

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2981

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2009

SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER FOREST DWELLERS RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS ACT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh; Munda Shri Arjun; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the strength of tribal population which reside in forest areas in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government has accorded high priority to the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government has also urged the State Governments to draw up an action plan besides setting up of an effective monitoring mechanism for continuous review of the implementation of the legislation;
- (d) if so, the response of the States Governments thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY)

(a): Demographic details in respect of people residing in forest areas in the country are maintained by the respective State/ Union Territory Governments.

(b) to (e): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been interacting with all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations urging them to take all necessary steps for expeditious implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006. Review meetings with the concerned officers of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are being held and the officers of the Ministry are also visiting the States to assess and guide the pace of implementation. The Ministry has recently advised and is pursuing all the State/ UT Governments to ensure completion of the work relating to vesting of forest rights during the current year.

As on 30.06.2009, more than 21.49 lakh claims under the Act have been received and 2.70 lakh (approx.) titles have been distributed and another 1.35 lakh (approx.) titles are ready for distribution in various States.