

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1682
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012
TRIBAL RIGHTS
Tanwar Shri Ashok

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the instances of infringement of tribal rights during natural resources exploitation come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken/propose to undertake any steps to protect the tribal rights in case of infringement of their rights during natural resources exploitation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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, administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 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. Though no specific instance of infringement of tribal rights during natural resources exploitation has come to the notice of the Ministry, complaints have been received over a period of time concerning denial of rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and eviction of tribals from forest etc. These complaints have been sent to respective States/ UTs for taking necessary action as the onus of the implementation of the Act lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations.

(c)&(d): The onus of implementation of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Therefore, the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations have to protect the envisaged forest/tribal rights in case of infringement of these rights including those for natural resource exploitation. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been interacting with all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations urging them to ensure that forest rights of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers are recognized and vested in them as per the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.