

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3090
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Dilution of the Forest Rights Act, 2006

3090. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering or has made amendments to dilute the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, particularly concerning the consent of Gram Sabhas for forest diversion projects;
- (b) the rationale behind any such proposed or implemented changes, and their expected impact on the rights of tribal communities and forest dwellers; and
- (c) the steps being taken to balance developmental priorities with the protection of the livelihoods and cultural heritage of forest-dependent communities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) The provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 and the Rules made thereunder do not abrogate the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 or statutory powers of Gram Sabhas. On the contrary, provisions of Forest (Conservation) Rules 2022 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 mandate that State Government/ UT Administration shall issue orders of diversion of forest land only after fulfilment and compliance of all provisions, including settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.

Further, amendment of Act and Rules do not bar or infringe upon the operation of other laws mandating consent of Gram Sabhas, such as Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.
