

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1794

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2010

TRADITIONAL INHABITANTS

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Sivakumar Alias J.K. Ritheesh Shri K.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exercises have been conducted for enumeration of the tribal communities residing traditionally in forests, including mineral resource-rich areas across the country;

(b) if so, the details and findings thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has received complaints about forced displacement of traditional tribal inhabitants especially from the mineral resource-rich forest areas for which Government has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/contractual agreements envisaging commercial harnessing of mineral resources; and

(d) if so, the steps taken, if any, to protect rights of the traditional inhabitants?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Madam. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not conducted any exercise for enumeration of tribal communities residing traditionally in forests. The demographic details in respect of the people residing in the forest areas in the country are maintained by the respective State/Union Territory Governments.

(c) & (d) Complaints received alleging forced displacement/eviction of tribal communities from forests lands have been sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for necessary action. The rights of eligible forests dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers are protected by the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.