

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:690
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF FORESTS
Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to make community ownership of forests available to the people in tribal areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of forest community ownership given to tribals living in forest areas, of the country;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments related to making forest community ownership available to tribals living in forest areas of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of States which are following guidelines by taking action for making community ownership available in forest areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (a) 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 of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protected and conserving for sustainable use. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently notified the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Rules, 2012 on 6.9.2012, laying down the process for recognition of this right. The Act does not envisage making community ownership of forest available to the people in tribal areas of the country.
- (b) to (d) In view of the reply to part (a) above, Questions do not arise.