

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4895

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2009

IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER FOREST RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS ACT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has requested the State Government to expedite implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act and Rules in February, 2008;
- (b) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto;
- (c) Whether the Union Government has also requested the State Governments to initiate the process of execution by organizing meetings of gram sabhas in a time bound manner;
- (d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the aforesaid Act and Rules all over the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (Dr. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had written to the State/UT Governments on 15-2-2008 reiterating the need for expeditious implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act and to hold meetings of Gram Sabha on 28-2-2008 during which the provisions of the Act & Rules and the roles and responsibilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Gram Sabhas and Forest Right Committees were suggested to be explained. The concerned State/UT Governments have accordingly, initiated the process to implement provisions of the Act. Responses received are given in Annexure.

(e): The responsibility for implementing the Act rests with the State/UT Governments. However, action taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) which is the nodal Ministry in this regard, is as under:

(i) The Act and Rules were notified on 31-12-2007 and 1-1-2008 respectively.

(ii) All State/UT Governments were requested on 11.1.2008 for constituting various Committees under the Act.

(iii) In order to ensure speedy implementation of the Act, the MoTA had conveyed major actionable points along with timelines to the State/UT Governments on 31.1.2008 for follow up.

(iv) A letter has been issued to all State/UT Governments on 15.6.2009 to take urgent steps to accelerate the process of implementation of Act.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is monitoring the implementation of the Act.