

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2157  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002  
ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND BY TRIBALS  
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tribal people are being harrassed in the name of encroachment of forest land in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the same?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) The Central Government is aware of the problems being faced by the tribal people regarding disputed claims over the forest lands. In this regard, it may be mentioned that there is no change in the policy of the Ministry of Environment and Forests with regard to regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments and the commitment with reference to Forest-Tribal interface on the disputed settlement claims. In respect of disputed claims of eligible encroachments of the tribals for want of first offence report / non-settlement of rights etc., directions have been issued to the States that they may consider setting up of Commissions / Committees at the level of District involving Revenue, Forest and Tribal Welfare Department for their settlement provided other conditions are fulfilled. Further, the States have been directed that in such identified cases, the States should submit their proposals to the Central Government so that final decision can be taken in a time bound manner.