

मनोज कुमार पिंगुआ
संयुक्त सचिव
Manoj Kumar Pingua
Joint Secretary



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D.O. No.23011/12/2015-FRA

10th April, 2015

Dear Shri Surendraji,

As you may be aware, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA) has completed more than seven years of its operation. This Act aims at addressing the issue of historic injustice and to recognize and vest the pre-existing rights of the forest dwelling communities in India. This Ministry, which has been designated the nodal Ministry for administration of the above said Act, has been issuing directions and guidelines from time to time on various aspects of implementation of FRA to ensure its proper implementation in the country. It also closely monitors the implementation of the Act. Certain issues have come to the notice of this Ministry which need urgent attention. These are as under:

- Even though a substantial progress has been achieved by most of the States in recognizing and vesting of Individual Forest Rights, a lot of work is yet to be done in case of recognition of Community Forest Resources Rights. Regular trainings and workshops are needed to be organized for the personnel involved in the process of implementation of the Act.
- A high rate of rejection of claims is another area of concern. Cause of every rejection needs to be communicated to the claimants. All the cases of rejection must be categorized on the basis of causes of rejection. There is a need to have a relook into the cases of doubtful rejection so that any rightful claim does not get denied.
- State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) meetings are not taking place regularly in many States and the Quarterly Progress Reports which are statutory requirement in the Act, are also not being furnished regularly. In the interest of proper implementation of the FRA, the SLMC meetings are required to be held regularly.
- The SLMC also needs to specifically ensure that Section 4(5) of FRA is implemented in letter and spirit and no forest dweller is evicted or removed till the process of FRA implementation is complete.

This matter
has already
been processed
for approval of
letter to be issued.
29/4/2015

- e. It has also come to the notice of this Ministry that FRA is not being implemented in Sanctuaries and National Park and relocation is taking place without completion of FRA process. SLMC needs to ensure that Rights recognition process is completed in Sanctuaries and National Parks specifically in Tiger Reserves as FRA is applicable in all forest areas. Also, Gram Sabha decision has to be taken into consideration prior to any relocation.
 - f. It has also been observed that Ownership Rights to MFP are not recognized in these areas and MSP to MFP are not extended in protected areas. The State monopoly in MFP trade needs to be ended with the enactment of FRA.
 - g. Further, the Ministry also reiterates that the FRA process will only be completed when RoR (Record of Rights) has been created. The purpose of rights recognition is realized only when permanent record of rights are entered into record.
2. I shall be grateful if you take appropriate action on the above issues at the earliest to remove any impediments in implementation of FRA.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Manoj Kumar Pingua)

Shri Surendra Kumar,
Secretary,
ST and SC Development Department,
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