

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4783**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/08/2025

**FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006 IN WEST BENGAL**

4783. Shri Kalipada Saren Kherwal:

Will the Minister of Tribal Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 has not been implemented in Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura and Paschim Medinipur districts of Jangalmahal region in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that under the Forest Rights Act, tribals dwelling on their ancestral land prior to December 2005 have the right of ownership of such land; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): As per the provisions of 'The Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006' and Rules made thereunder, the State Governments are responsible for implementation of various provisions of the Act and are being implemented in 20 States (including West Bengal) and 1 UT. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) monitors the Monthly Progress Reports submitted by States/UTs. As reported by the State Government of West Bengal, FRA is being implemented in Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura and Paschim Medinipur districts of Jangalmahal region in West Bengal.

(b): The status of claims received, titles distributed and Extent of Forest Land for which titles distributed alongwith claims rejected and claims pending in Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura and Paschim Medinipur districts of Jangalmahal region, as last reported by State Government of West Bengal vide their letter dated 04.09.2023 is as under:

District	No. of Claims received			No. of Titles Distributed			Extent of Forest land for which titles distributed (in Hectares)			Claims rejected	Claims pending
	Individual	Community	Total	Individual	Community	Total	Individual	Community	Total		
<b>Jhargram</b>	20753	164	20917	9392	72	9464	982.11	15.73	997.84	11453	0
<b>Purulia</b>	38499	1267	39766	7984	76	8060	1615.76	23.82	1639.58	31701	5
<b>Bankura</b>	34906	2653	37559	11894	210	12104	5464.86	378.51	5843.37	24809	646
<b>Paschim Medinipur</b>	28794	1096	29890	5216	17	5233	499.22	1.52	500.74	24511	146

(c) & (d): Under the Forest Rights Act, the Forest-Dwelling Scheduled Tribes who have been residing on and cultivating forest land prior to 13th December 2005, are entitled to individual or community rights over such land. FRA under Section 3 (1) recognizes 13 different usufruct rights, including under Section 3(1)(a), the right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood. All these rights are heritable but not alienable or transferable ( Section 4(4)).

\*\*\*\*\*