

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3330**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 29/03/2023

**RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF FOREST DWELLING TRIBAL  
COMMUNITIES IN TAMIL NADU**

3330 SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of Tribal Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken required steps to recognise the rights of forest dwelling tribal communities in Tamil Nadu such as the Irula community who are adversely effected by the impacts of climate change, deforestation, pollution, indiscriminate development of infrastructure and loss of biodiversity; and  
(b) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) & (b):** Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA). Under the provisions of FRA rights are recognized and vested to the eligible individuals and community from amongst Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) to use forest land and resources for their livelihood. The FRA and Rules made thereunder provides that respective State Governments / UT administrations are responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Act.

As per FRA, members of the Scheduled Tribe community can claim their right over land under their occupation as on 13th December, 2005, while members of OTFD communities can claim their rights over occupation of forest land, if they have been residing in such forests for at least three generations (generation means a period comprising of twenty five years) as on 13th December, 2005.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that a total of 8,594 titles (8,144 individual and 450 community) have been distributed in Tamil Nadu upto 30.11.2022. Community wise details of recognition of rights is not centrally maintained.

\*\*\*\*\*