

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARED QUESTION NO.4648
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2019
TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS

4648 SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the existing Government machinery to ensure implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in the co-operation with the States;
- (b) The details of the claims to the forest land that have been received /rejected so far; State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have any plan to review the rejected claim of individual Forest Right (IFR) and Community Forest Right (CFR) and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government have any plans for effective protection and regeneration of forests and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

- (a) Chapter IV of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA Act in short) provides that the Gram Sabha shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both that may be given to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers within the local limits of its jurisdiction under this Act by receiving claims, consolidating and verifying them and preparing a map delineating the area of each recommended claim in such manner as may be prescribed for exercise of such rights and the Gram Sabha shall, then, pass a resolution to that effect and thereafter forward a copy of the same to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee. As per Section 6(7) of FRA, State Level Monitoring Committee is to monitor the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights and to submit to the nodal agency such returns and reports as may be called for by that agency. Section 11 of FRA Act provides that the Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Tribal Affairs or any officer or authority authorized by the Central Government in this behalf shall be the nodal agency for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.
- (b) The details of the claims in the forest land that have been received/rejected State-wise are at Annexure.
- (c) The State Governments/UTs have already been issued advisories by this Ministry from time to time to carry out the provision of the Forest Right Act, 2006 and Rules there under while processing the claim of Forest dwellers under the Act and to ensure that no eligible claim is rejected. In addition, recently a letter dated 26.03.2019 was also issued to all States/UTs indicating various directions issued by Ministry of Tribal Affairs regarding the implementation of FRA, 2006 circulated, to facilitate necessary action by the States/UT Governments. The advisories to State Governments/UTs include advice to review rejected claims so as to ensure that no eligible claim is rejected.
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) has informed that protection, conservation and management of forests including activities related to improving the forest cover and regeneration of forests etc in the country are carried out as per the existing National Forest Policy, 1988; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972; Biological Diversity Act, 2002; forest related specific Acts and Rules of the respective State/UT Governments and as per the prescriptions of Working Plan/ Management Plan prepared under Working Plan Code.

MoEFCC has further informed that to increase the forest cover and improvement of forests, the Ministry implements various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM). The National Afforestation Programme is for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.

State wise details of claims received and rejected as on 31.03.2019

S. No	States	Claims Received	Claims Rejected*
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,81,508	75,927
2	Assam	1,55,011	0
3	Bihar	8,022	4,215
4	Chhattisgarh	8,90,240	4,61,590
5	Goa	10,136	47
6	Gujarat	1,90,056	64,769
7	Himachal Pradesh	2,241	0
8	Jharkhand	1,10,756	28,107
9	Karnataka	2,81,349	1,80,956
10	Kerala	37,535	7,889
11	Madhya Pradesh	6,24,975	3,60,834
12	Maharashtra	3,74,716	45,525
13	Odisha	6,31,761	1,46,749
14	Rajasthan	75,855	36,299
15	Tamil Nadu	33,988	11,742
16	Telangana	1,86,679	83,757
17	Tripura	2,00,635	68,610
18	Uttar Pradesh	93,644	74,945
19	Uttarakhand	6,665	4,956
20	West Bengal	1,42,081	96,587
TOTAL		42,37,853	17,53,504

(* Rejected claims under FRA, 2006 are being reviewed as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 28.2.2019)