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Title: Regarding implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act, 2007.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA WEST): I express my deep concern over the tardy implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act, 2007 in large parts of the country. Even after the lapse of five years, the implementation of the Act is scandalously unsatisfactory in several States across the country. A complete lack of political will is the root cause of this malady. The State Governments that deny the tribals the right to forest lands are taking steps to give a large chunk of forest lands to corporates and multinationals as part of neo-liberal policy displacing the tribal people. The situation is equally grim in so far as granting the rights to the non-tribal traditional forest dwellers are concerned. In order to prove that, these forest dwellers have to live in the forests for at least three generations, that is, defined as 75 years. The UPA-II Government has forgotten the plight of the non-tribal forest dwellers. I would strongly demand the implementation of the Forest Rights Act with utmost seriousness and urgency and change the 75 year Evidence Clause for other traditional forest dwellers.