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D.O. No. 23011/12/2011-FRA.

Most Immediate

Dated: 23.03.2011

Dear Mr. Singh

The status of implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 was recently reviewed in a meeting chaired by the Principal Secretary to the PM. During the meeting, various concerns/issues related to the implementation of the Act were discussed. These included -

- (i) high claim rejection rate,
- (ii) low number of community rights claims,
- (iii) need for proper demarcation of lands on which rights have been conferred,
- (iv) ensuring proper recording of conferred rights in revenue/ forest records,
- (v) conversion of forest villages into revenue villages,
- (vi) involvement of civil society organizations for facilitating claims,
- (vii) need for capacity building of various committees,
- (viii) harmonization of Ministry of Environment & Forests' statutes,
- (ix) rules and regulations with Forest Rights Act stipulations regarding bamboo,
- (x) need for a grievance redressal mechanism etc.

2. As you are aware, pursuant to the last review meeting held on 03.07.2010 in the PMO, the Secretary (Tribal Affairs) had requested the State Governments on 15.07.2010 to immediately undertake an exercise for categorizing all rejections, with their numbers, at the level of Gram Sabha and Sub Divisional level Committees, in various categories, and to apprise this Ministry of the outcome of the exercise. Subsequently, he had written another letter on 20.07.2010, requesting the State Governments to take certain measures for accelerating the pace of implementation of the Act and to address the concerns expressed in the said meeting.

3. It is now proposed to hold a review meeting with the State Secretaries/Commissioners of Tribal Welfare Development Departments on 7th April, 2011 at New Delhi to take stock of (i) the present status of implementation of the Act; (ii) the measures taken by the State