

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1899

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011

RIGHT TO TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLING TRIBALS

Tudu Shri Laxman

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has permitted forest dwelling tribals to live in forest areas after the issuance of notification on 1 January, 2008 under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of beneficiaries therefrom, State-wise ;
- (c) whether the some State Governments have not implemented the said Act properly;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto : and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. One of the forest rights recognized under the Act relates to the right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers. The details of the claims filed for recognition of forest rights and the titles distributed under the Act, State-wise, as on 31st October, 2011, are given in the Annexure.

(c): As per the information available with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the States have progressed in varying degrees in implementation of the Act. While the States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have established the prescribed structures and procedures, have received a large number of claims and have started distributing the title deeds, other States, because of various reasons, are still to catch up.

(d) & (e): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been interacting with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations urging them to expedite implementation of the Act. Meetings with the concerned officers of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are conducted to review the implementation of the Act.