

**Launch pad in Tamil Nadu**

2379. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA:

SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to establish launch pad at Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed for construction of launch pad there or at any other place in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an expert committee was constituted to assess the need for a new launch site considering the capabilities of existing launch pads at Sriharikota, launch vehicles currently operational and the future launch requirements for the next decade. The committee concluded that there is no immediate requirement to establish a new launching site in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

**Notification of Village Forest Rules by States**

2380. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been notifying Village Forest Rules (VFR), which is in complete contradiction to Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Area) Act (PESA) Act and Forest Rights Act (FRA); and

(b) if so, the names of States and the details of the steps being taken not to allow implementation of VFR and to ensure strict implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Sub-Section (1) of Section 28 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 defines village-forests. According to this definition all forests, where State Governments have assigned to any village-community the rights of Government to or over any land which has been constituted a reserved forest, are village-forests. The State Governments may also cancel such assignments. Sub-Section (2) of Section 28 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 further empowers the State Governments to make rules for regulating the management of village-forests,