


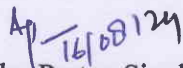
Minutes of Meeting of the 5th State Finance Commission, Jharkhand, with the officials of IHD, ICFG and FES held on 16.08.2024 in the Chamber of the Chairman of the 5th S FC (Room No.141, Yojna Bhawan)

1. The meeting was chaired by Shri. A.P Singh, Chairman, 5th State Finance Commission, Jharkhand and attended by Dr. Harishwar Dayal, Member, 5th State Finance Commission, Jharkhand, Prof Dev Nathan, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, Mr. Sanjay Bosu Mullick, Institute of Community Forest and Governance (ICFG), Ranchi, Dr. Devika Modi, Institute for Human Development, Eastern Regional Centre, Ranchi, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Institute for Human Development, Eastern Regional Centre, Ranchi and Mr. Akhouri Prabhash, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Anand.
2. Prof Dev Nathan briefly described the CFR Rights. The rights basically have two aspects, one, it can be used to earn income from NTFP, and second, it can be used to manage and conserve forest.
3. He along with other participants raised the issue that while the FRA has given the right to manage forest to the Gram Sabha without any financial support.
4. They said that there should be provision of finance for CFR, the finance should be given to the Gram Sabha for CFR and the finances should be audited. They said that the capacity building of Gram Sabha must be done for management of CFR and the fund for this purpose.
5. They said that some provision should be made to give funds to Gram Sabha. This can be done as Gram Sabha is a constitutional body.
6. On the query of the Chairman about the actual number of CFR which have been actually transferred to the people Sri Sanjay Bosu Mullick said that 16 Gram Sabhas were given rights according to FRA during the time of Sri Raghubar Das, the former Chief Minister of the State.
7. He mentioned that all the forest dwellers should have the rights to the CFRR. According to the act, there are a few resources of the NTFP that do not come under the CFRR and the people are not allowed to harvest or sell these products.
8. He was of the opinion that every village should have their own rights to the forests. An UNDP survey has revealed that there are about 15000 out of 32000 gram *sabhas* that have forests that can be given to CFR.
9. He informed that so far, the government has distributed some individual *pattas*, but the transfer of *patta* under CFR is very minimal. So far, 1700 claims are still pending. He was of the opinion that the Gram Sabha should be integrated with Panchayats in implementation of FRA.

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10. In regards to the issue of claim settlement they said that the Forest Department has remained reluctant. There are cases where they have refused to sign pattas.
11. They talked about the Abua Bir Dishom (My Forest) Abhiyan of Government of Jharkhand to promote awareness about forest rights. Forest Rights Committees (FRC) have been set up under this campaign at the village level to facilitate forest rights claims. But, still there are lots of miscommunication and misunderstanding regarding FRA.
12. He also mentioned that in fact the act is not giving any new rights to the people, but only recognizing the rights that have always been there. He mentioned that the Gram Sabha is supposed to maintain and conserve the CFR.
13. The chairman mentioned that there has been some progress from the forest department in recent times. He mentioned that this issue may be integrated with PESA before it is finalized. He also mentioned that the Gram Sabhas have been clearing schemes but the Gram Panchayat have not gone ahead with them.
14. Sri Sanjay Bosu Mullick gave a brief description of Joint Forest Management (JFM) and why did it fail. He said that the JFM failed because of the interference of the Forest Department. He mentioned how the FRA rules were framed by 2008, but became valid from 2012 after certain changes in the JFM policies. It was basically about how the interference of the forest department reduces the power of the villagers/gram sabha. The shifting of the forest related power from administrative departments to the community owned departments will make a huge difference in the conservation, sustainable harvesting and protection of forests. It also has environmental benefits.
15. The Chairman asked the team to give their recommendations to the SFC soon. He also mentioned that the team can take Maharashtra and Orrisa as case studies.
16. A study on Nepal could also be incorporated in the study mentioned how strengthening the Gram Sabha would benefit the state.


(Harishwar Dayal)
Member
State Finance Commission


(Amrendra Pratap Singh)
Chairman
State Finance Commission

Memo No. - वित्त (SFC)-31/01/24...157.../वि0आ0

Ranchi, Dated..02-09-24

Cc:- Chairman/Members, State Finance Commission, Jharkhand, Ranchi for kind information and necessary information please.

Kaushal
02-09-24

Dy. Secretary
State Finance Commission,
Jharkhand, Ranchi

Memo No. - वित्त (SFC)-31/01/24...157.../वि0आ0

Ranchi, Dated..03/09/24

Cc:- Secretary, Finance Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi for kind information and necessary information please.

Kaushal
02-09-24

Dy. Secretary
State Finance Commission,
Jharkhand, Ranchi