

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3065
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.12.2018

TRIBALS EVACUATED FROM NATIONAL PARKS/TIGER RESERVES

3065. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Tribal Communities are gravely affected by various conservation initiatives like declaration of sanctuaries/national parks/tiger reserves;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Tribals evacuated for declaration of Sanctuaries/National Parks/Tiger Reserves till date, State-wise and if so, the details of compensation paid for their resettlement;
- (d) whether the rehabilitation packages are much delayed; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof State-wise with reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (e) Declaration of National Park/Sanctuaries is the mandate of concerned State/UT Governments after following due process as provided in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 including settlements of the Rights.

The process of village relocation from core/ critical tiger habitat of tiger reserve is an entirely voluntary process as per Section 38 V (5) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 read with section 4 (2) of FRA.

Section 2(b) read along with Section 4(2) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA in brief), already provides safeguards for protection of Forest Rights of tribal communities living in Critical Wildlife Habitats. Further an elaborate process to ensure harmony between tiger conservation and tribals is already outlined in Section 38 V (5) of the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972. Section 13 of FRA provides for harmonious implementation of FRA with other laws already in force. These provisions of laws are intended to protect forest rights of tribal communities while ensuring conservation of Wildlife including tigers, which Government is implementing.

Rehabilitation and Resettlement of affected communities is done by the State Governments. As per the information received from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Sate-wise details of number of tribals evacuated for the purpose of National Palk/Wildlife Sanctuaries and also payment of compensation for their settlement is not collected.