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Title : Need to enact Scheduled Tribes Traditional Land Right Bill, 2005, with a view to protect the interests of tribal forest dwellers in Andhra Pradesh.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (BHADRACHALAM): There is about 8% of tribal population in our country, 1/3rd of them live on shifting cultivation only. Forest Act, 1980 and other circulars defined them as 'encroachers' but Dhebar Commission, 1960, and Bhuria Commission, 2002 recommended traditional land rights to forest dwellers (tribals).

There was no regularisation of the cultivable forest land in AP thereby the tribals are deprived of land use rights. They are harassed by local forest authorities.

I urge for the immediate enactment of Scheduled Tribes Traditional Land Rights Bill, 2005.