

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2299
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
SAXENA COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE FOREST RIGHTS ACT
Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has examined the report of Dr. N.C. Saxena Committee on implementation of Scheduled Tribe (ST) and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 after the due consultation with all stake holders;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been slow progress with regard to distribution of title deeds under the abovesaid Act with far lesser number of title deeds distributed against a large number of claims;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether there has been no progress at all with regard to the implementation of the said Act in some States including Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand; and
- (f) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The recommendations/ suggestions of the Joint Committee of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Tribal Affairs constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena to study in detail the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 are still under examination.

(c) & (d): As per the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and the Rules framed thereunder, the responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. According to the information received from the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations, the status of implementation of the Act, as on 31st July, 2012, was as under:

Number of claims filed 32,28,887

Number of claims disposed of/ 27,73,631 (85.90%)
% in respect of claims
received

Number of titles distributed/ 12,68,766 distributed and
ready for distribution 14,726 ready for distribution

Number of claims rejected 15,04,865

The Ministry has been interacting with the State Governments /UT Administrations to ensure effective implementation of the Act. The Ministry has also been issuing guidelines/ clarifications in the regard. The Ministry has issued detailed guidelines on 12.7.2012 to State Governments/ UT Administrations and the process of amendments in the Forest Rights Rules, 2008 has also been initiated to ensure better and effective implementation at the ground level.

(e) & (f): Yes, Madam. There are some States/ UTs, including Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand that are lagging behind in implementation of the Act for various reasons. The status of implementation of the Act in these States/ UTs is indicated in the statement at Annexure.