

Weakening the Forest Rights Act

†784. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to weaken the Forest Rights Act;
- (b) whether the right of forest management would be provided to other States like that of Maharashtra and the names of States which have sought permission in this matter;
- (c) whether the influence of middlemen on the forest products would not be increased by bringing the changes in the Forest Rights Act, and whether an attempt is being made to change the law in view of the large markets; and
- (d) whether the losses to be incurred from it, have been assessed before making changes in the law and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to amend the Forest Rights Act.

- (b) No rights vested under Forest Rights Act can be transferred or alienated.
- (c) and (d) Question does not arise in view of replies to parts (a) and (b) above.

Forest dwellers settled on forest lands

†785. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State/area-wise details of number of tribals and forest-dwellers settled on forest lands in the country including Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government is contemplating formulation of any special scheme for development and upliftment of these tribals/forest dwellers;
- (c) if so, the details of the said scheme; and
- (d) by when this scheme is likely to be implemented and the State/UT-wise details of the areas selected under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) Number of claims received, recognized

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and titles distributed as on 31.12.2015 under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) (i) The National Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation (NSTFDC) has launched the 'Tribal Forest Dwellers Empowerment scheme' in the year 2012-13 for providing loan to the Scheduled Tribes forest dwellers vested land rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006. Under this, loan upto 90% of this scheme costing upto ₹1.00 lakh can be provided at concessional rate of interest of 6% p.a.

- (ii) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched a Centrally Sponsored scheme of 'Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP' in the year 2013-14 as a measure of social safety for MFP gatherers who are primarily members of Scheduled Tribes, providing minimum support price for minor forest produce.
- (iii) The Ministry of Rural Development provides 150 days of wage employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for Scheduled Tribes households living in forest areas. The move will benefit about eight lakh people in different States. The additional 50 days of employment beyond the stipulated 100 days under the MGNREGA has been provided for those individuals who got pattas under FRA, 2006.
- (iv) Ministry of Rural Development has made special provisions for Forest Rights Act beneficiaries under their scheme of "Indira Awas Yojana" (IAY). Individual rights holders under FRA, 2006 are linked to IAY schemes.

Statement

Details of claims and distribution of title deeds under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as on 31.12.2015

Sl. No.	States	No. of Claims received upto 31.12.2015			No. of Titles Distributed upto 31.12.2015			No. of Claims Rejected	% of Titles distributed over number of claims received
		Individual	Community	Total	Individual	Community	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Kerala	36,140	1,395	37,535		24,599	24,599	7,889	65.54%
2.	Tripura	191,376	277	191,653	122,528	55	122,583	65,900	63.96%
3.	Odisha	603,271	12,866	616,137	349,400	5,004	354,404	149,575	57.52%
4.	Jharkhand	80,819	2,734	83,553	41,691	1,434	43,125	25,446	51.61%
5.	Rajasthan	69,121	654	69,775	34,956	59	35,025	33,926	50.20%
6.	Telangana	211,698	3,672	215,370	99,486	744	100,230	101,368	46.54%
7.	Andhra Pradesh	400,053	10,959	411,012	167,263	2,107	169,370	165,466	41.21%
8.	Gujarat	182,869	7,228	190,097	73,163	3,875	77,038	3,556	40.53%
9.	Chhattisgarh	860,364		860,364	347,789		347,789	507,907	40.42%
10.	Madhya Pradesh	568,588	40,913	609,501	195,048	21,909	216,957	372,125	35.60%

11.	Maharashtra	346,017	7,152	353,169	105,856	3,436	109,292	229,794	30.95%
12.	West Bengal	131,962	10,119	142,081	42,476	741	43,217	93,762	30.42%
13.	Assam	126,718	5,193	131,911	35,407	860	36,2671	37,669	27.49%
14.	Uttar Pradesh	92,520	1,124	93,644	17,712	843	18,555	74,945	19.81%
15.	Tamil Nadu	18,420	3,361	21,781	3,723	3,723	0	17.09%	
16.	Himachal Pradesh	5,409	283	5,692	238	108	346	2,162	6.08%
17.	Bihar	8,022	8,022	222	222	4,102	2.77%		
18.	Karnataka	366,040	6,208	372,248	8,159	144	8,303	188,943	2.23%
19.	Uttarakhand	182		182			0	1	0.00%
20.	Arunachal Pradesh			0			0	1	0.00%
21.	Goa			0			0	0	
22.	Manipur			0			0	0	
23.	Meghalaya			0			0	0	
24.	Mizoram			0			0	0	
25.	Nagaland			0			0	0	
26.	Sikkim			0			0	0	
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			0			0	0	
28.	Daman and Diu			0			0	0	
29.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli			0			0	0	
TOTAL		4,299,589	114,138	4,413,727	1,669,716	41,329	1,711,045	2,064,536	38.77%

Written Answers to

[2 March, 2016]

Unstarred Questions