GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2017

CONSTITUTION OF FOREST RIGHTS COMMITTEES

480. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) the States wherein Gram Sabhas have constituted/have not constituted Forest Rights Committees under The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 till date;

(b) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps for early constitution of these committees in those States where Gram Sabhas have not constituted the said committees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) As per 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006' (in short FRA) and rules there under, responsibility for implementation of the Act lies with the States/UTs. As per information received from the State Governments, upto 30.04.2017, Gram Sabhas have constituted Forest Rights Committees under FRA in all the States, except (i) Arunachal Pradesh (ii) Manipur (iii) Meghalaya (iv) Mizoram (v) Nagaland (vi) Sikkim.

(b) & (c) As already stated in reply to part (a) above, the responsibility for implementation of the Act lies with the States/UTs. Manipur, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh State Governments reported that they feel that the FRA is not so relevant in their State because of the prevalent customary community ownership of forest land. Mizoram reported that they have notified its adoption in the entire State in 2010. Sikkim reported that there are no forest dwelling STs and Other Forest Dwellers in the true sense of the term and most of STs of Sikkim hold revenue land in their own name and they are not solely dependent on the forests for their livelihood. Nagaland has informed that the land holding system and the village system of Naga people is peculiar in that the people are the landowners.

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