

कांतिलाल भूरिया
KANTI LAL BHURIA



मंत्री
जनजातीय कार्य
भारत सरकार
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001
MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110 001
D.O.No.17014/3/2010-FRA

3 August, 2010

Dear Shri Ramesh ji,

This letter relates to the functioning of the Committee constituted by your Ministry on 11th February, 2010 to **study** the implementation of the Forest Rights Act 2006. Kindly recall that the composition and the terms of the Committee were discussed during your visit to my office some time ago.

The terms of reference of the Committee states that the Committee should **study** the implementation of the Forest Rights Act. **The Committee, during its visit to States, is not expected to suggest how the Act is to be implemented. Nor is it expected to make references to the Ministry as to the instructions that the Ministry should communicate to State Governments regarding the implementation of the Forest Rights Act.** In fact, the Committee would be missing the forest for the trees, as the saying goes, if they fail to understand that the **study** of the Forest Rights Act is for **recommending policy changes** in the future management of the forestry sector, **identify the role of forest officials** and other agencies for conservation and management of forests, **identify opportunities and recommend measures for convergence**, and define a **new role for the Forest Department vis-à-vis the Gram Sabha** for forest conservation and regeneration. Indeed, we believe that the main reason why the Committee has been constituted is to reorient the functioning of the forest department as well as its laws in the context of the new thinking and spirit behind the Forest Rights Act.

Having watched the partial functioning of this committee since April, 2010, we hope that you would support our stand and issue necessary instructions so that the Committee restricts itself to the objectives set by Ministry of Environment and Forests.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Kanti Lal Bhuria)

Shri Jairam Ramesh,
Minister of State for Environment and Forest,
Paryavaran Bhawan,
New Delhi.