

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5245  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2026**

**PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY FOREST TITLES**

**5245. SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT:**

**Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact based report on the Call for Justice Fact Finding Committee (2024), which found that while individual forest-rights claims are being accepted, community forest rights are being systematically denied, especially in areas marked for mining or diversion; and

(b) the reason for not prioritizing the protection of community forest titles, which preserve tribal identity and collective rights, flagged as a major gap in the said report?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has informed that they are aware of the study conducted by Delhi-based NGO, namely, Call For Justice (CFJ). The Fact-Finding Committee of the said NGO had presented the report on, 30th March 2024, to the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs and the issues pointed by CFJ were deliberated in detail. The CJP, based on study done in selected districts of the five States, identified certain challenges in implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) like pendency of claims, approval of less acreage and lack of capacity of stakeholders etc.

As the responsibility for implementation of "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Forests Rights Act (FRA), 2006", lies with the State Governments/UT Administrations, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued directions and guidelines to the States/UTs from time to time on various aspects to ensure the proper implementation of the Act, including protection and recognition of Community Forest Rights (CFRs), in the true letter and spirit of the FRA, with the aim to safeguard the tribal identity, customary governance systems and their collective access to forest resources.

Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued detailed guidelines for the conservation, management and sustainable use of community forest resources in the year 2023 to facilitate effective CFR governance.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also issued several communications to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to fast-track the processing and disposal of claims, to resolve the issues related to implementation of FRA and to ensure that all eligible claimants are provided the rights which are due to them. The financial support is provided to the State Governments under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) for strengthening the Gram Sabhas and Community Forest Resource Management Committees, including preparation and implementation of community-led forest management plans.

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