GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

(A Constitutional Commission set up under Art. 338A of the Constitution to investigate and monitor all matters relating to violation of rights and safeguards provided for STs.)

F.No.3/1/2011/Policy(Food)/2011/RU-IV

Date: 17th November, 2011

To

The Secretary,
Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution,
Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi - 110001

Sub: Proceedings of the Meeting taken by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon,
Chairperson, NCST with the Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, F & PD, on 11.11.2011 at 1430 hrs.

Dear Sir,

The Proceedings of the Meeting taken by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon,
Chairperson, NCST on 11.11.2011 with the Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Food &
Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, F & PD are enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

(Aditya Mishra)
Joint Secretary

Encl: As above. (Total 3 pages)

N.O.O.

☑ SSA/NIC
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Proceedings of the Meeting taken by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson, NCST with the Secretary, Dept of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs on 11.11.2011 at 1430 hrs.

A list of officers present in the meeting is at the Annexure

2. Joint Secretary, Deptt. of F&PD, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution submitted that the Secretary, Deptt. of F&PD was away on duty and, therefore, as discussed by the Secretary, Deptt. of F&PD with the Hon’ble Chairperson, NCST Joint Secretary, Deptt. of F&PD was attending the meeting on his behalf.

3. Joint Secretary, Deptt. of F&PD, mentioned that first round of discussion on the Bill was already over and inter-Ministerial consultations were being held on the Bill. At this stage, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, was also separately referring the Bill to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes for their comments.

4. Joint Secretary, NCST mentioned that, as highlighted vide D.O. letter dated 27th October, 2011 addressed to the Secretary, Deptt. of F&PD, seeking views of the Commission at this stage, when the Ministry has not finalized its views on the Bill, does not serve the intended purpose and the spirit of the Constitution, as envisaged under Article 338A(9) of the Constitution. He also invited opinion of the Ministry of Law & Justice in the matter (also communicated to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, F&PD vide letter dated 18th October, 2011), emphasizing that the Ministries are obliged by the Constitution to consult the Commission on the provision of a draft Bill affecting STs.

5. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, F&PD mentioned that after receipt of comments from the various Ministries on the Bill, the Deptt. of F&PD is expected to finalize it within a very short period. He assured that the draft Bill after its finalization by the Ministry, and before consideration of the Cabinet, would be referred to the Commission for seeking views/comments. He, however, requested the Hon’ble Chairperson, NCST to have views/comments of the Commission on the draft Bill finalized by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & PD, within one or two days. Hon’ble Chairperson, NCST assured that the comments of the Commission would be forwarded to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & PD within the desired time-frame.

Rameshwar Oraon

Address / Chairman
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
Government of India
New Delhi
List of the officials present in the meeting taken by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson, NCST with the Secretary, Deptt. of F&PD, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, on 11.11.2011 at 1430 hrs.

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Dr. Rameshwar Oraon
Chairman
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
New Delhi, India