

/font>

Title: Need to provide the benefit of rehabilitation package to the families settled in forest areas in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Sir, there are more than 4000 post-78 forest encroacher families who are literally starving in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Sixty per cent of these encroachers are pre-78, but the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has wrongly marked them as post-78.

In July, 2002, their land and crops were destroyed. They have not yet been given benefit of the Rehabilitation Package granted by the Government of India.

- More than 10,000 students are dropped from the schools because their parents do not have the means to bear expenses of books, bus fare etc.
- *Katchcha* houses are worn out and broken because they cannot get the minimum forest products like canes, bamboos, *ballis* etc.
- Children are living on wild fruits, roots, sometimes boiled rice only.
- DRM jobs in the forests are no longer available. The provision stores stopped providing them credit with the result they do not have the means of getting the essential commodities for health and hygiene.
- Despite the Government of India's direction, BPL survey has not been conducted here.

They are living in starvation, poverty, distress, and in inhuman condition. I would request the Government to take immediate steps to reach the benefits of the Rehabilitation Package to the people.