

**Title:** Need to accord clearance to the proposal of Orissa Government prohibiting transfer of Scheduled Tribe land to non-STs with a view protect their interests.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Sir, in order to protect the Scheduled Tribes from alienation of their land to the non-STs in the scheduled areas of the State of Orissa, Government of Orissa had promulgated Regulation 2 of 1956. However, because of a saving clause in section 3 of the said Regulation, the land of the Scheduled Tribes was being transferred to the non-STs by prior approval of the competent authority. The competent authority, in many cases, did not make proper enquiry and allowed the transfer of land of the Scheduled Tribes. This has resulted in mass transfer of the land of the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

In order to plug the loophole in the Act, the Government of Orissa has suggested suitable amendment to Regulation 2 of 1956. Although the matter has received the assent of the Governor of Orissa and clarificatory memoranda have been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, yet the assent of the President of India has not been communicated.

The Government of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs may take immediate steps in the matter to protect the interests of the tribals of Orissa.