

**Title:** Need to release funds to the State Governments for carrying out development activities for tribals in Maharashtra and other affected areas in the country. - Laid.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR) : Several districts in five States in the country, namely Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are having forest cover of more than 50%. The forest areas are inhabited densely by large number of tribals who are protecting these forests. Instead of rewarding them, they are being penalized as the projects for socio-economic development of the areas submitted by the concerned State Governments to the Union Government are not being sanctioned due to the provisions in the Forest Conservation Act. These naxalites affected States have, on the advice of the Central Government, submitted to the Union Government Special Action Plans for which the Union Government had to share 50% expenditure.

The Union Government has so far not sanctioned a penny to the Govt. of Maharashtra out of their share of Rs. 834 crores being 50%. The Union Government is also planning to remove encroachments on forest land by tribals forcibly, who have small pieces of forest land under their encroachment for agricultural or residential purpose. Instead, they should be given temporary patta of the land under their encroachment for at least 30 years. Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts of my Parliamentary Constituency, having forest cover of 76% and 56% respectively, are thickly populated by tribals and facing the problem of naxalites activities. The funds for development under the Tribal Sub-Plan should be allotted on the basis of tribal population of the area. I request Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene and direct the concerned Departments to look into the matter.