

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1263
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
FOREST RIGHTS ACT
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers have deprived of the benefits of Forest Rights Act;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the responsibility of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the rules framed for the strengthening the institution of Gram Sabha makes it subservient to the forest department as reported in the Times of India dated May 31, 2007;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to modify these rules?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

- (a) & (b): The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, though enacted by the Parliament, has not come into force so far as a notification appointing a date from which the Act shall come into force, as required under section 1 (3) of the Act, is yet to be issued. These questions, therefore, do not arise.
- (c) to (e): The news report in the Times of India dated May 31, 2007, mentioned in part (c) of the question, refers to the draft Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007 framed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for carrying out the provisions of the Act. The Ministry has pre-published these Rules in the Gazette of India on 19.6.2007 for seeking comments and suggestions from the public and other stakeholders before the same are finalised. The proposed rules are still tentative rules and to be finalised as per the established procedure.