

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
REHABILITATION OF TRIBALS .

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Dr. Janardhan Waghmare

Will the Minister of COALTRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government is aware that the tribals in the country are dispossessed and disowned people whose forest lands have been taken away even by Government in the name of reserves and protecting forests with the result that they have no means of livelihood; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to rehabilitate them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

(DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : The Government has enacted the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. This Act was formulated since the forest rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of State forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India, resulting in historical injustice to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who are integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest ecosystem. The Act recognizes the traditional rights of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers including the right to hold and live in the forest land.