

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:540
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
MONITORING COMMITTEES UNDER FRA 2006
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 mandates for the constitution of monitoring committees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the compliance/implementation status in regard to the constitution of the said committees by the States/Union Territories, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to persuade the States/UTs which have not constituted the said committees so far to do the same at the earliest?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) & (b) : Yes Madam. Section 6(7) of the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (In short FRA) provides for constitution of State Level Monitoring Committees by the State Governments to monitor the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights and to submit to the nodal agency such returns and reports as may be called for by that agency. Further Section 6(8) of the Act inter-alia provides that the State Level Monitoring Committee shall consist of officers of the departments of Revenue, Forest and Tribal Affairs of the State Government and three members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions at the appropriate level, appointed by the respective Panchayati Raj Institutions, of whom two shall be the Scheduled Tribes members and at least one shall be a woman, as may be prescribed. Further, Rule 9 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2008 provide that the State Government shall constitute a State Level Monitoring Committee with the following members namely:-

(a) Chief Secretary - Chairperson; (b) Secretary- Revenue Department - Member; (c) Secretary Tribal or Social - Member; Welfare Department (d) Secretary, Forest Department - Member; (e) Secretary, Panchayati Raj - Member; (f) Principal Chief Conservator - Member; of Forests

(g) three Scheduled Tribes member of the Tribes Advisory Council, to be nominated by the Chairperson of the Tribes Advisory Council and where there is no Tribes Advisory Council, three Scheduled Tribes members to be nominated by the State Government;

(h) Commissioner, Tribal Welfare or equivalent who shall be the Member Secretary.

(c) & (d): As per the information available with the Ministry, as on 31.3.2013, all the State/UT Governments except Manipur, Nagaland and A&N Islands Administration have constituted the State Level Monitoring Committees. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been constantly persuading with the State Governments/UT Administrations to implement the provisions of the Act in a time bound manner, including constitution of State Level Monitoring Committees as required under the Act.

Further to strengthen the monitoring of the implementation of FRA, FR Rules have been amended on 6.9.2012 to include that SLMC is mandated to meet at least once in each quarter to take stock of the field level problems and submit Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) to the Ministry. The Ministry also organized five Regional Workshops and a national meeting in the year 2012-13, in order to explain and discuss the amendments in the FR Rules and the guidelines to the officials of the key State Government Departments and further make them aware to constitute SLMC and furnish QPR on regular basis.