

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3140  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2015  
ELECTRIFICATION OF FOREST VILLAGES  
George Shri (Adv.) Joice

**Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any specific scheme to electrify the forest villages in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the provisions of the Forest Conservation act is applicable for laying electrical lines and black topping of the roads leading to the tribal habitat which was in existence and used by the tribal community before 25th October, 1980; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA)

(a) & (b): This Ministry does not have any specific scheme for electrification of forest villages in the country. However, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for overall development of tribal people and tribal areas across the country, including forest areas, which takes care of necessary support for education, health, electrification, sanitation, water supply, livelihood etc. The major part of infrastructural development activities is carried out through various schemes/programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps.

(c) & (d): This provisions of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 are implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. However, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, also provides, under Section 3(2), that, notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest Conservation Act 1980, the Central Government may provide for diversion of forest area for certain public facilities, managed by Government, such as schools, electricity/telecommunication lines, dispensaries, anganwadis, drinking water facility, vocational training centers, roads etc., involving felling of trees not more than seventy-five trees per hectare, subject to the conditions that the forest area diverted would not be more than one hectare in each case and the project should be recommended by the concerned Gram Sabha.