

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, a very small supplementary. Apart from the fact that Sri Lanka is an old country and we have historical and cultural ties with them, the plight of Tamils is very well known. I would like to know from the Government whether it is going to ensure that the Thirteenth Amendment, which was made effective when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, is followed strictly so as to give them political rights in the coming election. I would request the hon. Minister himself to respond to this.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID: Sir, we remain committed to the Thirteenth Amendment, and, in fact, with the support of the House, we have been looking at 13 plus, that is, going beyond the Thirteenth Amendment. But the tactual situation is that the Thirteenth Amendment has not been fully implemented. This is the process of our constant urging of the Government of Sri Lanka. The Thirteenth Amendment is the basis of a sustainable, peaceful, dignified existence for all people of Sri Lanka within the sovereign unity of the country but keeping in mind the special concerns of the Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. Now, we have, in recent times, heard a lot of discussions coming from Sri Lanka about possibility of a dilution. But we continue to remain engaged with the Sri Lankan Government. We have also talked to a series of citizens and senior politicians from that country. The hon. Member himself had visited Sri Lanka and he found that India's intervention in relief and rehabilitation was extensive, which has also been appreciated broadly across the spectrum. We remain committed to the Thirteenth Amendment and we hope that Sri Lanka will also continue to remain committed because this is the basis for sustainable peace in that country. I think it is important that Sri Lanka returns to peace and prosperity for the greater good of our entire region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Vasanthi Stanley. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the Sri Lankan Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Raja, we have just half a minute left. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Raja, you are depriving another Member of her chance. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Problems of forest villagers in Odisha**

*184. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that tribals and other traditional dwellers living in about 600 forest villages in Odisha are denied the privileges of Forest Land Rights Act and normal rural development activities and are treated as encroachers of the land in which they have been living for centuries, and if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to recognize such villages as revenue villages and give their entitlement?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):
(a) The Government of Odisha has informed that as per the information maintained by the State Forest & Environment Department, there are 20 forest villages in Odisha. Out of 20 forest villages proposed for conversion of 13 villages from forest to revenue were sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests and since the remaining 7 villages are located inside the sanctuary, no proposal has been submitted to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests in view of the directives of the Apex Court. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs does not maintain forest village-wise data. As per the information collected from the Government of Odisha, a total number of 5,30,559 claims were filed by the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and a total number of 3,20,910 titles were distributed till 31st July, 2013. The State Government has further informed that a total number of 1,89,774 forest rights title holders have been covered under various development programmes, such as, Indira Awas Yojana, Mo Kudia, Mo Pokhari, Land Development under MGNREGS, National Horticulture Mission, National Bamboo Mission and other programmes. Further, required rural development activities have been taken up in all the forest villages.

(b) The Ministry has issued guidelines on 12.7.2012 and notified the Forest Rights Amendment Rules, 2012 on 6.9.2012 *inter-alia* impressing upon the State/UT Governments to convert all forest villages, unrecorded settlements and old habitations into revenue villages with a sense of urgency in a time bound manner.

The conversion would include the actual land use of the village in its entirety, including lands required for current or future community uses, like, schools, health facilities, public spaces etc.

As far as entitlements are concerned, the State Government has informed that all social security measures like pension, PDS facilities etc. are extended to the members of the forest villages. Over and above this, the Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti take up infrastructure development as well as wage employment programme in these forest villages.

World Bank loan for NH projects

*185. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing loans to the National Highways Authority of India for some of its National Highway Projects and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether in the last five years, the World Bank has refused to provide loans to National Highways Authority of India for some projects, and if so, the details thereof, project-wise and State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether due to poor implementation, there is a steep cost escalation, if so, the manner in which NHAI proposes to complete the projects even if the World Bank does not provide any loan?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) At present there is no ongoing World Bank funded project being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). However, the World Bank had earlier provided funding support for NHAI projects as under:

- (i) Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project (GTRIP)
- (ii) Third National Highways Project (TNHP)
- (iii) Lucknow Muzzaffarpur National Highway Project (LMNHP)
- (iv) Allahabad Bypass Project (ABP)

(b) World Bank has not refused to provide loan for projects to be implemented by National Highways Authority of India in the last five years.