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Title: Regarding forcible eviction of Primitive tribal groups in Andhra Pradesh.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (BHADRACHALAM): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The Primitive Tribal Groups need protection and survival rights. There are about 12 Primitive Tribal Groups in Andhra Pradesh. They are now under threat of extinction, particularly the Chenchu community. The total population of PTG is decreasing day by day. If we see the census of 1961, their total population was 1,23,269. It rose to 1,95,264 in 1971. After a decade, in 1981, it became 1,89,968. In 1991, it became 1,86,078. So, their population decreased. They are living in Nallamalla Forest Reserve Area of Kurnool, Guntur, Prakasam and Mahaboobnagar districts on either side of river Krishna. There is the Nagarjuna Sagar Tiger Reserve of about 3600 sq. kms in these districts. About 2500 families from 25 core villages of Chenchus were evicted without recognizing their rights of relocation.

For instance, about 12 habitations of the Chenchus were shifted to Appapur and another chenchu village in the plain was also shifted against their will. Further, the Forest Department is threatening to evict them from there also because it falls under the reserve forest.

Hence, I demand the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests to protect their rights, consider their right to live there and extend the help. It was promised to provide Rs.10 lakh as *ex gratia* to these families and also two acres of land for cultivation for each family.