

Title: Urged the Government to review the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and to give more powers to the SC & ST Commission to issue directions to protect the interest of SC(s) & ST(s) living in the Hill Areas.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, at Kolli Hills, at least for the past ten years, even basic amenities have not been provided due to the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The area from Narayankadu to Mullaikurichi, which is about five kilometres, is without any basic amenities like roads. About twenty thousand people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes are suffering without protected drinking water. From the Tribal Sub-Plan, Rs.3 crore were allotted for providing basic amenities but because of this Act, the schemes are not being implemented. So, I urge upon the Government to review the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The forest policy in the tribal areas has to be distinct from the forest policy in the non-tribal areas. I also urge the Government to bring forward a Constitution Amendment, to Article 338, to give more powers to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission to issue directions for corrective action to be taken within a given period of time.

Thank you. <