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primarily residing in the said village for 75 years at one place prior to the 13th day of December, 2005, before such forest villages and other such villages could be converted into revenue villages.

prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 "primarily resided in or depended on the forest or forest land for bona fide livelihood needs".

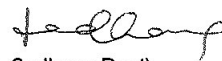
- There is no requirement in the Act that, for purposes of recognition and vesting of forest rights, a person or community of other traditional forest dwellers must have been specifically located in a particular and identifiable location in the forest for 75 years. As long as they are able to establish that they have been primarily residing in and dependent on forests or forest land for bonafide livelihood needs for 75 years prior to 13th day of December, 2005, they are to be considered eligible for recognition and vesting of forest rights under the Act. The same approach has to be adopted while taking up the conversion of forest villages and other such villages primarily inhabited by other traditional forest dwellers into revenue villages.

4. As regards the procedure is to be followed for settlement and conversion of forest villages, old habitations and other settlements on forest land etc. into revenue villages, Certain guidelines as indicated in the Annexure to this letter are accordingly being issued for compliance by all the State Governments/UT Administrations.

5. It is requested that the above clarifications/ procedure may be brought to the notice of all the implementing agencies in your State/ Union Territory for guidance and necessary action. This Ministry may be apprised of the action taken for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages at an early date.

6. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Sadhana Rout)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Tel: 23383622