

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:14  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007  
PROBLEMS OF FOREST TRIBALS  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government had undertaken any study to know the problems being faced by the people, mostly tribals, living in the fringe areas of forests in securing a sustainable livelihood;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problem being faced by tribals in forests on war footing?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Government of India is already involving local communities including tribals in the conservation, protection and management of forests with benefit sharing mechanism to secure their livelihood through Joint Forest Management programme. At present, around 1,03,000 Joint Forest Management Committees are managing more than 17.3 million ha. of forests.
- (d) The Government of India has enacted 'The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006' for assigning occupational and habitational rights to the people living in and around forests, particularly tribals.