

People not residing in forests by building houses would also be eligible (Forest Rights Act)

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Bhopal, June 18: Those who do not reside in forests by constructing houses but are dependent on forest lands for their livelihood would also be eligible for getting their rights on forest agricultural land recognised under the provisions of Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 and Rule 2008. The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry has made the situation clear in this regard.

In a letter to the state government, the ministry has said that many states have sought clarification about the phrases 'forest dwelling scheduled tribes' and those who 'reside primarily in and who depend on forests and forest lands for bona fide livelihood needs' enshrined in the Act. This issue was also raised at the meeting of the states held in New Delhi on February 18-19 and May 16, 2008 for review of the Act's implementation.

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