

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3952

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2010

DIFFICULTIES OF OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS

Raghavendra Shri B. Y.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is aware of the difficulties being faced by the "Other Traditional Forest Dwellers" as specified in the section 2(O) of the Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to produce the evidences for residing in the forest for more than three generations;

(b) whether it is difficult to obtain the 2/3 quorum in Grama Sabha to pass the resolutions to confirm the forest rights; and

(c) the details of proposals to amend the Act to bring the changes accordingly to ease the process and action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs had received some references alleging difficulties being faced by the other traditional forest dwellers as specified in section 2(o) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in producing evidences for residing in the forests for at least three generations (75 years) prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 in support of their claims and proposing relaxation of this requirement. Having regard to the objective of the Act and as the Act did not permit such relaxation, the proposal was not agreed to.

(b): The Government of Kerala and the Union Territory Administration of Daman & Diu had proposed relaxation of the requirement of 2/3rd quorum of the members of the Gram Sabha, but they were informed that the Rules did not permit relaxation of this requirement of quorum. They were advised to ascertain from the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat etc, as to how those States were successfully operating this provision of the Rules.

(c): In view of replies to parts (a) and (b) above, this question does not arise.