

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1061

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO FOREST DWELLERS

Alagiri Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to hand over vast tracks of sanctuary land to traditional forest dwellers;
- (b) if, so the details thereof including the criteria adopted for the purpose;
- (c) the details of the plans of the Government to hand over sanctuary land to forest dwellers; and
- (d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) As per the provisions of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, the transfer of land to the traditional forest dwellers is to be made by the concerned State Governments. The Rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act have been framed and notified on 1.1.2008. As per these Rules, the process for determining the nature and extent of the forest rights to be vested in forest dwelling Scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers is to be initiated by the Gram Sabhas, which are to be scrutinized at the level of the Sub Divisional level Committee and the claims and record of forest rights are to be approved finally by the District level Committee. The same provisions are applicable to the Sanctuary land also. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have progressed in varying degrees in implementation of the Act.