

**Press Information Bureau
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Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

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Benefit of Forest Rights Act to Tribals

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=123513>

The position with regard to number of titles distributed to forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes/Other Traditional Forest Dwellers under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 (FRA) during the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 is as under:

2012	12,79,076
2013	14,18,078
2014	15,56,676
2015 (as on April 30, 2015)	16,85,907

As per FRA the responsibility for implementation of the Act lies with the respective State Governments. The Government of India has decided to implement FRA in a “campaign mode” and States have been given detailed advisory to complete the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights in a time bound manner. However, different States are at different stages of progress, no deadline has been prescribed.

Only those members of Scheduled Tribes are vested with forest rights who are found eligible as per the provisions of FRA and Forest Rights Rules 2007 (and amended Rules 2012). Any person aggrieved by the resolution of *Gram Sabha* may prefer a petition to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and similarly, any person aggrieved by the decision of Sub Divisional Level Committee may prefer a petition to the District Level Committee subject to the conditions laid down under FRA. Therefore, cases of denial of rights, if any, do not come to the level of Central Ministry.

This information was given by Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava in a written reply in Rajya Sabha today.

Samir/jk