

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2796
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether there have been complaints about Forest Advisory Committees acting against the interests of tribals and forest dwellers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):

(a) to (c) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has received communications wherein it has been stated that the Forest Advisory Committee is recommending grant of in-principle approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose to proposals which do not contain evidences stipulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for having initiated and completed the process for settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

To ensure submission of evidences for having initiated and completed the process for settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 along with the proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government has notified the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Rules, 2014 to provide inter-alia that the proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose mandatorily contain findings of the district collector on settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and consent of the Gram Sabha or Gram Sabhas, wherever required.