhavan,  
CGO Complex, Lodi Colony,  
New Delhi.