

5 Under the pretext of delivering social justice to forest dwellers, a staggering extent of over 19 lakh hectares (19,000 sq. km.) of valuable forestland have been handed over to people in the form of individual and community and further ownership rights, for commercial exploitation under the Impugned Act between 2008 and 2013 which is still continuing. This is documented in the Status Report of May 2013 on the implementation of the Impugned Act is annexed as ANNEXURE - A2 [Page 27-30]

6 The State of the Forest Report 2011 of the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Ministry of Environment & Forests released in February, 2012 has documented that the nation has lost 67,900 hectares (679 sq km) of forest cover between 2009 and 2011 in 188 tribal districts of the country. This is after the enactment of the Forest Rights Act. This clearly shows that the forests have been cleared first and later the rights have been claimed over such areas, which is not permissible under the Impugned Act. The person claiming recognition of rights under the Impugned Act should have been in possession of that forest land as on 31.12.2005. The loss of forest cover is admitted in the Report prepared and published by the Central Government, Ministry of Environment & Forest (Respondent No. 2) once every two years. An extract of page 24 from the India State of the Forest Report - 2011 is annexed as ANNEXURE - A3 [Page 31]