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Title: Need to withdraw eviction drive against farmers living in Udupi and adjoining forest areas of Kodagu, Karnataka.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI): The Forest Department officials in my State have launched a massive eviction drive in forest settlements in Udupi and adjoining areas of Kodagu for implementing Supreme Court directives, resulting in uprooting of settlements of poor and marginal farmers settled there for long.

These communities are poor and illiterate and do not have such records in their possession although they are living in forest land for generations and they have toiled hard to develop such unproductive terrains as the standing crops of vegetation and plantation would testify. The agitation by those affected by this eviction drive has taken serious turn in the neighbouring Wynad area of Kerala with tribals violently resisting the police. In my area the agitators have been peaceful yet assertive of their rights to hold on such settlements. By instinct and tradition they follow their vocation without causing any ecological and environmental harm and I urge the Centre to intervene in the matter on humanitarian grounds by calling off the drive till a solution is found for the rehabilitation of such communities.