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No/23011/18/2015- FRA
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs

August Kranti Bhawan
New Delhi
Dated: 27.07.2015

To,
The Chief Secretaries of all State Governments

Sub: Guidelines with regard to use of Geo referencing for assessment of potential areas and re-examination of rejected claims under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA),

1. As you may be aware, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken up implementation of FRA on a campaign mode. As part of PRAGATI, Hon'ble Prime Minister had reviewed the implementation of FRA. Hon'ble Prime Minister has desired that Ministry of Tribal Affairs must take a lead in technological support to the States. It was also stated that States need to proactively pursue progress in vesting of rights in time bound manner. Geo referenced database of vesting of rights may be created. Further to this, Ministry of Tribal Affairs had issued a letter on 28th April 2015 (D.O No. 23011/18/2015-FRA) to all the States requesting them create geo- referenced data base.
2. Meanwhile, Ministry of Tribal Affairs have consulted technical resource agencies such as National Remote Sensing Centre, Bhaskaracharya Institute For Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG), Dept of Science and Technology, Govt. of Gujarat, State Governments and Tribal Research Institutes, for inputs on geo referencing on FRA.
3. This Ministry has received reports which suggest that large number of claims have been rejected due to lack of evidence or incomplete evidence. It may be noted that as per Rule 6 (b) of Forest Right Rules, district administration in general and the SDLC in particular are expected to assist the Gram Sabhas and the FRCs by providing forest and revenue maps. In this context geo-referenced maps may be generated and be provided to Gram Sabhas and

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