

Title: Regarding eviction of Adivasis from the forest land in Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Sir, I would like to raise an important issue. It is about deplorable conditions in which *Adivasis* live. In the year 2002, the NDA Government issued a direction to evict all *Adivasis* from the forest land. Accordingly, the Government of Madhya Pradesh initiated steps to evict *Adivasis* from the forest land.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State matter.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : This is an issue concerning the whole nation. But I am particularly referring to eviction of *Adivasis* from the forest lands of Khandwa district in the State of Madhya Pradesh. I personally visited that area. I think that almost 140 houses have been burnt and demolished and *Adivasis* have been ousted from their houses. They are living without any roof over their heads. It is not only that, but some schools have also been demolished.

So, I demand that the Government should take necessary action against those who have evicted them from their residences. I also demand that village communities should be involved in regeneration of the degraded forest lands. Tribals should be empowered to monitor and manage the forests. They should be given *patta* in places where they are residing because *jungle, jal* and *zameen* belong to the *Adivasis*. They are the primitive people. They should not be deprived of the forest lands.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment and Forests to take necessary action so that the *Adivasis* are not deprived of their homes and lands. They should not be evicted from their places. Action should be taken against those persons and officers who have burnt their houses in Khandwa district. I can mention the names of those villages. They are: Kharkodi, Ambakeri, and Signot in Madhya Pradesh.

This is a very important issue. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Defence Minister and the Leader of the House who is present here to this important issue and request him that necessary action should be taken against those who have done this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): Sir, I would like to associate myself with what Shri Lakshman Seth has mentioned just now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shr Prabodh Panda.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Topdar, nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)** â€

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot make any exception.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Topdar, you cannot take advantage of another hon. Member's notice.

Shri Prabodh Panda may make mention of his subject.

...*(Interruptions)*