

**Status Report on Implementation  
of ‘The Scheduled Tribes and  
Other Traditional Forest Dwellers  
(Recognition of Forest Rights) Act,  
2006’**

**For The Period Ending  
7<sup>th</sup> May, 2008**

**Government of India  
Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

<b>Content:</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>State wise Status on Implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006</b>	
☛ Andhra Pradesh	3
☛ Arunachal Pradesh	3
☛ Assam	3
☛ Bihar	3
☛ Chhatishgarh	3
☛ Goa	3
☛ Gujrat	4
☛ Haryana	4
☛ Himachal Pradesh	4
☛ Jharkhand	4
☛ Karnatak	4
☛ Kerala	4
☛ Madhya Pradesh	4 – 5
☛ Maharastra	5
☛ Manipur	5
☛ Meghalaya	5
☛ Mizoram	5
☛ Nagaland	5
☛ Orissa	5 – 6
☛ Rajastan	6
☛ Sikim	6
☛ Tamilnadu	6
☛ Tripura	6
☛ Uttar Pradesh	6
☛ Uttaranchal	6
☛ Wast Bengal	6
☛ A&N Islands	6
☛ Damn & Diu	6
☛ Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6
☛ Lakshadweep	6
<b>Ministry wise Action Taken Report</b>	
☛ Ministry of Tribal Affairs	7
☛ Ministry of Environment and Forest	8
☛ Ministry of Panchayati Raj	8
☛ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	8
☛ States/UTs	8

**Statement showing State-wise status of implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**

(as on 7.5.2008)

Name of the State/UT	Status	
Andhra Pradesh	1. Constituted State Level Monitoring Committee vide G.O.Ms.No.4 dated 21.1.2008.	
Arunachal Pradesh		
Assam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State Government has constituted various Committees at State level, District level and Sub-Divisional level.</li> <li>2. A State level Committee for identification/declaration of critical wildlife habitats is also in the process of being notified soon by the Environment &amp; Forest Department of the State Government.</li> <li>3. Shri L. Phangcho, IAS, Secretary to the Government of Assam in-charge of Tribal Welfare in the State has been nominated as nodal agency under Section 11 of the Act.</li> </ol>	
Bihar		
Chhattisgarh	The State Government has intimated an activity chart with a time schedule as under:	
	i) Constitution of Forest Rights Committee, Sub-Divisional Level Committee and District Level Committee.	25-28 February
	ii) State Level Monitoring Committee	7 February
	iii) Awareness about the Act and the Rules and training	12-29 February
	iv) Calling of claims by Forest Rights Committee	1 March
	v) Verification of claims at the level of Forest Rights Committee	7 March
	vi) Verification of claims at the level of SDLC	30 June
	vii) Sending of claims to District Level Committee by SDLC	1 April – 30 June
	viii) Approval of claims by DLC	15 April – 30 June
ix) Distribution/Award of Forest Rights	1 May onwards	
Goa		

Gujarat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Various Committees have been formed vide resolution dated 5.3.2008.</li> <li>2. Programme for holding Gram Sabhas in the scheduled areas of the State was issued and the Gram Sabha have started meeting from 28.2.2008. So far, out of 6024 villages in the scheduled areas, FRCs have been formed in 4403 villages.</li> <li>3. Panchayat Department has requested the Gram Sabhas to meet around 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 to issue calls for acceptance of claims.</li> <li>4. Master Trainers for training the members of FRC have been identified and Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI) has started training the Master Trainers.</li> <li>5. One lakh claim forms have been printed by the Government Press and are being sent to FRCs.</li> <li>6. Awareness generation material along with a small booklet having frequently asked questions are being developed for free distribution in the villages.</li> <li>7. Guidelines, templates, formats and checklists are being developed in consultation with few experienced collectors.</li> <li>8. A sensitization workshop was held on 24.2.2008, wherein Act and Rules were discussed clause-wise and clarifications offered.</li> <li>9. Concerned Departments have been instructed to identify their nodal officer at District level for providing information and documents to the FRCs and for accepting notices from them.</li> <li>10. A Core Committee at the level of the State Government has been formed to coordinate the operational part of the Act.</li> </ol>
Haryana	There are no Scheduled Tribes and traditional forest dwellers living in the forests of Haryana. Therefore, the question of the forest rights of such communities on forest lands does not arise. The constitution of various Committees from State Level Monitoring Committee to District Level and below District level are not required in Haryana.
Himachal Pradesh	
Jharkhand	
Karnataka	Constituted State Level Monitoring Committee, District Level Committee and Sub Divisional Level Committee, vide orders dated 2.4.2008.
Kerala	
Madhya Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Chief Minister took a meeting of the Senior Officers of the Tribal Welfare and Forest Departments on 2.1.2008 and instructed that the Act must be implemented at the earliest.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Chief Secretary has also written to all the Collectors asking them to implement the Act and the Rules on priority.</li> <li>3. Detailed instructions have been issued to all the Collectors (i) asking them send Master Trainers for training at regional places for training nodal officers of the Gram Sabhas, (ii) ensure Gram Sabhas were organized in all villages from 26.1.2008 onwards and Forest Rights Committees were elected, (iii) ensure that copies of electoral rolls, revenue and forest department records and maps are being made available to the Gram Sabhas, and (iv) to organize survey team and assist the Gram Sabhas in verification of claims and preparation of maps.</li> <li>4. A legal interpretation cell is being constituted at the State level to deal with the queries and questions related to the Act and the Rules.</li> <li>5. State Level Monitoring Committee has been constituted and notified on 1.2.2008.</li> <li>6. Awareness training for Gram Sabhas of sensitive districts has been carried out in October, 2007. The trainings of district-level Master Trainers were carried out at Divisional Headquarters at Bhopal on 11.1.2008, Jabalpur on 16.1.2008, Indore on 17.1.2008 and Gwalior on 18.1.2008.</li> <li>7. Gram Sabhas were organized in all 55000 villages from 26<sup>th</sup> January onwards.</li> <li>8. Sufficient copies of the Act and the Rules have been printed and sent to the district and villages. The Act and the Rules have also been translated and printed in the tribal dialects of Korku, Bhili and Gondi. An awareness campaign about the Act and the Rules has also been launched.</li> <li>9. A software has been developed with the help of NIC to monitor the progress of the constitution of Committees at District and Sub-Divisional level, formation of the Forest Rights Committees at the Gram Sabha level and their meetings, etc.</li> </ol>
Maharashtra	
Manipur	
Meghalaya	
Mizoram	
Nagaland	Government of Nagaland has informed that the land holding system and the village system of the Naga people is peculiar in that the people are the land owners. There are no tribes or group of people or forest dwellers in the State of Nagaland. Hence, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 per se may not be applicable to the State of Nagaland.
Orissa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Committee at the Sub Divisional, District and State levels have been constituted, vide resolutions dated 1.2.08.</li> <li>2. The Act and the Rules have been translated in Oriya language and 30000 copies in Oriya and 5000 copies in English have been printed</li> </ol>

	<p>and distributed among the stakeholders.</p> <p>3. The State Government organized a day-long trainers' training workshop on 2.2.2008 in which legal problems and logistics were discussed at length. Similar exercises at district levels and below are being made.</p> <p>4. Detailed instructions have been issued to Collectors to activate the Gram Sabha including the Forest Rights Committee, Sub-division and District level Committees. Formats have been prescribed for submission of monthly progress reports.</p>
Rajasthan	The Government of Rajasthan, vide its orders dated 14.3.2008, has constituted District Level and Sub-Divisional Level Committee under the Act.
Sikkim	The Government of Sikkim has issued a notification dated 28.1.2008 regarding constitution of an Expert Committee for identification of Critical Wildlife habitats in Protected Areas (PAs).
Tamil Nadu	The Government of Tamil Nadu, vide G.O.(Ms)No.19 dated 19.2.2008, has constituted a State Level Monitoring Committee.
Tripura	Government of Tripura, vide letter dated 27.2.2008, has intimated that General Elections to the State Legislative Assembly is under process. Hence, action on formation of various Committees under the Act, training at State level, District level, Sub-Divisional level shall be taken in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of March on completion of election process.
Uttar Pradesh	
Uttaranchal	
West Bengal	The Government of West Bengal, vide letter dated 10.3.2008, has informed that the State Level Committee has already been constituted and the process of formation of rest of the Committees will be completed by 31.3.2008. Master training and other training programmes in District Levels, Sub-Divisional Levels and Gram Sanshad levels will be completed on or before 31.3.2008.
A & N Islands	
Daman & Diu	
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	
Lakshadweep	The UT Administration has intimated, vide letter dated 6.2.2008, that there are no terrestrial forests and no forest tribes or traditional forest dwellers in Lakshadweep. Therefore, it may not be necessary to prepare the operational schedules under the Act with reference to the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

**Action Taken Report on the actionable points for the States and Central Ministries for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 approved in the meeting held in Prime Minister's Office on 21.1.2008**

- - -

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

1. States/UTs have been addressed on 25.2.2008 to furnish State-wise information/data, such as, status of formation of various Committees, translation of the Act and the rules into regional languages and arrangements made for their distribution to Gram Sabhas, Forest Rights Committees, steps taken for creation of awareness about the objectives, provisions and procedures under the Act and the Rules, arrangements made for the training of PRI officials, SDLC/DLC members by the State Nodal Agency at State, District and Sub-Divisional levels, etc.
2. NIC has been entrusted the job relating to preparation of a comprehensive web-based information system for implementation and monitoring of the Act. The said system is likely to be finalised and put in place shortly.
3. Action is being taken for setting up an Implementation and Coordination Cell in the Ministry.
4. A pamphlet (in English and Hindi) on the Act in a reader-friendly format for wide circulation to the States and other stakeholders has been prepared and sent to PIB, DAVP, AIR, Doordarshan and DFP for organizing publicity campaign.
5. A meeting of Secretaries of Tribal Development/Welfare Departments of the States was organized by the Ministry on 18-19 February 2008 on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act. In the said meeting, the progress of implementation of the Act as also the issues raised by the States were discussed.
6. A number of writ petitions have been filed in different High Courts/Supreme Court against the Act. Necessary action to defend these cases is being taken.
7. The States/UTs have been addressed on 25.2.2008 to initiate necessary action for conversion of all forest villages into revenue villages in a time bound manner and to keep the Ministry informed of the progress made in this regard. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Environment & Forests have also been requested to initiate action, after individual rights have been vested, for conversion of 2474 forest villages/habitations in 12 States into revenue villages and any other such habitations as per provisions of Section 3(1)(h) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
8. A Core Group consisting of representatives of Ministries of Panchayati Raj, Law & Justice and Environment & Forests as Members has been formed under the Chairmanship of Secretary(Tribal Affairs) for taking a view on queries and references from State Governments.

### **Ministry of Environment & Forests**

The Ministry of Environment & Forests, vide their O.M. dated 14.3.2008, has suggested to this Ministry a procedure to be followed for seeking prior approval for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes for facilities managed by the Government under Section 3(2) of the Act. The same is under examination by the Ministry.

### **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has addressed the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UTs on 15.2.2008, suggesting that all the States may organize Gram Sabhas on 28.2.2006 during which the provisions of the Act and the rules and the roles and responsibilities of PRIs, Gram Sabhas and FRCs be explained.

### **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**

Ministry of I&B had requested this Ministry on 24.1.2008 to provide software/publicity content to PIB, DAVP, AIR and Doordarshan for providing media support to the implementation of the Act. The same was provided to these media units on 8.2.2008. Subsequently the said publicity material was also provided to the Directorate of Field Publicity on 7.4.2008.

### **States/UTs**

The action taken by the States/UTs is indicated in the statement annexed to this note.

\*\*\*\*