

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:851

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011

FOREST RIGHTS ACT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Das Shri Khagen;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Ray Shri Rudramadhab

**Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Advisory Council has suggested reforms/ changes in the Forest Rights Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any Committee on Forest Rights Act;
- (d) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted any report to the Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken or proposed by the Government on the report?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a): No, Madam. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not received any recommendations from the National Advisory Council, suggesting reforms/ changes in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

(b): In view of the reply to part (a) above, this question does not arise.

(c): Yes, Madam. A Joint Committee of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted in April, 2010, to inter-alia

- (i) study in detail the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) including factors that are aiding and impeding its implementation;
- (ii) recommend necessary policy changes in the future management of the forestry sector in India which may be necessary as a consequence of implementation of the Forest Rights Act;
- (iii) identify the role of various agencies (official and others) in facilitating forest dwellers in carrying out their roles regarding conservation and management of forests as envisaged in the Act;
- (iv) identify opportunities for and recommend measures to ensure convergence of various beneficiary oriented programmes for the forest rights holders taken up by various line departments in the States; and
- (v) define a new role for the Forest Department vis-a-vis the Gram Sabha for forest conservation and regeneration.

(d) to (f): Yes, Madam. The Committee has since submitted its Report to the Government. The Report contains recommendations/suggestions relating to

- (i) Process and Institutions of the FRA, (ii) Implementation of FRA for grant of Individual and Community Forest Rights, (iii) Implementation of Development Projects, (iv) Implementation for special groups, namely, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Nomadic Pastoralists, Shifting Cultivators, and Forest Villages, (v) Protected Areas and Critical Wildlife Habitats, (vi) Future Structure of Forest Governance, (vii) Enhancing Livelihoods through Non-Timber Forest Produce, (viii) Convergence of Development Programmes for Tribals and Forest Dwellers, etc. The recommendations/suggestions of the Committee are under examination for appropriate action.