

Maharashtra Village Forest Rules (MVFR) encroach on some provisions of central legislation namely the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA).

The State Government of Maharashtra has agreed to amend the Village Forest Rules and incorporate the following to bring it in conformity with FRA:

- (i) An explicit provision in the MVFR to the effect that the issues of forest rights arising in respect of claims already granted under FRA would be dealt with under provisions of FRA and not as per MVFR.
- (ii) An explicit provision under MVFR to the effect that the rights of those whose claims were pending settlement under FRA and those who would file claims in future would be protected.
- (iii) The Gram Sabhas are to be constructed at hamlet level.
- (iv) The Government of Maharashtra may go ahead with implementation of MVFR in areas where there are neither rights claimed, pending or Gram Sabha has resolved that no future rights are likely to be claimed by Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers after resolution is passed by the Gram Sabha to this effect.

High incidence of sickle cell anaemia

2057. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that incidence of disease of sickle cell anaemia is very high among tribal communities in Scheduled Areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to redesign primary and health services in Scheduled Areas in order to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) to (c) The prevalence of Sickle Cell Anemia is higher in the tribal belt of Western, Central and Southern Indian States having Schedule-V Areas; not so much in the tribes of North-East India including Schedule-VI areas. A Statement showing result of screening process for determining incidences of Sickle Cell Trait/Disease among ST persons in the States having Schedule-V areas is given in the Statement (*See* below).

There is a little worthwhile treatment for the disease as of now but with management of disease, severity and complications can be curtailed to improve the

quality of life and life span. The Sickle Cell Gene is passed from generation to generation in a pattern of inheritance. Government has decided to screen three crore tribal children across the country to find the severity of incidences of Sickle Cell Anemia among them. The children with Sickle Cell trait or disease are counselled through their parents not to marry the other carrying trait or disease in order to control spread of the disease to next generation. The Ministry organized regional training workshops in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to facilitate State/UTs to train adequate manpower to undertake the screening exercise using a simple and cost effective screening test developed by ICMR. In addition, Department of Biotechnology is involved in research to find cure of the disease.

Statement

Result of screening process for determining sickle cell trait/Disease among ST persons in the States having Schedule V areas.

Sl. No.	Name of the States having Schedule V areas	Result of Sickle Cell Anemia Screening as on 31.12.2015	
		No. of persons screened	No. of Cases Detected Positive (Trait/Disease)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87617	53
2.	Chhattisgarh	172893	21857
3.	Gujarat	8644928	758827
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0	NA
5.	Jharkhand	300	12
6.	Madhya Pradesh	386288	923
7.	Maharashtra	1123475	81060
8.	Odisha	48091	10241
9.	Rajasthan	143	0
10.	Telangana	23392	617
TOTAL		10487127	873590

NA = Not Available

Scheduled blocks in the country

2058. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of total number of Scheduled Blocks in the country; and