

thereunder provide the procedure for considering and reconsidering of rejected claims (by the authorities prescribed under FRA) by way of giving due opportunity of hearing to the claimants through appeal and completion of this process will take four to six months' time.

- Most of the states have cited that one of the reasons for rejection of claims is non availability of documentary evidence. In the course of discussion, it was suggested that physical attributes also be given due consideration during verification of claims by the members of the committee.

11. The meeting ended with the closing address by Secretary, MoTA who, in his closing remarks, advised the State Governments to include in their affidavit the Status of FRA implementation in the State, efforts made to ensure that due procedure laid down in the Act be followed and while doing so, also to ensure that claims of genuine claimants are not rejected. They were also advised to emphasize about the traditional culture of the Tribal communities who are an integral part of the Forest and have a natural tendency for protecting and conserving the forest. He told that implementation of FRA, 2006 has resulted in helping tribal communities, increasing green cover and conserving forest. Lastly, the State Governments were requested to share the copy of their affidavits filed in the Hon'ble Court.