

Vishnu Kant
Joint General Secretary



A. B. VANAVASI KALYAN ASHRAM

Pratap Colony, Hiranmagari Sector 13, UDAIPUR-313 002

Mob: 094141 62316

Tele fax: 0294-2484316

Email: vanvishnu25@gmail.com

Dated 5th Sept; 2014.

Sri Jual Oram,
Hon Union Minister,
Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi.

Reminder on
8/10/2014

Sub. Implementation of Forest Rights Act with Special Ref to Community Forest Rights (CFRs) in special campaign across the country.

Dear Sir,

With change of government at the center in the general elections concluded in May 2014, expectations of the general public especially on the delivery system are very high. This is but natural looking to the working style and work culture of our PM Sri Narendrabhai Modi.

We are looking-waiting for the same results from MoTA under your leadership in many fields and important issues concerning the STs across the country. One such issue is implementation of FRA. When we comparatively study status of implementation of FRA, one can find that individual Pattas have been granted- rights have been recognized in large numbers, though on and average more than half of the claims were rejected in the process. **But when we look into the implementation of CFRs, the picture is very disappointing.** I have been visiting different states and studying on this particular point. All the persons related to implementation of FRA, officials or the different level Committees are either indifferent or ignorant of CFRs- what these rights are, what is importance of CFRs for STs or OTFDs, how to implement: what steps they need to take for this. Same is the position of elected representatives of STs and the STs themselves. **As per letter and spirit of the FRA, every tribal village/hamlet/ Pada should be recognized and issued a title deed, hence numbers of such titles issued must be as much as the numbers of tribal villages/hamlets/padas in the country.**

Tribals Welfare Departments in different states, who have been entrusted task of monitoring FRA as the Nodal Agency, have no expertise on the forest laws including this Forest Right Act. The Forest Departments who have this expertise seem to have taken a clear stand that they will not cooperate, and let may say a few words ahead; they will see that all the efforts in this regard are failed.

MoTA being central nodal agency for implementation of the FRA will have to carry forward this issue from here keeping all these facts in mind.

Hence, we want to request you sir to take a special time bound campaign across the country calling a meeting of tribal welfare Ministers, Principal Secretaries and the Tribal Commissioners of all the States to sensitize them and implement it with their active involvement. Before calling this meet, the ministry will have to evolve its detailed strategy learning from the past experience. Please explore the possibility of taking appropriate forest officials (serving or retired) on deputation rather than entrusting them as advisers.

A comparative detail of implementation is **enclosed** for your ready reference to see progress of the implementation during one years' time. Moreover, please special steps are needed to implement FRA in the state as listed in **Annexure-V enclosed.**

We are sure and request you sir that all necessary steps will be taken at earliest.

Yours sincerely,

Vishnu Kant

Joint Gen Sec; ABVKA

Enc. 2 a.a.

8/10/14