

**(i) Regarding amendments to the Forest Rights Act**

**DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR):** The Forest Rights Act, 2006 was enacted by the Government of India in 2006 to recognize the rights of the tribal community of our country. Under the Forest Rights Act, there is a provision for individual claims for the tribals in the form of a certificate which provides that the first owner of the land is Government of India & the claimant becomes the second owner. Since this certificate is not in the form of an ownership document, there have been several reported incidents of tribals being denied benefits under various schemes of the Central Government along with loan facilities from banks on the ground that the certificate issued under Forests Rights Act is not an ownership document, which is also in violation of the existing guidelines laid down by the RBI. I request the Government to kindly make necessary amendments to the Forest Rights Act and provide ownership certificates to the tribal community which will facilitate and ensure access to the benefits under various government schemes along with disbursement of loans through banks which will assist the tribal communities. I also request the Government to issue necessary directions to the banks to provide loan and other financing facilities to tribals who have a valid claims certificate as per RBI.