

Immediate



गौतम बुद्ध मुखर्जी

Gautam Buddha Mukherji

Tele. : 23381652

Fax : 23073130

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सचिव, भारत सरकार

Secretary to the Government of India

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

E-mail : secy-tribal@nic.in

Website : www.tribal.gov.in

27th September, 2007.

Dear

As you are aware, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 has been enacted by the Parliament and rules for the implementation of the same are being finalized. Copies of the Act and the draft Rules have already been sent to you. It is expected that very shortly, the rules will be finalized and notified for implementation of the Act in a time bound manner.

2. 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 various Committees under the Act are to be constituted by the State Government.

3. One of the important features of the Act is the identification and notification of Critical Wildlife Habitats. For this purpose, the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests has already addressed the State Governments, vide her D.O. letter No.1-39/2007-WL-I(Pt.) dated 30th August, 2007, to constitute State Level Committees so that the task of identification/declaration of Critical Wildlife Habitats could be initiated and completed at the earliest. A representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also been made a Member of the said Committees.

4. As per Section 11 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, the Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Tribal Affairs or any officer or authority authorized by the Central Government in this behalf shall be the nodal agency for the

implementation of the provisions of this Act. This Ministry, thus, nominates the Secretary in charge of the Social Welfare Department in your State to be the nodal agency under Section 11 of the Act for implementation of the provisions of the Act. He will also 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.

5. We hope and presume your State will consent to this nomination. The particulars of the officer so nominated (viz. name, designation, department, address, telephone number, etc.) may also please be intimated.

Yours sincerely,

(G.B. Mukherji)

Chief Secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, NCT Delhi and Puducherry (as per list attached).

Copy for information forwarded to Secretaries incharge of Social Welfare Department of Punjab, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry (as per list attached).

Copy forwarded for information to Ministry of Environment and Forests (Ms. Meena Gupta, Secretary), Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.

(G.B. Mukherji)
Secretary (TA)