

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2446**  
To Be Answered On- 13/03/2025

**LAND FOR TRIBALS IN TAMIL NADU**

**2446.** Dr. Ganapathy Rajkumar P:

Will the Minister of Tribal Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any data on tribal land owned by tribals in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there have been several disputes among tribals and forest departments on tribal land and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken for permanent solution to award land to tribals in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI DURGA DAS UIKEY)

**(a) to (c):** Land and its management fall under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of States as provided under the Constitution of India (Seventh Schedule- List II (State List)- Entry No. (18). Therefore, the data on tribal land owned by tribals in Tamil Nadu is not centrally maintained.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), being the Nodal Ministry for administering the legislative matters of “Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers Recognition of Forest Rights Act 2006” (in short FRA), has been issuing directions and guidelines from time to time on various aspects of the Act to ensure proper implementation of the Act. As per FRA and rules made thereunder respective State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for the implementation of various provisions of the Act. The Act is being implemented in 20 States (including Tamil Nadu) and 1 UT, while the States submit Monthly Progress Report.

As per the information from FRA implementing States/UTs ( including Tamil Nadu) up to 28th February, 2025, a total of 25,03,453 titles have been distributed, comprising 23,85,334 individual and 1,18,119 community titles, covering an area of 1,92,42,489.72 acres of forest land- 5,070,496.95 acres for individual titles and 14,171,992.76 acres for community titles.

To resolve issues related to coordination with officials of the forest department MoTA and the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, have issued advisories addressed to all Chief Secretaries of States/UTs . Further State Level Monitoring Committee headed under the chairmanship of Chief secretary , as detailed under FRA Act and Rules can resolve all field level issues including disputes if any with forest department. Further to address any disputes pertaining to Forest Rights claims in the forest areas, FRA and its rules provide several safeguards to the claimants, which are:

- i. Section 6 (2) of FRA stipulates that *“Any person aggrieved by the resolution of the Gram Sabha may prefer a petition to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and dispose of such petition. Provided that every such petition shall be preferred within sixty days from the date of passing of the resolution by the Gram Sabha: Provided further that no such petition shall be disposed of against the aggrieved person, unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity to present his case”*.
- ii. Section 6 (4) of FRA stipulates, *“Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee may prefer a petition to the District Level Committee within sixty days from the date of decision of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and the District Level Committee shall consider and dispose of such petition: Provided that no petition shall be preferred directly before the District Level Committee against the resolution of the Gram Sabha unless the same has been preferred before and considered by the Sub-Divisional level Committee: Provided further that no such petition shall be disposed of against the aggrieved person, unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity to present his case”*.
- iii. FR, Rule 10 stipulates that the function of the State Level Monitoring Committee shall monitor the process of recognition, verification, and vesting of forest rights in the State and address the field-level problems.
- iv. FR Rule 12 (3), stipulates that, *“If there are conflicting claims in respect of the traditional or customary boundaries of another village or if a forest area is used by more than one Gram Sabha, the Forest Rights Committees of the respective Gram Sabhas shall meet jointly to consider the nature of enjoyment of such claims and submit the findings to the respective Gram Sabhas in writing: Provided that if the Gram Sabhas are not able to resolve the conflicting claims, it shall be referred by the Gram Sabha to the SubDivisional Level Committee for its resolution.”*

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