

RAJASTHAN

- Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) constituted in about 70 per cent of the villages in Schedule V areas in south Rajasthan (including protected areas) by April
- In some villages, FRCs were constituted wrongly (no prior notice and two-thirds quorum not followed); NGOs working on their reconstitution
- Gram sabhas held at panchayat level and not at village level
- Shortage of application forms
- Efforts to relocate villagers from Sariska Tiger Reserve continue. Such relocation without the consent of those to be affected is illegal under the Act. Some relocation is also planned from the Ranthambore National Park

GUJARAT

- FRCs constituted in most tribal villages. There was a demand for village-level gram sabhas in Schedule V areas for which permission has been granted
- FRCs instructed to invite claims for community forest rights before accepting claims for individual rights
- FRCs granted quasi-judicial status
- In some areas, people allege that the forest department harasses villagers, dig pits in their fields and cut bamboo to prevent them from claiming rights over the minor forest produce
- District and sub-divisional level committees not constituted in some places
- No authority to explain or give clarifications about the Act
- Government has issued instructions that those holding jobs will not be eligible to claim rights, though an exemption is being made for those in "very small time" jobs
- State not clear on definition of forest dweller
- The tribal department has issued instructions saying the forest department should not be involved with liaison work in the field since it is an "interested party"

GOA

- FRCs constituted in some villages on February 28. No development after this

KARNATAKA

- FRCs constituted in several districts of southern Karnataka in February
- Reports of faulty constitution of FRCs, and in some districts these were constituted without holding a gram sabha. People want such FRCs scrapped

KERALA

- A working group set up to recommend methods to implement the Act
- Government had asked gram panchayats to call for gram sabhas in June

UTTARAKHAND

The state claims the act is not applicable to them

UTTAR PRADESH

Talks and consultations have started to initiate implementation of the act

MADHYA PRADESH

- Protests demanding proper implementation of the Act in May 2008
- On May 27, the government said lack of ST certificate should not be held for denying claims and that sub divisional level officer could verify the claim and issue certificates
- NGOs have started demarcation of community forest resources and village boundaries
- Incidents of loot and violence, allegedly by the forest department, in three tribal villages in June to prevent villagers from claiming rights
- FRCs formed in February; one-third representation of women rule in the committee ignored in some areas
- FRA requires holding gram sabhas in villages and not in panchayats. But FRCs have been formed only in revenue villages and at the panchayat level in some areas
- Hamlets and forest villages in several places ignored
- Community rights being given low priority
- State confused over definition of a forest dweller
- State target to distribute *patta* by September 2008

ASSAM

A few FRCs constituted

WEST BENGAL

- Implementation process seems to have begun around March-end, with a circular that directed constitution of FRCs at the gram sansad level. Gram sansad is a body constituted with all the voters in a constituency of the gram panchayat. But FRA provisions give power to the gram sabhas to do it.
- Process stalled due to the announcement of panchayat election

JHARKHAND

- Protests against non-implementation of FRA across the state in May
- According to Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act, 2001, there can be no gram sabha without a panchayat. Panchayat elections haven't been conducted ever since the state was formed. The state has asked for clarification from the centre about what it should do in such a case. But the FRA already says that in such cases, the traditional village institutions will perform the role of gram sabhas

ANDHRA PRADESH

- FRCs formed only in a few districts. Just awareness in a few of the others
- Forms for filing claims distributed but haven't reached all the villages
- In some districts where claims have been received, forest officials accompany FRC members for verification. On such trips, they reject claims for land under shifting cultivation
- In some areas, GPS is being used for preparing maps
- State is awaiting clarification on the term forest dweller

TAMIL NADU

- Government constituted state level monitoring committee to monitor the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights and issued order to the district collectors to constitute the district and sub-divisional level committees on February 19
- On February 21, the Madras High Court issued a stay order against issuing *patta*
- On February 22, a letter issued directing the convening of gram sabhas. Just one village has elected an FRC so far
- Application for vacation of the February 21 order moved by a tribal organization. The court clarified that implementation of the act should proceed but no title for any rights should be granted until further orders of the court