

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1771**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 05/12/2024

**FOREST RIGHTS ACT IMPLEMENTATION IN KASARGOD DISTRICT**

1771. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 has not been implemented in Kasargod district in the State of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement this Act in the above district for the benefit of tribal people especially Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs), who do not own any land to build their houses or do farming; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

**(a) to (d):** The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA) 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. As per provisions of FRA and rules made thereunder, State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for implementation of various provisions of the Act.

As reported by the State Government of Kerala, FRA is being implemented in 12 districts. In **Kasargod District**, the State Government has constituted the District Level Committee (DLC), 2 Sub-District Level Committees, and 62 Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) in the district. However, no claims have been received and no rights have been vested.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has issued joint communication to States on 14<sup>th</sup> March for the benefit of FRA Patta holders; which would also be applicable for Kerala including Kasargod. The relevant para of the advisory is reproduced as under.

*“The individuals and PVTGs who have been given rights under Section 3(1) (a) and 3(1) (e) of the Act should be facilitated to make use of vested forest land for availing benefits under relevant*

*Government Schemes, in the best possible manner. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched PM JANMAN, wherein interventions including provision of pucca house, electricity and water apart from dovetailing with agriculture schemes are being provided to tribal families.*

*Thus States and UT Governments are requested to provide all necessary support and handholding to holders of forest rights under Section 3(1)(a) and PVTGs under Section 3(1)(e) of FRA 2006”*

Further, Government of India has launched scheme of ‘**Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan**’ (DA JGUA) which inter alia focuses on effective implementation of FRA and convergence of benefits of various Government Schemes (related to housing, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries) to FRA Patta holders to ensure their socio economic development.

The Ministry has also given modalities to State Governments to initiate ‘**Mapping of Potential forest areas and preparation of FRA Atlas**’ which would be a monitoring and assessment tool for effective vesting of forest rights for which funding is given.

Additionally under DA JGUA; to establish an institutional framework that provides support to the districts and the gram sabhas, Ministry is also providing funds to State Governments, including State Govt of Kerala, for **setting up dedicated FRA cells**. The FRA cell are aimed to support claimants in filing claims and facilitating access to necessary data in addition to monitoring of progress, reporting and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.

Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Panchayati Raj, under DA JGUA are conducting special capacity building programmes in all FRA implementing States (including Kerala) to generate awareness amongst all stakeholders including the forest dwelling communities/ gram sabhas about their rights under the FRA.

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