

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5666**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018

**FOREST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

5666. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the draft Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Rules has been released in February 2018 which also deal with Tribal land, forests and tribals;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry was consulted before framing of these rules and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as per the rules the 'Gram Sabha' has been defined according to the Constitution or the definition given in the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any decision making powers of Village Forest Committees and statutory bodies like the Gram Sabhas are similar/same or interchangeable under FRA; and
- (e) whether the Government has or plans to raise the issue of the statutory right of Gram Sabhas with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change over Afforestation projects under CAF Rules?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

- (a): Yes, Madam.
- (b): Consultation between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is a continuous and ongoing process. During these consultations, issues concerning Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016(CAFA) have been discussed. However, the draft CAF Rules 2018, now put up for Public Consultation, have not been sent for consultation by MoEFCC in its present form
- (c): As per the Rule 2(m) of the draft CAF Rules, 2018 the 'Gram Sabha' has the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (b) of article 243 of the Constitution.
- (d): Village Forest Committee is not defined in Forest Rights Act, 2006(FRA). However, the Committee under the Rule 4(1)(e) of Forest Rights Rules and Gram Sabha as defined in Section 2(g) of FRA have different powers.
- (e): Issues of rights of 'Gram Sabha' as defined in FRA have been raised with the MoEFCC while sending comments on draft CAF Rules, 2018 by the MoTA on 12.3.2018.