

No.23011/33/2010-FRA  
Government of India  
Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
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**Guidelines for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**

This is in supersession of this Ministry's D.O.NO. 17014/2/2007 PC&V (Vol VI) dated February 25, 2008, and further supersession of this Ministry's letter No. 23011/28/2008-SG-II dated 3.12.2008.

Section 3(1)(h) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (hereafter 'the Act') which defines 'forest rights' includes therein:

*"3.(1) For the purposes of this Act, the following rights, which secure individual or community tenure or both, shall be the forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers in all forest lands, namely:-*

*xxx*

*(h) rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, un-surveyed villages and other villages in forest, whether recorded, notified, or not, into revenue villages;"*

Section 2 (d) defines "forest land" as under:

*"forest land" means land of any description falling within any forest area and includes unclassified forests, undemarcated forests, existing of deemed forests, protected forests, reserved forests, Sanctuaries and National Parks;"*

Section 2(p)(iii) of the Act, while defining 'village' includes:

*"(iii) forest villages, old habitation or settlements and un-surveyed villages, whether notified as village or not;"*

Section 2(f) of the Act defines 'forest villages' as follows:

*"forest villages" means the settlements which have been established inside the forests by the forest department of any State Government for forestry operations or which were converted into forest villages through the forest reservation process and includes forest settlement villages, fixed demand holdings, all types of taungya settlements, by whatever name called, for such villages and includes lands for cultivation and other uses, permitted by the Government;"*

Rule 2A of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2008 (hereafter 'the Rules') as amended up-to-date, states as follows:

**"2A. Identification of hamlets or settlements and process of their consolidation -**  
The State Government shall ensure that, -