

## News

09/03/2011

## Congress stages walkout in Guj Assembly over tribal land issue

Gandhinagar (Guj), Mar 9 (PTI) Opposition Congress staged a walkout from Gujarat Assembly today on the issue of allotment of forest land to adivasi population, alleging that the ruling BJP was anti-tribal.

During the Question-Answer Session of the State Assembly, Congress alleged that the state government was not giving land to tribals as per rules described in the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

Congress MLA from Dediapada in south Gujarat Amarsingh Vasava had asked the question on the status of applications under FRA of Tapi district.

Leader of Opposition Shaktisingh Gohil said in the last three years, 11,947 applications have been made under the Act, out of which only 728 have been approved while 3,148 have been rejected and over 8,000 applications were still pending.

He said despite certification from Gram Sabha, the applications of tribals under the FRA were being rejected.

Minister of Forest and Environment Mangubhia Patel said that every genuine application for forest land would be approved.

He further said since 1966, the Gujarat government had given forest lands to 45,000 tribals even before the FRA was introduced.

While the minister was speaking, Congress members stood up and started shouting slogans saying that injustice was being done to tribals under the Narendra Modi government.

Following noisy scenes for a few minutes, they walked out of the House.

After the Question Answer Session, Legislative Affairs Minister Dilip Sanghani raised the walkout issue by the Opposition when the minister was giving a reply.

He said the Opposition did not listen to the answer given by the Forest Minister and staged a walkout and demanded that they should apologise for it.

Gohil said that they walked out because rights of tribals were being curtailed as their applications of land were being rejected despite certification from Gram panchayats.

Assembly Speaker Ganpat Vasava, after hearing the ruling party and the Opposition, said the point raised was "valid".

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## National News



### [I-T, SBI get Rs 2,195 cr from Harshad Mehta's assets](#)

Mumbai: The Mumbai-based custodian released on Wednesday a payment of Rs 2,195 crore, recovered from the sale of Harshad Mehta's assets to the Income Tax department and the State Bank of India.

### [Achuthanandan, three ministers out of Kerala poll fray](#)

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan and three of his ministers will not contest the upcoming state assembly polls, the party decided here Wednesday. Home Minister Kodyeri Balakrishnan will lead the election campaign of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), it said.



### [Raja aide Batcha's suicide note blames none](#)

Chennai: The suicide note of Sadiq Batcha, who died under mysterious circumstances, was found on Wednesday in which the close aide of former telecom minister A Raja said he was embarrassed by CBI raids at his premises in connection with the 2G spectrum scam but blamed none for his taking the extreme step, police said.



### [Remove Kolkata Police Chief, EC tells Bengal govt](#)

Kolkata: In an unprecedented move, the Election Commission has directed the West Bengal Government to replace Kolkata Police Commissioner Gautam Mohan Chakraborty as his tenure has crossed three years and sought a three-member panel to select a new incumbent.



### [No change in country's nuclear doctrine: SM Krishna](#)

New Delhi: Government today made it clear that there will be no revision of the country's no-first-use

challenges. nuclear doctrine and said minimum credible deterrence would be maintained in view of threats and

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