

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3954
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to do something to encourage tribals living in villages and protecting forests and environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch some good films on environment protection;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (a) Yes, Sir. To encourage tribals living in villages and protecting forests, the Government of India has enacted "the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" for which Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for implementation.
- (b) This Act seeks to recognize the forest rights and occupation of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers on forest land who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. Section 5 of the said Act empowers the holder of any forest right, Gram Sabha and Village level institutions in areas to protect the wildlife, forest, biodiversity, adjoining catchment areas, water sources, ecological sensitive areas, etc. Further Ministry of Environment & Forests under CSS "National Afforestation Programme" has launched afforestation schemes being implemented through JFMCs which cover tribal areas also and thereby tribals are also getting benefitted.
- (c)to(e) There is no such proposal presently.