

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3806
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
FOREST VILLAGES
Kulaste Shri Faggan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to convert forest villages into revenue villages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating any policy to strengthen the rights of forest dwellers and implement schemes by Gram Sabhas in sub plan areas of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognizes the settlement and conversion of forest villages, whether recorded, notified or not, into revenue villages as a forest right. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal agency for implementation of this Act. The said Act also provides that the forest rights shall be conferred free of all encumbrances and procedural requirements including clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also issued guidelines on 8.11.2013 regarding conversion of all forest villages into revenue villages under section 3(1) (h) of the said Act.
- (c) & (d) There is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.