

Regarding need to ensure strict implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006 in all the States-Laid

SUSHRI IQRA CHOUDHARY (KAIRANA): The ineffective implementation of the Forest Rights Act of 2006 across India continues to marginalise traditional forest-dwelling communities. The FRA, enacted to correct historical injustices, seeks to recognise the land and forest rights of ST and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers. However, its poor implementation in many states has excluded thousands of rightful claimants and denied them access to Government schemes.

For instance, in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand the pastoral Van Gujjar community, reliant on forest resources for livelihood, has faced significant hurdles in recognising their individual and community rights claims. Procedural lapses and denial of Gram Sabhas and CFR to commence the procedure of recognition under the Act have resulted in their exclusion from benefits under the FRA. Similarly, in Jharkhand and entire country delays in recognising the rights of forest dwellings communities have even led to their land being diverted for mining and non-forest purposes. The Forest Department is obstructing the process of implementation and administration is working according to their advice. SLMC (State Level Mon. Comm.) is not functioning in many states.

The root causes include a lack of awareness among communities, insufficient training for authorities, and procedural flaws in verifying claims. Across states, critical forest rights remain unrealised, impacting communities' socio-economic stability and violating their constitutional rights to equality and livelihood. I request the Government to urgently ensure strict implementation of the FRA and its provisions by State Governments.