

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3272
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013
VIOLATION OF FRA
Ahmed Shri Sultan

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) is being violated due to coal mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the complaints received in this regard from tribal community in the country, particularly from Madhya Pradesh along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether careless implementation of the Act has resulted in large tracts of forests being cut down and claimed as cultivated land in the country; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received complaints alleging allotment of coal blocks in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in violation of the instructions issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to the State/ UT Governments, vide their letter No.11-9/98-FC(pt.) dated 30.7.2009, as modified on 03.08.2009, regarding compliance of the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 while formulating unconditional proposal for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Details of the complaints received and the action taken thereon are indicated in the Annexure.
- (c): While the Ministry has drawn attention of the State Government at the highest level to the non-implementation and gross violation of Forest Rights Act, 2006 in Mahan Coal Block in Singrauli district, the Ministry has no information as to whether there has been any careless implementation of the Act resulting in large tracts of forests being cut down and claimed as cultivation land in the country.
- (d): Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (c) above.