

3. We like to mention here that the decision with regard to the cut-off period namely pre and post-1978 was taken in 1980. Unfortunately even today, the facilities given to these pre-1978 settlers are not met with. Hence we request you to make efforts to abolish this cut-off period and regularize all encroachments till today. We also like to mention here that all efforts and strict directions are to be issued against future encroachment in the forest area.
4. There are a good number of cases where people pay land revenue regularly, but now the forest department claims their land, and has issued eviction notices and the eviction process has begun, ignoring the revenue records.
5. The encroachments have been made with the full knowledge of the forest and revenue officials. There are also oral reports of money being given as bribe to forest and revenue officials for such encroachments. For so many years, these officials have not intervened effectively to remove these encroachments. Hence the simple adivasi and other people have rightly presumed that the land occupied and being cultivated by them for years belongs to them. They have shed their sweat and blood to develop the land without harming the ecology of the area. We like to add here that Hon'ble Supreme Court has come down heavily on the encroachers, but what about those officials who are also part of this crisis? Are the Supreme Court and the local administration planning any action on them?
6. We plead that an impartial judicial inquiry be done on this whole issue of deforestation, excessive extraction of forest produce as quoted by Prof. Shekhar Singh and other related issues.
7. The Tribals all over the world are known to have high esteem for the forests where their ancestors lived, and they continue to live. It is to be noted that with their God-given qualities of farming, they never do any harm to the forest. It is only after the trees were felled by the Forest Department that they went and settled in those areas. It is, therefore, to be noted that, far from harming the ecology, these people have preserved it with their God-given love for it. We feel that these people are to be made use to regenerate the forest which have been wantonly destroyed for commercial purposes and preserve the ecology.
8. We, as citizens of India have the right for 'roti, kapada and makan'. So, the Government has the responsibility of providing such basic needs to these people on a permanent basis. The Adhivasies are not business people nor people who can manage cash. They are basically farmers. Hence any alternate plan of rehabilitation must include the settlement of these poor people on cultivable land enough for them to live in the future and mere monetary compensation or allotment of small piece of land will not provide any justice to their human rights.
9. It is good to note here that the future of the children of those who live in these forest areas is in darkness. We fear that this eviction process may pave ways for other social evils and problems in the future.
10. Since the forest cover in these islands even now is far ahead of the national average, we plead that the Government of India takes up again the matter of de-reserving certain percentage of forest land so that the people are rehabilitated in the same land that has been developed by them. We also plead that the Government of India initiate steps to amend the Forest Act for this purpose.