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Title: Need to review the Government order regarding eviction of `encroachers` on forest lands.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA): Sir, I rise to raise an important issue, which cuts across all the States. The matter has also been raised in the Standing Committee. It is regarding the recent orders from the Government of India through the Chief Secretaries that all those who are residing in forest areas must be evicted without any further delay. In fact, a date of 30th of September was given and notices have been issued.

Sir, in just one district, to which I belong, 33,000 families have to be evicted. Maharashtra has thousand more such families and all the States are being affected by this. States like Assam and others have tremendous problems. Land is not available. I am specially mentioning North Canara where we have four hydro electric projects, one nuclear power plant and now we have got the Seabird Naval Project, where all the available land has either been submerged or it has been used for rehabilitation and 80 per cent of the district is declared as forest land or reserve forest.

I would like to know where are those people to go and where is the Government going to move them. We have raised this issue earlier and some court order, some time, was being mentioned without taking the human dimension. There is going to be a law and order situation, as violent demonstrations have already been started. These are small people with half an acre or quarter of an acre with a house. There is no big industry which has come there, there is no pollution and yet such orders are being passed without the assessment of the ground reality.

I am asking the Government to take necessary steps to undo this great calamity that is falling on the common people. Sir, I want ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, you will be associated with her. Shri Naresh Puglia, you will also be associated with her. Now, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Let me finish my last sentence. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, one crore tribal people will be affected. It is a very serious problem. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I did not finish my last sentence.

I am only saying that the responsibility for keeping the country green and keeping 33 per cent forest cover cannot be imposed on some districts and the rest have no responsibility. Let the Government come with a plan and give a minimum forest requirement for each State in the country so that there is more equitable distribution of greenery and of development also for the tribal people.