

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †248
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 05/02/2024

CONVERSION OF FOREST VILLAGES IN REVENUE VILLAGES

†248. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether people in rural areas have encroached forest land and have constructed houses etc. through the personal/Government resources and have been living there for more than 50 years;
- (b) whether process for the eviction from such land is underway and notices for the same have been served;
- (c) if so, the State-wise details thereof including Rajasthan;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposals from various State Governments for converting forest villages into revenue villages;
- (e) if so, the State-wise and village-wise details thereof including Rajasthan; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (c): As informed by MoEFCC, the 'land' is a subject matter of the State Government. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That, inter-alia, being the repository of land records, State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regards to records, provisions under State and Central Acts and rules. The process of identification of and eviction of encroachments is the process of respective state governments as per the provisions of relevant Acts and Rules. The data of such evictions is not maintained at the level of this ministry.

FRA and rules made thereunder provides rights, which the State Government implements as per the Act. All those found eligible as per Act and Rules are recognized to that extent and action taken on the remaining.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA) provides safeguards to the forest dwellers from undue eviction through the provisions contained in Section 4(5). Further, Schedule – V provide for safeguards against displacement of tribal population because of land acquisitions etc. The Governor of the State which has scheduled Areas is empowered to prohibit or restrict transfer of land from tribals and regulate the allotment of land to members of the Scheduled Tribes in such cases.

(d) to (f): Section 3(1)(h) of FRA guarantees rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, unsurveyed villages and other villages in forests, whether recorded, notified or not into revenue villages. As per FRA and rules made there under State Governments / UT Administrations are responsible for implementation of various provisions of the Act. Accordingly, State Governments are persuaded from time to time to examine the process for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages as per the said rules. Ministry of Tribal Affairs does not receive any proposal from State Governments for converting forest villages into revenue villages.

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