

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) The administrative control of forests rests with the concerned State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any specific report on violation of forest rights and encroachment on land allotted to tribals for cultivation. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal ministry for the implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has notified the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007 on 1.1.2008 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Rules, 2012 on 6.9.2012. Guidelines for implementation of the Act have also been issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 12.07.2012. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has written to all States and U.T. Governments for effective implementation of the Act including the recent communication dated 12.4.2013. As per the available information, 32,45,369 of 27,95,668 claims have been disposed of (86.14%) as on 31.03.2013. A total of 12,81,926 titles have been distributed.

Awards for protection of forests

4358. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry proposes to give awards to those who protects the forests;
- (b) the details of awards presently given for this purpose; and
- (c) whether the Ministry encourages the NGOs for this Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has instituted the Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra (IPVM) Awards in 1986 to recognize the pioneering and innovative contribution made by individuals and institutions in the field of afforestation/wasteland development.

Under IPVM Awards, cash prize of Rs.2.5 lakhs along with medallion and citation, is awarded every year in seven categories including the category of NGOs.