

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:504  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2012  
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Lal Shri Kirodi

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

- (a) whether the National Advisory Council has recommended reforms/ changes in the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any committee regarding the said Act;
- (d) if so, whether the aforesaid committee has submitted any report to the Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the said report?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V.KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 504 (4th position) for answer on 11.5.2012 tabled by Dr. KirodiLalMeena regarding "National Advisory Council".

(a) & (b) : In March 2011, the National Advisory Council (NAC) made detailed recommendations regarding necessary changes in the legal regime surrounding the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (referred to as Forest Rights Act), for the purpose of ensuring proper implementation of the letter and spirit of the law. These include inter- alia, recommendations regarding the procedures and processes to conduct village level gram sabha meetings, measures to facilitate communities to access their rights in matters relating to use/ conservation of forest resources, minimum support price for Minor Forest Produce, awareness raising, monitoring and grievance redressal. All the recommendations have been examined in depth in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with a view to work out a viable mechanism and medium to implement the same. While some of the suggested amendments would require amendments in the rules framed and guidelines issued under the Forest Rights Act, some others may require an amendment in the parent Act. The Ministry is in the process of working on these recommendations in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice.

(c): Yes, Madam. A Joint Committee of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted in April, 2010, to study in detail the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 including factors that are aiding/impeding its implementation and 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.

(d) to (f): Yes, Madam. The Committee has submitted its Report to the Government. The Report includes inter-alia, recommendations/ suggestions relating to process and institutions of the FRA, individual and community forest rights, future structure of Forest Governance, enhancing livelihoods through non-timber forest produce and convergence of development programmes for tribals and forest dwellers. The recommendations/ suggestions of the Committee are under examination.