

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1335**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

**Forest rights to tribals**

1335. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

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

- (a) the manner in which Ministry comes to the conclusion that granting forest rights to tribals causes forest degradation;
- (b) whether there is any scientific evidence to prove the above conclusion;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Tribal Affairs Ministry has issued a Memorandum on 2nd July, 2025, questioning the assertion of the Ministry in its State of Forest Report 2023; and
- (d) if so, the present status of the issue?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) The National Forest Policy, 1988 emphasises the importance of closely associating the tribal communities in the protection, regeneration and development of forests as well as to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest, while safeguarding their customary rights and interests.

In this regard, the Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is being implemented which recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, prepared by the Forest Survey of India, has reported a substantial increase in forest and tree cover over the past decade. This positive trend is indicative of the active involvement of communities and local stakeholders in the management and restoration of forest resources.

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