

Eviction of forest dwellers

2982. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of 19 lakh forest dwellers who were being evicted from the forests by the Supreme Court;

(b) the steps taken to help them; and

(c) the details of future plans to ensure their rights to livelihood and residence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* their order dated 13.02.2019, in the matter of W.P. (C) 109/2008 and 50/2008 ordered to evict the claimants from forests whose claims have been rejected under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. (Forest Rights Act).

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs filed an application, in Hon'ble Supreme Court on 26.02.2019 for modification of order dated 13.02.2019. The Hon'ble Supreme Court admitted the application filed by this Ministry and *vide* their Order dated 28.02.2019 stayed the eviction orders given on 13.02.2019.

The State Governments have been issued advisories by this Ministry to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Forest Right Act, 2006 and Rules thereunder while processing the claim of Forest dwellers under the Act and to ensure that no eligible claim is rejected. Chief Secretaries have also been requested to file detailed affidavits in this regard before the Hon'ble Supreme Court as directed by its order dated 28.02.2019.

Proper implementation of Forest Rights Act

2983. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rules pertaining to bettering the condition of tribals as enshrined in the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Rules, 2012, are not being implemented properly; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) and (b) As per the Scheduled Tribes

and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short Forest Right Act, 2006) and Rules thereunder, responsibility for implementation of the Act lies with the States/UTs.

This Ministry has been issuing various instructions/advisories to the State Governments from time to time for effective implementation of the Act emphasizing that prescribed procedure, as contained in the Act and Rules thereunder for vesting forest rights in forest dwelling communities, should be followed to ensure that claims of eligible persons are not rejected. States have been requested by this Ministry from time to time to review all rejected claims to preclude the wrongful rejection of eligible claims.

As per information received from State Governments, till 31.03.2019, a total of 42,37,853, (individual and community) claims were filed out of which 19,64,048 titles (individual and community) have been distributed and 17,53,504 claims (individual and community) have been rejected implying that a total of 5,20,301 claims are pending and at different stage of recognition/verification.

Allocation of funds for Tribal Welfare Schemes

2984. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about seven Ministries/Departments have not allocated funds meant for tribal welfare schemes amounting to non-adherence of new guidelines of NITI Aayog;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor.;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with those Ministries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and outcomes thereof and the steps taken as corrective measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) to (d) The extant Guidelines of NITI Aayog prescribes for earmarking of dedicated funds for tribal welfare by a total of 40 Ministries/Departments out of total scheme outlay of that Ministry Department at different rates as in the Statement-I (*See* below). As reflected in the Statement 10 B of the Expenditure Profile of the Union Budget 2019-20, out of the total 40 identified Ministries/Departments, 38 Ministries have already allocated funds for tribal welfare as at Statement II (*See* below) except Ministry of Pharmaceuticals and Ministry of Fertilisers.