

>

Title: Need to protect the interests of tribals living in Parambikulam Forest in Chittur taluk of Palakkad district, Kerala.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Parambikulam forest is a protected area in Chittur taluk in Palakkad district of Kerala. The Parambikulam forest area has six tribal colonies. These colonies are home to 4 different adivasi communities. There are around 277 households having population around 1100. They are part of this forest since time immemorial and have a symbiotic relation with the forest. In 2010 out of the total 90.88 square kilometers of the forest, 150.9 sq was declared as Tiger Reserve in February. The State Government was to declare the existing tribal settlements inside the forest as buffer zones. A part of the Parambikulam forest comes under the Anamalai ranges of Tamil Nadu and Nelliampathy ranges comes under Kerala. Though the Parambikulam Sanctuary was part of the Muthalamada Panchayat in Kerala, there is no direct access to it from there. The only gate-way to the Parambikulam forest is from the Annamalai check post which lies in Tamil Nadu. The closure of Anamalai check post of Tamil Nadu since July 25, after the ban ordered by Supreme Court on tourism in core areas of tiger reserves across the country, was a heavy blow to the tribal's livelihood. The eco tourism activities of the Kerala forest department were a means of income to many tribal people and they could earn rupees 6000 to 12000 per month. Since there is no tourism activity in the core area of Parambikulam, the said Tiger reserve, as such, does not come under the ambit of the court order. The move has deprived 300 tribal people, who were working as members of Eco-Development Committees, guides and eco-tourism activities, of their livelihood. Even with the existence of the forest rights act (2006), they are literally stranded in the forest and their means of livelihood are denied. I urge the government to intervene in this matter urgently and take necessary steps to protect the life of the tribal people.