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Title: Regarding problem in the 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 lapse of more than 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. Many of the State Governments deny the tribals their right to forest land. As a part of the neo-liberal policy, they are taking steps to give a large chunk of forest land to corporates and multinationals by displacing the tribal people. The situation is equally grim so far as non-tribal traditional forest dwellers are concerned. These forest dwellers have to prove that they had lived in the forest for at least three generations – defined as 75 years – before they could even fight for their claims.

I would strongly demand implementation of Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act with utmost seriousness and urgency and take steps to bring a change in the 75-year evidence clause for other traditional forest dwellers.