Sub: - Reply to Calling Attention Notice tabled by S/Shri Digambar Kamat, Honorable Leader of Opposition and Prasad Gaonkar, MLA's.

CALLING ATTENTION

"Fear and apprehensions in the minds of people, especially among Tribal Community, OTFD & Others from Sanguem, Quepem, Canacona, Darbandora and Sattari Talukas about their future with regards to their Homes/Properties/Cultivable

land/Cattle due to frequent changes & inconsistencies in Government policies decisions as well as lethargic approach of the Government with respect to Forest Rights Claims under Forest Rights Act, 2006, Notifications of Wildlife Sanctuaries, Settlement of Rights under Wildlife Protection Act, The steps Government intends to take in this matter."

ANSWER

There should not be any fear and apprehensions among the tribal community, Other Traditional Forest Dwellers & others of Sanguem, Quepem, Canacona, Dharbandora and Sattaritalukas/villages about their regards their future with to Homes/Properties/Cultivable land/Cattle as Government of Goa is fully committed to protect the interest of the said communities and forest wealth of the state by implementing the relevant provisions for settling the rights of people as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 while notified the Wildlife Sanctuary/National Parks in the State.

There are six (06) Wildlife Sanctuaries and one (01) National Park declared for conservation and management of the wildlife in the state.

- 1. Madei Wildlife Sanctuary
- 2. Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary
- 3. CotigaoWildlife Sanctuary
- 4. BondlaWildlife Sanctuary
- 5. Salim Ali Wildlife Sanctuary
- 6. Bhagwan Mahaveer WLS & National Park

After notification of Wildlife Sanctuaries under section 18A of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Revenue officer cum Collector (ROC) is appointed by the Government to invite objections and settle the rights of affected people/communities.

For the Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary & National Park, Mollem, the settlements of rights are in process. The FSO, Valpoi is appointed as ROC (Revenue Officer cum Collector) and hearing on the claims received is in progress.

In case of Madei Wildlife Sanctuary, the Deputy Collector/SDM, Sattari Taluka was appointed as Revenue Officer cum Collector. The proclamation under Section 21 has been issued for settlement of rights of communities /individuals. No claims are

pending with respect to this Wildlife Sanctuary as on date.

In case of Dr Salim Ali Wildlife Sanctuary & Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, no claims for settlement of rights are pending as on date.

As far as Forest Rights Claims (FRC) under Forest Rights Act, 2006 are concerned, the claims (FRCs) are being processed by notified committees i.e. Village Level Committees (VLCs), Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLCs) and District Level Committee (DLC) on merit basis and in a time bound manner. Hence the concerns of tribal communities, Other Traditional Forest Dwellers & others of Sanguem, Quepem, Canacona, Dharbandora and Sattari talukas/villages about their future with regards to their Homes/ Properties/ Cultivable land/ Cattle are addressed by the State Government and settlement of rights/claims are processed.