

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5400
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015
WITHDRAWING OF CIRCULAR ON FOREST RIGHTS ACT
Hegde Shri Anant Kumar Dattatreya

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the circular dated 28th October, 2014 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change under Forest Rights Act is not in the interest of tribal people in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether any action has been taken to withdraw the said circular; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the action taken therein and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is in the process of streamlining and simplifying the process for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. While doing so the Ministry has been consulting Ministry of Tribal Affairs as this process could have implications on safeguard of rights of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been advising them in accordance with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

Till February 2015, 15,32,034 individual and 29,898 community rights have been recognized and vested involving 75,95,088.5267 Acres of forest land. The process has been further deepened where Record of Rights of the individual right holders has been expedited. IT services for availing remunerative prices for Minor Forest Produces has been initiated.