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**Forest Act, 1963**

**Section 7 - Inquiry by Forest Settlement Officer**

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The Forest Settlement Officer shall take down in writing all statements made under clause (d) of section 5 and shall, at some convenient place, inquire into all claims duly preferred under that section and into the existence and extent of any rights mentioned in section 4 and not claimed under section 5 so far as the same may be ascertainable from the records of the Government and the evidence of any persons likely to be acquainted with the same.

The Forest Settlement Officer shall at the same time, consider and record any objection which the Forest Officer, if any, appointed under sub-section (2) of section 4 may make to any such claim or any information which he may afford with regard to the existence and extent of any such right.

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