

Study Report on Effect of FRA, 2006

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 had been enacted in 2006 and operationalized w.e.f. 31.12.2007 with the objective of remedying the historical injustice to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers of the country. The Act seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. For implementing the provisions of the Act, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rule, 2008 were notified on 1.1.2008. As per the provision of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder, the onus of implementation of the Act lies at the level of the State/UT Governments and as such the State Governments were requested by Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 11.1.2008 to create awareness about the objectives, provisions and procedures of the Act and Rules amongst the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers and the concerned authorities under the Act through measures to achieve the purpose for which the Act has been enacted. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also undertook an exercise to arrive at certain provisions and steps for facilitating effective implementation of the Act and has issued comprehensive guidelines to the State/UT Governments on 12.7.2012 in this direction. These guidelines direct the State Governments/UT Administrations to prepare suitable communication and training material in local language for effective implementation of the Act. The guidelines also direct the State Governments/UT Administrations to organize public hearings on local bazaar days or at other appropriate locations on a quarterly basis in order to generate awareness about the various provisions of the Act and the Rules, especially the process of filing petitions. The Ministry organized five regional consultations in order to orient the officials of the key State Government Departments regarding the guidelines issued on 12-07-2012 and also the amendments in the Forest Rights Rules. These regional consultations were followed up by a National review-cum-orientation meeting with all States on Forest Rights Act. As per reports received from State Governments/UT Administration, as on 28.02.2013, 32,45,191 claims have been filed and 12,80,710 titles have been distributed. Further, 16,226 titles were ready for distribution. A total of 27,93,405 claims have been disposed of(86.07%).

This information was given by the Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Smt. Ranee Narah in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.
