

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1265
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 27/07/2022

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES UNDER THE FRA

1265 SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are undue interferences by the forest department in the Gram Sabhas in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any measures have been taken by the Ministry to address this issue, the details thereof;
- (d) what challenges are being faced in recognising the forest rights of various communities under this Act, the details thereof; and
- (e) steps that have been taken to address the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (e): Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) administers 'the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA). The implementation of FRA lies with State Governments / UT Administrations. The Ministry is committed for smooth implementation of the Act to ensure provision of benefits to the eligible Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs). Efforts have been made by the Government to address the difficulties arising in the implementation of the Act by the States, from time to time by issuing suitable instructions / advisories to the State Governments. States/UTs have also been requested by this Ministry to review all rejected claims as well. For effective implementation of FRA, this Ministry has convened a series of review-cum-consultation meetings, regional workshops, training on implementation of Forest Rights Act including virtual training of trainers programme on FRA from time to time.

Further, with a view to improve coordination between the Forest Departments and Tribal Welfare Departments at the State level for smooth implementation of FRA, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) have also jointly issued a communication to the State Governments/UT Administrations wherein it has been, inter alia, urged to the Forest Department to provide a high level of support to enable expeditious implementation of the Act for recognition and vesting of forest rights. The joint communication was signed by Secretaries of MoTA and MoEFCC on 6th July, 2021.
