

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4555
TO BE ANSWERED ON-19/03/2026

EXPANSION OF FRA CELLS

4555. SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to expand the Forest Rights Act Cells at the State and Union Territory level, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has decided to create one-stop Project Monitoring Units to coordinate on all policy matters, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the move to create Project Monitoring Units has created confusion among several States implementing the Forests rights Act which have already formed FRA Cells, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether several States have expressed apprehensions about shifting down the existing FRA Cells, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (d): Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan on 2nd October, 2024. The Abhiyan comprises of 25 interventions implemented by 17 line Ministries and aims to saturate infrastructural gaps in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States/UTs. Under the DA-JGUA, a provision of 20 State-level FRA Cells along with 443 District-level FRA Cells is made.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has decided to establish an Integrated Project Monitoring Unit (PMU), including an expert on Forest Rights Act (FRA), to monitor FRA-related activities in all DAJGUA States and Districts. Under the proposed structure, four experts are envisaged at the State Level - namely Livelihood Expert, FRA Expert, MIS Expert, and Project Associate. At the District Level, two experts are proposed- FRA Expert and MIS Expert. These units will function as one-stop Project Monitoring Units to facilitate effective monitoring and coordination of activities, and to support policy implementation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the States and Districts.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in its review meetings, has held discussions with representatives of the State Governments/UT Administrations regarding the implementation of the Integrated Project Monitoring Unit (PMU). During these meetings, a session was also conducted to address queries of the States/UTs and to deliberate on aligning and integrating the existing FRA Cells with the proposed Integrated Project Monitoring Units (PMUs).
