

FORCED OUT OF FOREST

Mineral-rich states like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have the highest rate of rejection of claims

4.22 million
Total applications filed for settlement rights

1.94 million
Rejected or pending forms

Andhra Pradesh

5.95 million
State wrongfully issued forest right titles to joint forest management committees and not to gram sabhas

181,508
75,927

Bihar

6.07 million
Tribals in Jamui and Gaya have not been able to file FRA claims because Forest Rights Committees have not been constituted

8,022
4,215

Gujarat

9.47 million
In 2008, several claims were rejected citing lack of satellite imagery. Later, Gujarat High Court said lack of satellite image cannot be a ground for rejections

190,056
64,769

Himachal Pradesh

2.37 million
2,241
NIL

In dam affected areas, the district collectors have acquired No-Objection certificates from gram sabha without following FRA procedures

Assam

2.6 million
155,011
NA

FRA claims of communities residing in Kaziranga National Park rejected

Chhattisgarh

8.88 million
887,665
462,403

FRA claims filed by forest guards and *patwari*
10,136
47

Jharkhand

12.48 million
FRA claims rejected in mining areas
109,030
29,521

Kerala

4.79 million
The state is reverifying the 894 FRA claims rejected by District Level Committees
37,536
7,889

Karnataka

10.57 million
In most cases, District Level Committees have rejected claims without informing claimants
281,349
180,956

Madhya Pradesh

18.75 million
Forest and revenue authorities, instead of gram sabhas and its Forest Rights Committees, verified FRA claims
6,24,097
3,62,024

Tamil Nadu

3.78 million
High court stayed FRA execution in 2008. Supreme Court lifted it in 2016
33,988
11,742

Telangana

5.85 million
FRA claims rejected in mining areas. Claims have not been settled in areas affected by Polavaram dam
1,86,679
83,757

Maharashtra

25.42 million
Rights not recognised in areas that fall under the Mumbai-Ahmedabad train corridor
3,72,459
2,26,116

Odisha

22.65 million
In most cases, claims have been rejected without informing claimants
62,62,295
1,46,525

Tripura

1.72 million
Commercial plantations have been done in areas with FRA titles
2,00,635
68,610

Rajasthan

14.21 million
Forest department has retained the right to log and plant trees in areas with FRA titles
75,855
36,299

West Bengal

8.39 million
In 2014, forest department, instead of the gram sabha, carried out surveys to verify FRA claims
1,42,081
96,587

Uttarakhand

3.33 million
Government has maintained that there are no forest-dependent communities and denied rights under FRA to Van Gujjars
6,665
4,899

Uttar Pradesh

22.18 million
Government has maintained that there are no forest-dependent communities
93,644
74,945

LOW ON DATA

All states, except Odisha, Maharashtra and Kerala, maintain only cumulative rejection data making it impossible to know which claims have received final rejections

Gram Sabha

To initiate the process, the gram panchayat needs to convene a gram sabha in the settlements demanding forest rights. The sabha then forms a Forest Rights Committee, which accepts and verifies FRA claims. Rejected claimants can approach sub-divisional level committee

27,41,393
14,83,588

Sub Divisional Level Committee

The committee, which includes sub-divisional officers of forest, revenue and tribal departments along with three block-level panchayat members, examines the gram sabha-approved claims. It also prepares records of rights

21,82,162
5,59,231

District Level Committee

Constituted by district collector, divisional forest officer, district-level tribal officer and three district-panchayat members, it examines the claims and issues the titles. The claims rejected by DLC are final

17,63,820
4,18,342

Forest-dependent population; each icon represents 1 million people
Applications filed for land title
Number of rejected claims