7 (99)

member who also happens to be a claimant of the rights under the impugned Act.

The Applicant humbly submits that a detailed analysis of the data contained in the May 2013 Status Report of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with regard to just five States namely: Gujarat, Karnataka; Maharashtra, Tripura and Odisha for which all the relevant data was available in the said Status Report reveals extremely disturbing situation because of the huge negative impact of the Forest Rights Act. After completing the prescribed process including disposal of appeals under the Forest Rights Act, individual claims over an estimated area of 11,85,340 acres (4,79,690 ha.) of forest land have been rejected. This figure has been calculated by first dividing the actual extent of forest land granted - 12,40,276 acres by the number of actual individual titles distributed - 5,83,675 to arrive at the average area of each individual title. This works out to an estimated per capita area of 2.12 acres in the said three States. The average estimated per capita area thus deduced was multiplied by (5,59,123) which is the actual number of rejected claims as documented in the Status Report. The estimated area of 11,85,340 acres (4,79,690 ha.) was thus deduced. However, no effort has been initiated, either to establish the actual extent of forest area under illegal occupation for which claims have been rejected after completion of the prescribed procedure.

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