

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:358  
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003  
REHABILITATION OF EVICTED FAMILIES  
K. MURALEEDHARAN;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have issued an order to all the State Governments for removal of all encroachments in their respective forest areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have announced any compensation package in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether certain States including West Bengal and Kerala have submitted any proposals regarding distribution of forest land amongst tribals etc. as well as suggested alternative sites for their rehabilitation;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the action taken by the Union Government on each such proposals indicating the efforts made towards rehabilitation of affected families?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3: SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR, SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN REGARDING 'REHABILITATION OF EVICTED FAMILIES' D REPLY ON 07-04-2003.

(a) & (b) The Central Government have issued detailed guidelines regarding regularization as well as eviction of encroachments on forest lands in September, 1990. These guidelines were re-iterated on 3-5-2002 and 30-10-2002 wherein the State Governments and Union Territories were requested to evict in-eligible encroachers from the forest lands in a time bound manner in view of the orders of the Supreme Court of India.

(c) & (d) The operational aspects of the eviction process and the rehabilitation, if any, of affected families are the responsibility of the State/ Union Territory Governments.

(e) to (g) The Government of India as a matter of policy do not allow diversion of forest land for rehabilitation of people except in special cases like rehabilitation of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and others who may have to be shifted from the core area of a National Park or a Sanctuary.

During the last three years, only Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for rehabilitation of people on forest land. No such proposal has been submitted by the State of West Bengal. In the case of Kerala, a proposal for diversion of 12196.1829 ha. of forest land for resettlement of tribals in six districts, was submitted by the State Government in January, 2002. Since the proposal was not in tune with the guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, it was returned on 26-2-2002.