

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding acquisition of land under the Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Around 2,58,797 hectares of land has been acquired under the 'The Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975'. As per section 22(A) of the Act, the whole or part of the land can be restored to the original owner, if due to the acquisition under the Act, his land holding has become less than 12 hectares, 87,006.74 ha. land have thus been restored. In the Bombay Govt. Notification (29.03.1956), notices under sec 35 (3) and/or notification under sec 35(1) of Indian Forest Act, 1927 were issued by Maharashtra government almost 60 years ago but the land was never taken over. Now, these areas have been recorded as forest and all activities stopped. Lakhs of residents are living under constant fear. Therefore, I request to resolve the matter expeditiously, considering the future of lakhs of residents from Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Pune.