

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2117
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 12/02/2026

FOREST RIGHTS ACT (FRA), DIGITAL PLATFORM

2117. SMT. MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:
SHRI LUMBARAM CHOUDHARY:
DR. VINOD KUMAR BIND:
SHRI GODAM NAGESH:
SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:
DR. KALYAN VAIJINATHRAO KALE:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the key components and functionalities of the proposed national Forest Rights Act (FRA) Digital Platform, including modules for filing, tracking and verification of Individual and Community Forest Rights claims;
- (b) the implementation roadmap for rolling out the unified platform over the next two months and the details of the pioneering approach of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, of engaging all Smart India Hackathon-2025 finalists for co-development and testing of the platform;
- (c) the details and key outcomes of the field visits conducted on 2-3 January 2026 to Surgana and Igatpuri blocks in Nashik district for ground validation with Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) and Community Forest Rights Management Committees (CFRMCs); and
- (d) whether similar pilot testing field validation or capacity-building exercises are proposed in Scheduled Areas of Telangana particularly in ITDA regions and if so, the timeline and implementation details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGA DAS UIKEY)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) being the nodal for administrations of the “Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006”, has been actively engaging with innovation-driven initiatives to advance digitization. In this context, under Software category of Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025, MoTA placed a problem statement for the development of an AI-powered FRA Atlas and a WebGIS-based Decision Support System (DSS) to support integrated monitoring of Individual Forest Rights (IFR), Community Rights (CR) and Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights. A total of 390 teams participated and the top five teams were shortlisted. Further, MoTA conducted a Post- Hackathon implementation programme

from 2nd to 6th January 2026, where students and mentors from the top five teams combined engaged for development of the National Level FRA Digital Platform.

As a part of Post- Hackathon implementation programme, a two-day field visit was conducted during 2nd and 3rd January 2026, in Nashik district of Maharashtra, to strengthen the evidence-based design of the proposed National FRA Digital Platform. The group of students and mentors from five top teams, along with MoTA officials and State Government officials, first interacted with the Nashik- District Level Committee at Nashik District Collectorate, where the State Government demonstrated the Maharashtra FRA Portal, highlighting its functional architecture, practical utility in FRA implementation and monitoring, and best practices emerging from the State, including success stories of recognized patta holders and the overall status of FRA implementation across Maharashtra. Thereafter, the group along with MoTA and State Government officials visited Jamunpada village and Sulpada village of Surgana block and Wadivarhe village of Igatpuri block, Nashik, where the students interacted with Individual Forest Right holders, Forest Rights Committees (FRCs), Community Forest Rights Management Committees (CFRMCs), Forest Department officials, Gram Sabha members, ITDP Kalwan and ITDP Nashik Officials, discussed the ground-level challenges, validated field level data, Collected field workflows, geospatial data for platform calibration and ensure that the digital solutions are firmly anchored in claimant-level realities.

Further, a two-day National Workshop was organized on 5th and 6th January 2026, at the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI). During this workshop, all teams worked to refine, integrate, and finalize the functional design and system architecture of the proposed national FRA Digital Platform, focused on harmonizing multiple innovative solutions into a single, scalable, and claimant-centric digital ecosystem. MoTA became the first Ministry to engage student teams after Smart India Hackathon 2025. Further, the development of National Level FRA Digital Platform is at initial stage.

(d): The matter is not under consideration in MoTA.
