

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1195
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2015
LEASE OF FOREST LAND TO TRIBALS

1195: SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State/UT-wise details of the total number of tribals and other forest dwellers settled on forest land in the country including the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Government has proposed to grant lease of settlement of tribals settled on forest land by launching special drive and if so, the action plan of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has also proposed to recognize the villages settled on forest land as revenue villages and grant right to hold lease to the forest dwellers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA)

(a): Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 2006 in short) wherein pre-existing rights of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers are recognized and vested. The responsibility for implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006 lies with State/UT Governments. As per information received from the State/UT Governments, details of the total number of claims received and number of titles distributed state-wise including the State of Maharashtra are enclosed as Annex.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs does not have the number of tribals and other forest dwellers settled on forest land in the country including the State of Maharashtra. There is no provision in Forest Rights Act, 2006 for grant of lease settlement of tribals settled on forest land by launching special drive and hence, there is no action plan as such.

(b): Government has been emphasizing expeditious implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 especially in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal where progress of implementation is slow. A series of consultations, training workshops, video conferences, letters, visits etc. have been undertaken towards this.

(c) & (d): Forest Rights Act, 2006 provides for conversion of Forest Villages into -Revenue Villages as one of the forest rights conferred on forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued on 08.11.2013 a detailed guideline on conversion of all forest villages, old habitations, unsurveyed villages etc. into revenue villages under Section 3(1)(h) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The guideline primarily clarify issues during its implementation in the field.

Annex referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1195 for 07.12.2015 asked by Shri Harishchandra Chavan and Shri Rajeshbhai Chudasama regarding "Lease of Forest Land to Tribals"

Statement of Claims and distribution of title deeds under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as on 30.09.2015

S. No.	States	No. of Claims received			No. of Titles Distributed		
		Individual	Community	Total	Individual	Community	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	400,053	10,959	411,012	167,263	2,107	169,370
2	Arunachal Pradesh			0			0
3	Assam	126,718	5,193	131,911	35,407	860	36,267
4	Bihar	8,022		8,022	222		222
5	Chhattisgarh	860,364		860,364	347,789		347,789
6	Goa			0			0
7	Gujarat	182,869	7,228	190,097	72,970	3,875	76,845
8	Himachal Pradesh	5,409	283	5,692	238	108	346
9	Jharkhand	80,819	2,734	83,553	41,691	1,434	43,125
10	Karnataka	366,021	6,208	372,229	8,159	144	8,303
11	Kerala	36,140	1,395	37,535	24,599		24,599
12	Madhya Pradesh	561,588	40,913	602,501	192,929	21,727	214,656
13	Maharashtra	346,017	7,152	353,169	105,856	3,436	109,292
14	Manipur			0			0
15	Meghalaya			0			0
16	Mizoram			0			0
17	Nagaland			0			0
18	Odisha	598,373	7,727	610,992	347,172	2,910	352,172
19	Rajasthan	69,121	654	69,775	34,779	69	34,848
20	Sikkim			0			0
21	Tamil Nadu	18,420	3,361	21,781	3,723		3,723
22	Telangana	211,698	3,672	215,370	99,486	744	100,230
23	Tripura	191,376	277	191,653	122,528	55	122,583
24	Uttar Pradesh	92,520	1,124	93,644	17,712	843	18,555
25	Uttarakhand	182		182			0
26	West Bengal	131,962	10,119	142,081	38,691	373	39,122
27	A & N Islands			0			0
28	Daman & Diu			0			0
29	Dadar & Nagar Haveli			0			0
	Total	4,287,672	108,999	4,401,563	1,661,214	38,685	1,702,047