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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

I. A. No. **76** of 2024/EZ

(Arising out of ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 120/2024/EZ)

In The Matter of:

An application Under Section 19(4)(a) read with Under Section 18 (1) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for addition of The Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal, having office at Adivasi Bhawan, Premises No. 2221, New Town, Action Area-IIIA, Kolkata: 700160, West Bengal as a party respondent in connection with the instant original application;

AND

In The Matter of:

The Principal Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal, having office at Adivasi Bhawan, Premises No. 2221, New Town, Action Area-IIIA, Kolkata: 700160.

E-mail: secretarytd@gmail.com

..... Applicant.



-X-

-Versus-

1. Sushil Murmu, S/o Somchand Murmu, residing at P.O- Ranga, District: Purulia, P.S- Baghmundi, Pin: 723152, West Bengal.

Email: sankarprasadpani@gmail.com

... Respondent No.

1/Applicant in O. A

2. The Union of India, through its Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh, New Delhi: 110003.

E-mail: secy-moef@nic.in

3. Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal having office at Aranya Bhawan, 10A, Block-LA, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata: 700106.

Email: acsforestwb@gmail.com



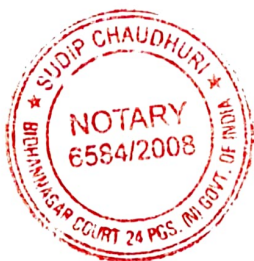


4. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Government of India, 416, 4th Floor, B-
Wing, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri
Bhawan, New Delhi: 110001.

Email: secy-tribal@nic.in

5. Secretary, Backward Classes Welfare
Department, Government of West
Bengal, Administrative Building, SDO,
Bidhannagar, DJ-4, Salt Lake, Sector-II,
Kolkata: 700091.

Email: secretarybcw@gmail.com



6. Divisional Forest Officer, Purulia
Division, P.O & District: Purulia, West
Bengal, Pin: 723101.

Email: dfopur-wb@nic.in

7. District Collector, Purulia, having
office at Old Collectorate Building,
Purulia, Pin: 723101, West Bengal.

Email: dm-pur-wb@nic.in,
dmpuruliawb@gmail.com



8. West Bengal State Electricity
Distribution Company Limited,
represented through its Chairman and
managing Director, having office at
Vidyut Bhawan, (5th Floor, 'B', Block)
Salt Lake City, Block-DJ, Sector-II,
Kolkata: 700091.

Email: cmd@wbsedcl.in

.....Respondents



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3.	Copy of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is annexed herewith and marked	"P-2"	17-26
4.	Copy of the amendment of the Rules of Business of the State of West Bengal Vide No. 866-Home (Cons) dated 28.11.2013 is annexed herewith and marked	"P-3"	27-28
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Filed by

Sibojyoti Chakrabarti

SIBOJYOTI CHAKRABARTI

Advocate

For The State of West Bengal

Email: subho.advocate@gmail.com

(M): 9007035534





BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

I. A. No. of 2024/EZ

(Arising out of ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 120/2024/EZ)

In The Matter of:

An application Under Section 19(4)(a) read with Under Section 18 (1) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for addition of the Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal, having office at Adivasi Bhawan, Premises No. 2221, New Town, Action Area-III A, Kolkata: 700160, West Bengal as a party respondent in connection with the instant original application;

AND

In The Matter of:

The Principal Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Government, Government of West Bengal, having office at Adivasi Bhawan, Premises No. 2221, Newtown, Action Area-III A, Kolkata: 700160.

E-mail: secretarytdd@gmail.com

..... Applicant.



~~X~~

-Versus-

1. Sushil Murmu, S/o Somchand Murmu, residing at P.O- Ranga, District: Purulia, P.S- Baghmundi, Pin: 723152, West Bengal.

Email: sankarprasadpani@gmail.com

... Respondent No.

1/Applicant in O. A



2. The Union of India, through its Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh, New Delhi: 110003.

E-mail: secy-moef@nic.in

3. Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal having office at Aranya Bhawan, 10A, Block-LA, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata: 700106.

Email: acsforestwb@gmail.com

~~X~~

4. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Government of India, 416, 4th Floor, B-
Wing, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri
Bhawan, New Delhi: 110001.

Email: secy-tribal@nic.in

5. Secretary, Backward Classes Welfare
Department, Government of West
Bengal, Administrative Building, SDO,
Bidhannagar, DJ-4, Salt Lake, Sector-II,
Kolkata: 700091.

Email: secretarybcw@gmail.com

6. Divisional Forest Officer, Purulia
Division, P.O & District: Purulia, West
Bengal, Pin: 723101.

Email: dfopur-wb@nic.in

7. District Collector, Purulia, having
office at Old Collectorate Building,
Purulia, Pin: 723101, West Bengal.

Email: dm-pur-wb@nic.in,

dmpuruliawb@gmail.com



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8. West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, represented through its Chairman and managing Director, having office at Vidyut Bhawan, (5th Floor, 'B', Block) Salt Lake City, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Kolkata: 700091.

Email: cmd@wbasedcl.in

.....Respondents

To,

The Hon'ble Chairperson and His Companion Member of the said Hon'ble Tribunal.

The Humble petition on behalf of the applicant as above named most respectfully

SHEWETH:

1. That the instant original application has been filed by the applicant and the same is '*Lis Pendens*' for adjudication before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

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2. That the deponent in the instant application has been authorized to file the instant application and swear affidavit by the Principal Secretary of the West Bengal Tribal Development department, Government of West Bengal.

Copy of the authorization to the deponent to file the instant application and swear affidavit on behalf of the Principal Secretary of the Tribal Development department, Government of West Bengal is annexed herewith and marked with the letter 'P-1'

That as per Solemn Order dated 31.05.2024 the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata had been pleased to admit the original application and direct the respondents to file their respective counter affidavits.

4. That the instant original application is closely connected with the alleged violations of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
5. That as per the provisions of section 11 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 the Nodal agency for the purposes of implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be the Ministry of the Central Government



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dealing with Tribal Affairs or any officer or authority authorized by the Central Government in this behalf.

Copy of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is annexed herewith and marked with the letter 'P-2'.



6. That the Tribal Development Department in the State of West Bengal had come into existence after the bifurcation of the erstwhile Backward Classes Welfare Department and by amending the Rules of Business of the State of West Bengal vide Notification No. 866-Home (Cons) dated 28.11.2013. Under the said amendment the newly created Tribal Development Department was entrusted to entertain all matters pertaining to the welfare and development of the Scheduled tribes of the State.

A copy of the said amendment of the Rules of Business of the State of West Bengal vide No. 866-Home (Cons.) dated 28.11.2013 is annexed herewith and marked with the letter P-3.

7. That as per the Rules of business of the State of West Bengal as stated above, the nodal Department for all matters pertaining to the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is the applicant, that is the Tribal Development Department, but the said Department has not been made a party in the instant original application.

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8. That in the above circumstances it is necessary to add the applicant as party respondent and the instant original application may kindly be permitted to be moved not "*In Absentia*" of the applicant.
9. That it is most humbly submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal that the Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal may be added as a party respondent for smooth adjudication of the instant original application.
10. That this application is made bonafide and unless this application is allowed by this Hon'ble Tribunal the applicant will suffer irreparable loss and injury.
11. That this application is made '*Intra Legem*', and as such is '*Intra Vires*' the Hon'ble Tribunal to adjudicate this application.



Under the above circumstances it is most humbly prayed that Your Lordships may kindly be pleased to allow this application and permit the Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal to be added as a party respondent in connection with the



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instant original application and to pass such further Order/Orders as to this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper for the ends of justice.

And For This Act of Kindness Your Applicant as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Through
Tibojyati Chakrabarti
Advocate
State of West Bengal

BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC
AT BIDHANNAGAR
DIST.-NORTH 24 PARGANAS



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VERIFICATION:

I, the deponent do hereby verify and declare that the statements made in the aforesaid paragraphs are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information and I believe that nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Kolkata on the 24th Day of September, 2024.

Identified by me

Sibajyoti Chakrabarti

Advocate 24.09.2024

State of West Bengal

Sankar Das

SANKAR DAS, WBSS
Joint Secretary
to the Govt. of West Bengal
Tribal Development Department

DEPONENT.

S. CHAUDHURI
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
Regn. No.-6584/08
Bidhannagar Court
Dist.-North 24 Pgs

24 SEP 2024

BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC
AT BIDDHANNAGAR
DIST.-NORTH 24 PARGANAS



AFFIDAVIT

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I, Sri Sankar Das, S/o Late Sudhir Chandra Das, aged about 59 years, by faith- Hindu, by occupation- service and presently posted as Joint Secretary in the Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal having office at Adivasi Bhawan, Premises No. 2221, New Town, Action Area-III A, Kolkata: 700160, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows :-

1. That I am presently posted as Joint Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal having office at Adivasi Bhawan, Premises No. 2221, New Town, Action Area-III A, Kolkata: 700160 being the applicant in the instant Interlocutory Application and well conversant with the fact and circumstance of the case and I am competent to sign and swear this affidavit.
2. That I have been duly authorized by the Principal Secretary to swear this affidavit on behalf of the Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal.
3. That I have read and Understood the contents of the accompanying application and say that the facts stated above are true and correct as per the records as available in the Department and legal advice received by me are the best of my knowledge and belief.

Identified by me

Sibajyoti Chakrabarti

Advocate

State of West Bengal

24.09.2024

S. Chaudhuri
S. CHAUDHURI
★ NOTARY ★
GOVT. OF INDIA
Regn. No.-6584/08
Biddhannagar Court
Dist.-North 24 Pgs

Sankar Das
SANKAR DAS, WBSS
Joint Secretary
to the Govt. of West Bengal
Tribal Development Department
DEPONENT.

24 SEP 2024

"Annexure-P-1"
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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
 EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA
 ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 120/2024/EZ

(Sushil Murmu Versus Union of India & Ors.)

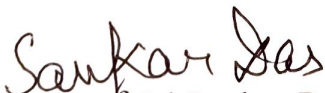
Dated: 23.09.2024

AUTHORIZATION TO SWEAR AFFIDAVIT & FILE I.A. APPLICATION

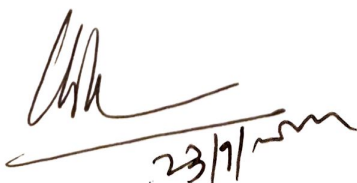
I, Smt. Choten Dhendup Lama, W/O Dr. Jaidev Sanjeev Rajpal, aged about 51 years being the Principal Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal having office at Adivasi Bhawan, Premises No. 2221, New Town, Action Area-III A, Kolkata: 700160, being, do hereby authorize Sri Sankar Das, Joint Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal to swear and affirm the affidavit & File I.A Application on behalf of the Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal in connection with the above matter pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench At Kolkata.



Principal Secretary
 Tribal Development Department
 Govt. of West Bengal



The signature of Sri Sankar Das, Joint Secretary,
 West Bengal Tribal Development Department
 Is attested by me as above



Choten D. Lama, IAS
Principal Secretary
 Tribal Development Department
 Government of West Bengal

"Annexure - P-2"

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी. एल. - (एन) 04/0007/2006-08

REGISTERED NO. DL - (N)04/0007/2006-08



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भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II - खण्ड - I

PART II - Section I

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2 नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, जनवरी 2, 2007/ पौष 12, 1928

No. 2 NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007/PAUSA 12, 1928

इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।

Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 2nd January, 2007/Pausa 12, 1928 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 29th December, 2006, and is hereby published for general information:-

THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) ACT, 2006

No. 2 of 2007

[29th December, 2006]

An Act to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land.

WHEREAS the recognised rights of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers include the responsibilities and authority for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance and thereby strengthening the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the forest dwellings Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers;

AND WHEREAS the forest rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognised in the consolidation of State forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who are integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS it has become necessary to address the long standing insecurity of tenurial and access rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers including those who were forced to relocate their dwelling due to State development interventions.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

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CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---|
| Short title and commencement | 1. | <p>(1) This Act may be called the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006</p> <p>(2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.</p> <p>(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.</p> |
| Definitions | 2. | <p>In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, -</p> <p>(a) "community forest resource" means customary common forest land within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village or seasonal use of landscape in the case of pastoral communities, including reserved forests, protected forests and protected areas such as Sanctuaries and National Parks to which the community had traditional access;</p> <p>(b) "critical wildlife habitat" means such areas of National Parks and Sanctuaries where it has been specifically and clearly established, case by case, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation as may be determined and notified by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests after open process of consultation by an Expert Committee, which includes experts from the locality appointed by that Government wherein a representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs shall also be included, in determining such areas according to the procedural requirements arising from sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 4;</p> <p>(c) "forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes" means the members or community of the Scheduled Tribes who primarily reside in and who depend on the forests or forest lands for <i>bona fide</i> livelihood needs and includes the Scheduled Tribe pastoralist communities;</p> <p>(d) "forest land" means land of any description falling within any forest area and includes unclassified forests, undermarked forests, existing or deemed forests, protected forests, reserved forests, Sanctuaries and National Parks;</p> <p>(e) "forest rights" means the forest rights referred to in section 3;</p> <p>(f) "forest villages" means the settlements which have been established inside the forests by the forest department of any State Government for forestry operations or which were converted into forest villages through the forest reservation process and includes forest settlement villages, fixed demand holdings, all types of <i>taungya</i> settlements, by whatever name called, for such villages and includes lands for cultivation and other uses permitted by the Government;</p> <p>(g) "Gram Sabha" means a village assembly which shall consist of all adult members of a village and in case of States having no Panchayats, Padas, Tolas and other traditional village institutions and elected village committees, with full and unrestricted participation of women;</p> |



- (h) "habitat" includes the area comprising the customary habitat and such other habitats in reserved forests and protected forests of primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities and other forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes;
- (i) "minor forest produce" includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin including bamboo, brush wood, stumps, cane, tussar, cocoons, honey, wax, lac, tendu or kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tubers and the like;
- (j) "nodal agency" means the nodal agency specified in section 11;
- (k) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;
- (l) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (m) "Scheduled Areas" means the Scheduled Areas referred to in clause (l) of article 244 of the constitution;
- (n) "sustainable use" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (o) of section 2 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002;
- 18 of 2003 (o) "other traditional forest dweller" means any member or community who has for at least three generations prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 primarily resided in and who depend on the forest or forests land for *bona fide* livelihood needs.
- Explanation – For the purpose of this clause, "generation" means a period comprising of twenty-five years.
- 40 of 1996 (p) "village" means –
- (i) a village referred to in clause (b) of section 4 of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996; or
- (ii) any area referred to as a village in any State law relating to Panchayats other than the Scheduled Areas; or
- (iii) forest villages, old habitation or settlements and unsurveyed villages, whether notified as village or not; or
- (iv) in the case of States where there are no Panchayats, the traditional village, by whatever name called;
- 53 of 1972 (q) "wild animal" means any species of animal specified in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and found wild in nature.

CHAPTER II FOREST RIGHTS

3. (1) For the purposes of this Act, the following rights, which secure individual or community tenure or both, shall be the forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers on all forest lands, namely:-

Forest rights of
Forest
dwelling
Scheduled
Tribes and

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- (a) right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers;
- (b) community rights such as *nistar*, by whatever name called, including those used in erstwhile Princely States, Zamindari or such intermediary regimes;
- (c) right of ownership, access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries;
- (d) other community rights of uses or entitlements such as fish and other products of water bodies, grazing (both settled or transhumant) and traditional seasonal resource access of nomadic or pastoralist communities;
- (e) rights including community tenures of habitat and habitation for primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities;
- (f) rights in or over disputes lands under any nomenclature in any State where claims are disputed;
- (g) rights for conversion of *Pattas* or leases or grants issued by any local authority or any State Government on forest lands to titles;
- (h) rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, unsurveyed villages and other villages in forests, whether recorded, notified or not into revenue villages;
- (i) rights to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use;
- (j) rights which are recognised under any State law or laws of any Autonomous District Council or Autonomous Regional Council or which are accepted as rights of tribal under any traditional or customary law of the concerned tribes of any State;
- (k) right of access to biodiversity and community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and cultural diversity;
- (l) any other traditional right customarily enjoyed by the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes or other traditional forest dwellers, as the case may be, which are not mentioned in clauses (a) to (k) but excluding the traditional right of hunting or trapping or extracting a part of the body of any species of wild animal;
- (m) right to *in situ* rehabilitation including alternative land in cases where the Scheduled Tribes or other traditional forest dwellers have been illegally evicted or displaced from forest land of any description without receiving their legal entitlement to rehabilitation prior to the 13th day of December, 2005.

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- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government shall provide for diversion of forest land for the following facilities managed by the Government which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, namely:-
- (a) schools;
 - (b) dispensary or hospital;
 - (c) anganwadis;
 - (d) fair price shops;
 - (e) electric and telecommunication lines;
 - (f) tanks and other minor water bodies;
 - (g) drinking water supply and water pipelines;
 - (h) water or rain water harvesting structures;
 - (i) minor irrigation canals;
 - (j) non-conventional source of energy;
 - (k) skill up-gradation or vocational training centers;
 - (l) roads; and
 - (m) community centers:

69 of 1980

Provided that such diversion of forest land shall be allowed only if, -

- (i) the forest land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in this subsection is less than one hectare in each case; and
- (ii) the clearance of such developmental projects shall be subject to the condition that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.

CHAPTER III

RECOGNITION, RESTORATION AND VESTING OF FOREST RIGHTS AND RELATED MATTERS

4. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, and subject to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government hereby recognises and vests forest rights in –
- (a) the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes in States or areas in States where they are declared as Scheduled Tribes in respect of all forest rights mentioned in section 3;
 - (b) the other traditional forest dwellers in respect of all forest rights mentioned in section 3.
- (2) The forest rights recognised under this Act in critical wildlife habitats of National Parks and Sanctuaries may subsequently be modified or resettled, provided that no forest rights holders shall be resettled or have their rights in any manner affected for the purposes of creating inviolate areas for wildlife conservation except in case all the following conditions are satisfied, namely:-

Recognition of, and vesting of, forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

53 of 1972

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- (a) the process of recognition and vesting of rights as specified in section 6 is complete in all the areas under consideration;
 - (b) it has been established by the concerned agencies of the State Government, in exercise of their powers under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 that the activities or impact of the presence of holders of rights upon wild animals is sufficient to cause irreversible damage and threaten the existence of said species and their habitat;
 - (c) the State Government has concluded that other reasonable options, such as, co-existence are not available;
 - (d) a resettlement or alternatives package has been prepared and communicated that provides a secure livelihood for the affected individuals and communities and fulfils the requirements of such affected individuals and communities given in the relevant laws and the policy of the Central Government;
 - (e) the free informed consent of the Gram Sabhas in the areas concerned to the proposed resettlement and to the package has been obtained in writing;
 - (f) no resettlement shall take place until facilities and land allocation at the resettlement location are complete as per the promised package;
Provided that the critical wildlife habitats from which rights holders are thus relocated for purposes of wildlife conservation shall not be subsequently diverted by the State Government or the Central Government or any other entity for other uses.
- (3) The recognition and vesting of forest rights under this Act to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and to other traditional forest dwellers in relation to any State or Union territory in respect of forest land and their habitat shall be subject to the condition that such Scheduled Tribes or tribal communities or other traditional forest dwellers had occupied forest land before the 13th day of December, 2005.
 - (4) A right conferred by sub-section (1) shall be heritable but not alienable or transferable and shall be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses in case of married persons and in the name of the single head in the case of a household headed by a single person and in the absence of a direct heir, the heritable right shall pass on to the next-of-kin.
 - (5) Save as otherwise provided, no member of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dweller shall be evicted or removed from forest land under his occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete.
 - (6) Where the forest rights recognised and vested by sub-section (1) are in respect of land mentioned in clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 3 such land shall be under the occupation of an individual or family or community on the date of commencement of this Act and shall be restricted to the area under actual occupation and shall in no case exceed an area of four hectares.

Duties of holders of forest rights.

- ~~23~~
- (7) The forest rights shall be conferred free of all encumbrances and procedural requirements, including clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, requirement of paying the 'net present value' and 'compensatory afforestation' for diversion of forest land, except those specified in this Act. 69 of 1980
- (8) The forest rights recognised and vested under this Act shall include the right of land to forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who can establish that they were displaced from their dwelling and cultivation without land compensation due to State development interventions, and where the land has not been used for the purpose for which it was acquired within five years of the said acquisition.
5. The holders of any forest right, Gram Sabha and village level institutions in areas where there are holders of any forest right under this Act are empowered to -
- (a) protect the wild life, forest and biodiversity;
 - (b) ensure that adjoining catchments area, water sources and other ecological sensitive areas are adequately protected;
 - (c) ensure that the habitat of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers is preserved from any form of destructive practices affecting their cultural and natural heritage;
 - (d) ensure that the decisions taken in the Gram Sabha to regulate access to community forest resources and stop any activity which adversely affects the wild animals, forest and the biodiversity are complied with.

CHAPTER IV AUTHORITIES AND PROCEDURE FOR VESTING OF FOREST RIGHTS

Authorities to vest forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers and procedure thereof.

6. (1) The Gram Sabha shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both that may be given to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers within the local limits of its jurisdiction under this Act by receiving claims, consolidating and verifying them and preparing a map delineating the area of each recommended claim in such manner as may be prescribed for exercise of such rights and the Gram Sabha shall, then, pass a resolution to that effect and thereafter forward a copy of the same to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee.
- (2) Any person aggrieved by the resolution of the Gram Sabha may prefer a petition to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee constituted under sub-section (3) and the Sub-Divisional Level Committee shall consider and dispose of such petition. Provided that every such petition shall be preferred within sixty days from the date of passing of the resolution by the Gram Sabha:
- Provided further that no such petition shall be disposed of against the aggrieved person, unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity to present his case.

- ~~3~~
- (3) The State Government shall constitute a Sub-Divisional Level Committee to examine the resolution passed by the Gram Sabha and prepare the record of forest rights and forward it through the Sub-Divisional Officer to the District Level Committee for a final decision.
 - (4) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee may prefer a petition to the District Level Committee within sixty days from the date of decision of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and the District Level Committee shall consider and dispose of such petition:
 Provided that no petition shall be preferred directly before the District Level Committee against the resolution of the Gram Sabha unless the same has been preferred before and considered by the Sub-Divisional level Committee:
 Provided further that no such petition shall be disposed of against the aggrieved person, unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity to present his case.
 - (5) The State Government shall constitute a District Level Committee to consider and finally approve the record of forest rights prepared by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee.
 - (6) The decision of the District Level Committee on the record of forest rights shall be final and binding.
 - (7) The State Government shall constitute a State Level Monitoring Committee 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.
 - (8) The Sub-Divisional Level Committee, the District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee shall consist of officers of the department 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 Tribe members and at least one shall be a women, as may be prescribed.
 - (9) The composition and functions of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, the District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee and the procedure to be followed by them in the discharge of their functions shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER V OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

7. Where any authority or Committee or officer or member of such authority or Committee contravenes any provision of this Act or any rule made thereunder concerning recognition of forest rights, it, or they, shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence under this Act and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees:

Offences by members or officers of authorities and Committees under this Act.

-2X-

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any member of the authority or Committee or head of the department or any person referred to in this section liable to any punishment if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

8. No court shall take cognizance of any offence under section 7 unless any forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe in case of a dispute relating to a resolution of a Gram Sabha or the Gram Sabha through a resolution against any higher authority gives a notice of not less than sixty days to the State Level Monitoring Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee has not proceeded against such authority.
- Cognizance of offences.

CHAPTER VI MISCELLANEOUS

9. Every member of the authorities referred to in Chapter IV and every other officer exercising any of the powers conferred by or under this Act shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.
- Members of authorities, etc., to be public servants.
10. (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any officer or other employee of the Central Government or the State Government for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done by or under this Act.
- Protection of action taken in good faith.
- (2) No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government or the State Government or any of its officers or other employees for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.
- (3) No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any authority as referred to in Chapter IV including its Chairperson, members, member-secretary, officers and other employees for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.
11. The Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Tribal Affairs or any officer or authority authorised by the Central Government in this behalf shall be the nodal agency for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.
- Nodal agency
12. In the performance of its duties and exercise of its powers by or under this Act, every authority referred to in Chapter IV shall be subject to such general or special directions, as the Central Government may, from time to time, give in writing.
- Power of Central Government to issue directions.
13. Save as otherwise provided in this Act and the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, the provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.
- Act not in derogation of any other law.
14. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, and subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.
- Power to make rules
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, such rules may provide for all any of the following matters, namely:-
- 40 to 1996.

- 2X -
- (a) procedural details for implementation of the procedure specified in section 6;
 - (b) the procedure for receiving claims, consolidating and verifying them and preparing a map delineating the area of each recommended claim for exercise of forest rights under sub-section (1) of section 6 and the manner of preferring a petition to the Sub-Divisional Committee under sub-section (2) of that section;
 - (c) the level of officers of the departments of Revenue, Forest and Tribal Affairs of the State Government to be appointed as members of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, the District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee under sub-section (8) of section 6;
 - (d) the composition and functions of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, the District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee and the procedure to be followed by them in the discharge of their functions under sub-section (9) of section 6;
 - (e) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.
- (3) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

K.N. CHATURVEDI,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Government of West Bengal
Home Department
'NABANNA'
Howrah - 711 102.

4 Annexure - P - 3

- 2X -

NOTIFICATION

No. 866- Home (Cons) /R2R (Cons)-08/2013. Dated, Kolkata, the 28th November, 2013.

In exercise of the power conferred by clause (3) of article 166 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is pleased hereby to make the following amendments in the West Bengal Rules of Business, as subsequently amended (hereinafter referred to as the said rules):-

Amendments

In the First Schedule to the said rules,

- (1) under the heading "Departments", after item LXII. and the entry relating thereto, *insert* the following item and entry:-
"LXIII. Department of Tribal Development";
- (2) under the heading "Allocation of business among the departments", after sub-heading "LXII Department of Child Development", and the entries relating thereto, *insert* the following sub-heading and entries:-
"LXIII. Department of Tribal Development";

Part - I

- (i) All matters related to the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes, including provision of funds; Tribal sub-plan. Constitutional matters.
- (ii) All matters pertaining to the identification of Scheduled Tribes.
- (iii) Prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Tribes.
- (iv) All matters pertaining to the Forest Rights Act and forest produce.
- (v) All matters pertaining to the reservation of posts and seats for Scheduled Tribes.
- (vi) Restoration of alienated tribal land.
- (vii) All matters relevant to PSUs and Cooperative Bodies dealing with the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes.
- (viii) Matters pertaining to the Cultural Research Institute.
- (ix) Matters pertaining to the Tribal Advisory Council.
- (x) All matters relevant to particularly vulnerable tribes.
- (xi) Development of Lepchas and other indigenous hill tribes.
- (xii) All matters pertaining to the Paschim Banga Santhali Academy, Paschim Banga Adibasi Kalyan-O-Shiksha Parishad, Banga Lok Shilpa-O-Sanskriti Kendra.
- (xiii) Any other matter pertaining to the overall socio-economic, cultural and skill development of Scheduled Tribes.

Part - II

- (i) State public services in respect of the matters with which the Department is concerned (entry 41 of List II).
- (ii) Offences against Laws with respect to any of the matters in List II with which the department is concerned (entry 64 of List II).
- (iii) *Economic and social planning so far as the department is concerned (entry 20 of List III).*
- (iv) *Inquiries and statistics for the purpose of any of the matters specified in List II or List III with which the department is concerned (entry 45 of List III).*

Part - III

- (i) Union public services in respect of the matters with which the department is concerned (entry 70 of List I).
- (ii) Offences against Laws with respect to any of the matters in List I with which the department is concerned (entry 93 of list I).
- (iii) Inquiries, surveys and statistics for the purpose of any of the matters in List I with which the department is concerned (entry 94 of list I).
- (iv) Participation in international conference, associations and other bodies and implementing decisions made thereat so far as the department is concerned (entry 13 of List I).

By order of the Governor,

Sd/- Sanjay Mitra
Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

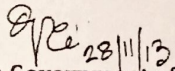
-2-

No. 865/1(15)-Home (Cons)

Dated, Kolkata the 28th November, 2013.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action, to the :-

1. Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal;
2. Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister;
3. Principal Secretary to the H.E. Governor of west Bengal;
4. Secretary to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat;
5. Financial Advisor and Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Home Department;
- ✓ 6. Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge/ Minister of State-in-Charge/ Minister of State,
Backward Class Welfare Department;
7. Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary/ Special Secretary,
_____ Department;
8. Chief Government Whip, West Bengal Legislative Assembly;
9. Ld. Advocate General to the Government of West Bengal;
10. Accountant General (A&E), West Bengal;
11. Accountant General (Local Bodies Audit), M.S.O. Buildings, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700 064.
12. Pay & Accounts Officer, Kolkata Pay & Accounts Office - I/ II/ III ;
13. Under Secretary to the Government of West Bengal;
14. Librarian, West Bengal Secretariat Library;
15. _____


 Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal.

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Compose



6 of 2,068

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Labels

Notes

SERVICE OF IA in O. A. No. 120/2024/EZ (Tribal Development department, Govt. of West Bengal)



Sibojyoti Chakrabarti <subho.advocate@gmail.c...> 6:47 PM (1 hour ago)
to Rashmi, ASHOK, Dipanjan, Sankar

Dear Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed soft copy of the IA Application to be filed in connection with the above captioned matter on behalf of the Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal, before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata.

Enclosed as above.

Thanks & Regards,

Sibojyoti Chakrabarti
Advocate
State of West Bengal

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail

BEFORE THE HON'BLE
NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH,
KOLKATA

I.A. No. of 2024/EZ
(Arising out of ORIGINAL
APPLICATION NO. 120/2024/EZ)

In The Matter of:
The Tribal Development
Department, Government of West
Bengal

... Applicant

Versus

Sushil Murmu & Ors.

... Respondents

**INTERLOCUTORY
APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF
THE APPLICANT**

Filed by

SIBOJYOTI CHAKRABARTI

Advocate

For The State of West Bengal

Email:

subho.advocate@gmail.com

(M): 9007035534