



गौतम बुद्ध मुखर्जी

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Most Immediate

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Secretary to the Government of India

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

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11th January, 2008.

Dear

Kindly refer to my D.O. letter of even number dated 27th September, 2007, nominating the Secretary in charge of the Tribal Welfare Department in your State to be the nodal agency under Section 11 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 for implementation of the provisions of the Act and also to be the representative of this Ministry to act as a member of the State Level Committee to be constituted for Identification/declaration of Critical Wildlife Habitats as per the provisions of the Act.

2. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 has been notified for operation with effect from 31st December, 2007 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules 2007 for implementing the provisions of the Act have also been notified on 1st January, 2008. I am enclosing copies of both the notifications dated 31st December, 2007 and 1st January, 2008 for your information.

3. As mentioned in my letter dated 27th September, 2007, the Act envisages determination and vesting of a number of forest rights, individual as well as community rights, in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The whole process for determination of forest rights would start at the level of Gram Sabha, which will be scrutinized at Sub-Divisional Level Committee, after which the District Level Committee will approve/award forest rights. The rules notified on 1st January, 2008 envisage the constitution of various Committees under the Act viz. the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee, by the State Governments.