

4

		<p>procedure, like any other forest right specified in Section 3 (1) of the Act.</p>
2.	<p>Whether approval of the Ministry of Environment &amp; Forests under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is required for conversion of forest villages and other such villages into revenue villages.</p>	<p>➤ In view of the position indicated against issue No. 1 above, <u>approval under Section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 of the Ministry of Environment &amp; Forests is not required for conversion of forest villages and other such villages into revenue villages.</u></p> <p>➤ As per the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the District Level Committee is the final authority for approving the record of forest rights specified in Section 3(1) of the Act, including the right relating to conversion of forest villages and other such villages into revenue villages under Section 3(1)(h) of the Act.</p>
3.	<p>Whether conversion of forest villages and other such villages is required in lands which are not classified as forest lands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supreme Court in a landmark judgment dated 12.12.1997 in the Godavarman case, held as under: <i>"The term "forest land" occurring in Section 2 (of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980) will not only include "forest" as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any area recorded as forest in the Government record irrespective of the ownership."</i></li> <li>• Since then the term 'forest land' is to be widely understood in its wider definition, that is, including not only forest land classified as such, but also all other forests, which would include revenue forests, private forests, community forests, and any other kind of forest lands.</li> <li>• Since the rights conferred under the Forest Rights Act apply to all forest lands, if there are forest villages or any other such villages on forest lands which are not necessarily classified as forest land, these villages are also required to be converted into revenue villages.</li> </ul>
4.	<p>Whether the conversion of forest villages and other such villages into revenue villages would require de-</p>	<p>➤ The FRA, 2006 envisages recognition and vesting of <b>all</b> forest rights, including the right relating to</p>