

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:92

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015

RIGHTS OF FOREST DWELLERS

Giluwa Shri Laxman;Suresh Shri Doddalahalli Kempegowda

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

- (a) whether the intended benefits under the Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been given to the forest dwellers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of claims received and titles distributed under the Act, State-wise;
- (c) whether thousands of forest dwellers are still deprived of the intended benefits;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the factors which are impeding the effective implementation of the Act; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government including directives/advisories issued to authorities concerned to implement the said Act effectively?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 92 (12th position) for answer on 02.03.2015 tabled by SHRI D.K. SURESH and SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA regarding "RIGHTS OF FOREST DWELLERS"

(a): The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (Forest Rights Act in short) was enacted with the objective of remedying the historical injustice done to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The Act has substantially met this mandate through distribution of 15,56,676 titles to the eligible claimants under the Act till 31st December, 2014.

(b): The information is given in the annex.

(c) & (d): Only those tribals and other traditional forest dwellers are entitled to receive forest rights who fulfil the eligibility criteria as stipulated in the Forest Rights Act. This Act aims at vesting forest rights on all eligible tribals and other traditional forest dwellers, which is an ongoing process. As such the question of forest dwellers being deprived of the intended benefits does not arise. However, in the state of Tamil Nadu, the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 has not been possible so far owing to the stay granted by the Hon'ble High Court.

(e): The responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Forest Rights Act lies with the State/UT Governments. The Ministry has organized regional consultations wherein efforts to create awareness; time bound disposal of claims and recognizing genuine claims and vesting rights therein was emphasized. The Ministry has been interacting with all the State/UT Governments regularly urging them to take all necessary steps for expeditious implementation of the Act. The Ministry also issues directives, advisories and clarifications as and when required. Review meetings with the concerned officers of the State Government and UT Administrations are being held at regular intervals.