

1	2	3	4
Great Andamanese	2008-09	3.55	1.16
	2009-10	2.87	2.64
	2010-2011	1.77	3.46
Onges	2008-09	0.51	-
	2009-10	1.54	-
	2010-2011	5.63	
Shom Pens	2008-09	1.93	
	2009-10	1.96	-
	2010-2011	0.00	-

Rejection of claims made by tribals under Forest Rights Act

1686. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that over 50 per cent of claims made by the tribals under Forest Right Act (FRA) have been rejected by various State Governments;

(b) whether the Ministry considers this to be a serious undermining of the spirit of FRA to address historical injustices faced by the tribal community; and

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any measures to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) As per the information (as on 31.01.2011) available with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, out of 30,39,955 claims filed for recognition and vesting of forest rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, 14,43,567 claims were rejected, which works out to 47.48% of the total claims filed. These figures pertain to the claims filed by both forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes as well as other traditional forest dwellers combined. This Ministry is not maintaining data regarding the number of claims rejected by various State Governments separately for forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and for other traditional forest dwellers.

(b) No, Sir. The claims for recognition of forest rights under the Act are adjudicated as per the provisions of the Act and the procedure laid down in the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2008 notified on 01.01.2008 for implementing the provisions of the Act.

(c) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) above, this question does not arise.

Community Forest Rights under FR Act, 2005

1687. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of land for which title deeds have been given under the Forest Rights Act, 2005;

(b) the steps Government has taken to implement the provisions of the Act with particular reference to Community Forest Rights; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to sensitise State level authorities on the issue of Community Forest Rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) As per the information received from 11 States, as against 9,50,798 title deeds, the forest rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been vested over a total area of 34,02,404.41 Acres of forest land, as on 31st January 2011.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has been interacting with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations urging them to expedite implementation of the Act and to ensure completion of the work relating to the vesting of forest rights at the earliest. As regards the community forest rights, the State Governments have been advised to (i) take necessary steps for inviting more claims for community rights; (ii) launch a special campaign for generating wide-spread awareness about the community rights, if necessary, by re-training field level functionaries engaged in the processing of such applications; (iii) enlist the support of local resource institutions under the State Government for this purpose; and (iv) take steps for expeditious disposal of all the pending community claims.