

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4885
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
RIGHTS TO PEOPLE LIVING IN FOREST AREAS
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

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

- (a) whether the people living in villages inside the forest areas are practically harassed by forest officials despite the fact that they have the right to take away firewood, animal fodder and grass from the forest area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether despite clear instructions in this regard development works in such villages have come to a halt due to interference of the Forest Department and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any provision for taking legal action against such officials who are violating the rights of such people; and
- (e) if so, the details and the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) There is no such report received in the Ministry that people living in villages inside the forest areas are harassed by forest officials in collection of fuelwood, fodder, and other minor forest produce for domestic use, etc. The recognized forest rights and concessions of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other people are respected by the forest officials. Further, the Ministry has not received any reports of interference of Forest Department in development works in villages as well.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Indian Forest Act, 1927, inter alia, provide for suitable action against officials violating the provisions of these Acts.