

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2623
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
TITLES ON FOREST LAND
Solanki Shri Makhansingh

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

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any norms for distribution of titles on the forest land in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether titles have been/are being distributed to the farmers of other bordering States also;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 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. The claims filed by the forest dwelling scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers for recognition of rights under the Act are adjudicated at three levels, namely, the Gram Sabha, the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and the District Level committee. The District Level Committee is the final authority for approving the record of forest rights and its decision is final and binding. On approval of a claim by the District Level Committee, the title deed under the Act is issued to the concerned claimant and the Gram Sabha, as prescribed in the Rules framed under the Act. In respect of rights recognised under Section 3(1) (a) of the Act, the area shall be restricted to area under actual occupational and in no case shall exceed four hectares.

(c) & (d) The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 does not envisage distribution of title deeds to the farmers of other bordering States.

(e) Does not arise, in view of the reply to parts (c) & (d) above.