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Navad land means forest land prepared for cultivation by new encroachers after the cut-off date (December 13, 2005) stipulated by the FRA. Navad Patils is a new term by which the land mafia is now known. They employ gangs of timber-cutters in Madhya Pradesh (across the Aner River, along the Maharashtra-MP border). After crossing the Aner river, gangs between 200 and 300 people enter the forests, hack the trees overnight and 'prepare' the land as instructed by Navad Patil. This forest land is now suddenly valued at anywhere between Rs. 100,000 and Rs.200,000. Once the tribal family starts cultivation, no one can remove them from the specific plot they have claimed. All the Forest Department can do is 'file charge sheets' and this, ironically, is exactly what the encroacher wants as it is later submitted as 'evidence' when filing future claims.

The network of Navad Patils is exceedingly strong in the Satpuda region. They exploit poor tribals, collect money from them, encourage them to cut trees, then move to new forests to repeat the process of destruction.

The Forest Department, hamstrung by a lack of staff and intimidation from politically-supported social activists has been reduced to being a silent spectator. In some cases, there seems to be evidence of collusion between district authorities and local NGOs, who helped to organise *morchas* (marches) by thousands of tribal people clamoring for rights under the FRA to lands they had never, ever tilled.

#### Official data of illegally occupied forest land & rejected claims

Now it is proven fact that the entire forests have been destroyed in Khandesh region of Satpuda. As per data available on official website of the Govt. of Maharashtra; The District Collector Dhule rejected 4646 claims out of 19787 claims and Sub-divisional committee rejected 2317 claims. In Nandurbar District (Tribal District) Sub-divisional committee rejected 30931 claims out of 39615 claims, The District Collector, Nandurbar sanctioned only 8684 claims. In our Jalgaon District Sub-Divisional Committee rejected 3970 claims; 1397 claims already rejected on Gram Sabha level. Now all so called activists in our region are fighting for the sanctioning of these rejected claims; nobody is coming forward for the eviction of forest land illegally occupied by encroachers.

The situation in entire Maharashtra is very worst Total 3, 39,100 claims submitted on Gram sabha level -50398 claims rejected on Gram Sabha level and 288604 claim submitted for further sanctioning on Sub-divisional Committee level. The Sub-Divisional Committee disqualified huge number of claims -177754 and sanctioned only 112006 - out of this 6463 claims disqualified by District Committee up to Feb-2013. In Maharashtra 2,43,512.35 acre land has been allotted as per Forest Right Act. This is very unfortunate that 2,31,615 rejected claim holder illegally occupied forest land officially; unofficial numbers are very huge. The process of 12 (A) as per FRA is very slow and discouraging for the spot verification of these rejected claims. The illegal encroachers are still remain on 10 lacks acres (approximate numbers). The Government have no will power or action plan for the removal of illegal encroachment.

#### Anti forest role of Administration:

The attitude of the Government was/ is also discouraging for preventing fresh encroachment; the revenue officials also had given target for sanctioning of the claim of forest land, these entire untrained people are less sensitive about the forest or issues of tribal. ( This is also refer by the Saxena Committee Report) They only worried about their target and after the continues *Morchas* of the so called organizations they always comes under the pressure of activists &