

&gt;

Title: Urged the Central Government to ensure proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act and strict compliance by States to legislate laws in accordance with the Act.

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, today I am raising an important issue relating to forest dwellers in the country.

The Forest Rights Act is a revolutionary legislation promulgated by the UPA government in 2006 to ensure the rights of forest dwellers and their ownership. It was by sensing the historical urgency of the legislation that the UPA Government enacted the Forest Rights Act in 2006. The Forest Rights Act, which recognises the individual as well as community rights over forest resources, was aimed at ending the historical injustice caused to the nearly 200 million tribals. But various State governments, including the Government of my State Kerala, either neglected or slowed its implementation in the post-2006 period and that caused the Act to get weakened and eventually become ineffective.

On February 13, 2019, the Supreme Court ordered the State Governments to evict over 10 lakh forest-dwelling families whose claims over forestland have been rejected, a direction that will hurt some of India's most vulnerable people. Nearly 11,27,446 tribal and other forest-dwelling households have been rejected as per the rejection claims from 16 States that were submitted in the court.

Sir, I urge the Central Government to urgently intervene and ensure proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act and ensure strict

compliance by States to legislate laws in accordance with that Act.