

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3012
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS IN RURAL AREAS
Saroj Shri Tufani

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a note that developmental works in the rural areas are affected due to implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken a note that reason of non-availability of link road to villagers living in remote and inaccessible regions are also due to implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard? MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

Answer

(a) to (e) No such report has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests that the developmental work are affected in the rural areas due to implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006. Further, Section 3(2) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government shall provide for diversion of forest land for the following facilities managed by the Government which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, namely:- (a) schools; (b) dispensary or hospital; (c) anganwadis; (d) fair price shops; (e) electric and telecommunication lines; (f) tanks and other minor water bodies; (g) drinking water supply and water pipelines; (h) water or rain water harvesting structures; (i) minor irrigation canals; (j) non-conventional source of energy; (k) skill upgradation or vocational training centres; (l) roads; and (m) community centres; provided that such diversion of forest land shall be allowed only if, (i) the forest land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in this subsection is less than one hectare in each case; and (ii) the clearance of such developmental projects shall be subject to the condition that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.