

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1648
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
CULTIVATION OF FOREST LAND
Raghavendra Shri B. Y.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka to give the rights over the forest land to the farmers who have been cultivating the forest land for more than a period of ten years in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) No such proposal to give the rights over the forest land to the farmers who have been cultivating the forest land has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forest from State Government of Karnataka.

However, 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. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Further the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has 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 forest rights.