

Speed Post



भारत सरकार

Government of India

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जन जाति आयोग

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(A Constitutional Body set up under Art. 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No. PC/1/2017/MENV1/SEOTH/RU-IV

Dated: 23.08.2018

To

1. The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 003
2. The Secretary,
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi.
3. The Secretary,
Department of Land Resources,
Ministry of Rural Development,
Room No.-611, 6th Floor, Block-11, CGO
Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, Delhi 110003
4. Shri S.C. Mahapatra,
Additional Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.
5. The Member Secretary,
National Tiger Conservation Authority
B-1 Wing, 7th Floor,
Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110 003.

Subject: Press clipping dated 12.04.2017 published in the Mint, Delhi edition caption "no forest rights for tribals in critical tiger habitats".

Sir/Madam ,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited about and to say that the issue of conferring Rights to Scheduled Tribes inhabiting in wildlife areas especially in National Tiger Conservation Projects was discussed in the meeting held on 02.01.2018 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST in the Commission.

2. During the meeting, the Commission recommended that the compensation amount for voluntary village relocation from Tiger Reserves should be enhanced and a Task Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department, Govt. of Odisha and other officers from the Ministry of Environment & Forest and State Government concerned be constituted to study the issue of transfer or settlement of Forest Rights and prepare the modalities and amount of compensation to be given to Scheduled Tribes.

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3. In compliance of the above, a Task Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Odisha has examined the issue and submitted a report along with recommendations. Copy of the report is enclosed for perusal and necessary action. /

4. On examination of the Task Group report the Commission has observed that:

- The Action taken report on the Commission's recommendations is still awaited from the Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- The Financial package recommended by the Task Group is not commensurate with the Commission's recommendations.
- The land is main resource for livelihood for Scheduled Tribes. But, the Task Group did not focus on providing land in case of reallocation.
- The Commission feels that the provisions of Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (LARR) is applicable to voluntary relocation of tribals from wild life areas.
- The definition of affected families is different from the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR) in the Task Group Report recommendation.

5. The Commission has now decided to hold a Meeting in the matter under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST on 05.09.2018 at 4.00 P.M. in the Commission.

7. It is therefore, requested to make convenient to attend the meeting in person on the Scheduled date and time at Commission's Headquarters, 6th Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market along with all requisite records.

Yours faithfully,



(P.T. Jameskutty)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Ph. No. 24620368