

D.O. NO.23011/47/2009-SG.II (FRA)

5th January, 2010,

Dear

As you are aware, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had convened a two-day Conference of Chief Ministers, State Ministers (Tribal Development/Social Welfare Department) and State Ministers (Forest Department) on 4th and 5th November, 2009 at New Delhi to take stock of the status of implementation of the Forest Rights Act and a few major tribal development/welfare programmes, and therefrom arrive at a consensus on how to improve programme delivery, output and outreach. The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

2. In his inaugural address, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had, inter-alia, made the following observations:

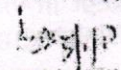
"Those whose lives are dependent on the forests should be made essential partners in the process of natural resource planning, conservation and protection."

"The livelihood concerns of forest dwellers should be central to the development agenda in forest areas. It is important to dovetail all development and welfare programmes in tribal areas so that our strategy is coherent and there is a coordinated approach involving all Departments. Education and health need priority attention. It is equally important to pay adequate attention to improvement of agricultural productivity in tribal areas."

A copy of the speech of the Prime Minister delivered at the inaugural session of the Conference is enclosed.

3. As the above directions of the Prime Minister concern the Ministry of Environment and Forests also, I would request you to kindly take necessary action in the matter. This Ministry may be kept informed of the action taken.

Yours sincerely,


(G.B. Mukherji)

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