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Title : Need for introduction of Tribal Bill (Recognition of the Right to land).

SHRILAKSHMAN SETH : Sorry Sir.

Sir, yesterday the 58th Anniversary of Independence was celebrated. Yesterday, in nine States, thousands and thousands of tribal people staged demonstrations demanding the introduction of the Tribal Bill (Recognition of the Right to Land).

Sir, in our country, about 70 lakh tribal people are still landless. They do not have a right to land in the forest area. Sir, there was a discussion in the last Session also that this Bill will be introduced giving a right to land in the forest area to the tribal people. But, I do not know under what circumstances the Bill has not yet been introduced. The tribal people are practically aboriginals. They are staying in the forest; they are attached to the environment of the forest. So, they should not be kept out of the forest area. They will not be able to adjust in other environment. There is an apprehension that if they are given a right to land in the forest area, the forest will be demolished and the wild animals will be destroyed. But, this is not correct. If we give the management of the forest to the tribal people, adivasi people, they will protect the forest and also wild animals. There is some lobby from the upper sections of the society on the plea of poaching the tigers, preservation of the forest and the wild animals. I think they are creating the problems in respect of introduction of the particular Tribal Bill.

So, Sir, this is a very important issue. I would like to request, through you, to the Government, to our hon. Prime Minister, and he has also given a promise yesterday in his speech that the Bill will be introduced shortly. I would also like to request you to bring in this Bill in this Session so that the 70-lakh tribal people, adivasi people, can have a right to land in the forest area for maintaining their livelihood.