

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- #3824
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 05/04/2023

PROTECTION OF FOREST RIGHTS OF TRIBALS IN MADHYAPRADESH

3824 # DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken to protect the forest rights of tribals in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the efforts being made by Government to spread awareness amongst the tribal societies who are dependent on forests; and
- (c) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) administers 'the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA). The implementation of FRA lies with State Governments / UT administrations. Section 6 of the FRA lays down the authorities and procedure for vesting of rights to the eligible Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs).

As per laid down procedure, Gram Sabha receives, consolidate and verify the claims through the Forest Rights Committee and after passing a resolution forward the same to Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) constituted by State Government, which examine the resolution passed by the Gram Sabha and prepare the record of Forests Rights. Aggrieved from the resolution of Gram Sabha a person may prefer a petition to SDLC. Any person aggrieved from decision of SDLC may prefer a petition to District Level Committee (DLC) constituted by the State Government. The DLC finally approves the record of forest rights prepared by the SDLC. The decision of the DLC on the record of Forests Rights is final and binding.

Section 6 (7) empowers the State Government to constitute a State Level Monitoring Committee to monitor the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights and to submit to the nodal agency such reports and returns as may be called for by the agency.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been issuing advisories / clarifications to the State Governments, holding reviews and consultation meetings with States/UTs including State Government of Madhya Pradesh for effective implementation of the Act as also to review the cases where the claims have been rejected. Further, Tribal Research Institutes in different States undertakes various programmes on training and capacity building of stakeholders including PRI representatives and institutions from time to time.

Further, with a view to improve coordination between the Forest Departments and Tribal Welfare Departments at the State level for smooth implementation of FRA, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) have also jointly issued a communication to the State Governments/UT Administrations wherein it has been, inter alia, urged to the Forest Department to provide a high level of support to enable expeditious implementation of the Act for recognition and vesting of forest rights. The joint communication was signed by Secretaries of MoTA and MoEFCC on 6th July, 2021.
