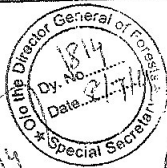


School of Environment

Project of Samarpan, Jalgaon

Chatrapati Shahu Complex, Jalgaon - 'Shardashram' Vidyut Colony, Jalgaon Ph. 0257-2234394 Mobile : 9225124311, 9923362800



DA/Forest
Comments (15)
ST
6/2

July-2, 2014

To
To Shri Prakshji Javlekar
The Honorable Minister for Forest & Environment,
Govt. of India,
New Delhi-

Sub: Review of the Forest Right Act-2006 (FRA (The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006) – Large scale misuse of the Act happening all over India and the rich bio-diversity-wildlife vanishing largely.

18/4/ADU/F
8/7/14

Respected Sir!

Namaskar !

The worst fears of environmentalists and conservationists about the misuse of the *Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006* - also known as the *Forest Rights Act (FRA)* -- have come true.

The Yawal Wildlife Sanctuary, Yawal Forest Division, Aner Wildlife Sanctuary (Jalgaon & Dhule dist. of Maharashtra) and large sections of the Satpuda mountain ranges, the vital habitat of the critically endangered Forest Owl *Heteroglaux blewitti* in the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, has fallen to large-scale forest encroachment. Tigers here have been forced to take shelter in banana orchards fringing the Satpuda forest in Jalgaon where the once-the rich biodiversity across thousands of hectares of land has been virtually laid to waste.

The *Forest Rights Act* was enacted through Ministry of Tribal Affairs to 'recognizing' 'historic injustices done to forest-dwelling communities'. These communities were cultivating forest land and using forest produces for ages but had no tenurial security. The stated objectives were laudable, but the repercussions have been lethal.

Deliberate and Social organizations like Lok Sangharsh Morcha -supported encroachments, made possible by condoning thousands of illegal claims are now common not merely in the Jalgaon district, but across the Satpuda region. It's a systematic, well-orchestrated plan that involves girdling (ring-barking) living trees to kill them, prior to submitting the claim then burning to plant crops on the newly 'acquired' land. Virtually the whole of the Yawal and Aner Wildlife Sanctuaries have thus vanished. Possibly around 20,000 ha. of forest land is officially-yet-illegally in the possession of encroachers.

Navad Patils in Satpuda..

48/PPD/10/2014
16/7/2014