

Drawbacks in implementation of Forest Rights Act

2469. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drawbacks that the Ministry has identified in implementation of the Forest Rights Act; and

(b) why cannot the Ministry bring amendments to the above Act so as to give rights to tribals and forest dwellers easier and make industries, etc. take their consent if at all they want to start any activity in tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 was notified for operation *w.e.f.* 31st December, 2007. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State/UT Governments. The Ministry has been interacting with all the State/UT Governments regularly urging them to take all necessary steps for expeditious implementation of the Act. Though substantial progress has been made towards implementation of the Act over the years and as many as 14,18,078 titles have been distributed against 36,54,420 claims filed under the Act till 31st December, 2013, the Ministry had noticed certain lacuna and bottlenecks that were impeding the intended flow of benefits of this welfare legislation to the forest dwelling communities. The Ministry has, therefore, brought about appropriate change in the Rules on 06.09.2012 and issued guidelines on 12.07.2012 to ease out the problems and hindrances encountered in the implementation of the Act, and to provide unencumbered access to rights already conferred by the Act. After the amendments in the Rules, the Ministry organized five regional consultations followed by a National meeting in 2012 and also organized three theme based regional consultations during 2013 wherein efforts to create awareness; time bound disposal of claims and recognizing genuine claims and vesting rights therein was emphasized.

Anomalies in identification of STs

2470. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: