

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1252
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2018

INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL PEOPLE

1252. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 8.6 per cent of India's population is tribals and their population is growing now;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of tribal groups available in India, whether any committee is formed for the socio-economic development of the tribal people;
- (d) the major initiatives taken by Government for upliftment of tribal people during the last three years; and
- (e) whether tribal lands are exploited by the outsiders and if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such type of exploitation and preserve the rights of tribal people?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a & b): Yes, Sir. As per Census 2011, total population of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the country is 10.45 crore. According to the Census figures, the proportion of STs to total population has increased from 6.9% in 1971 to 8.1% in 1991 and to 8.6% in 2011.

(c): There are over 700 Tribal groups available in India. A High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Prof. Virginius XaXa was constituted in 2013 to prepare a status paper on socio-economic condition of Scheduled Tribes in the Country and suggest a way forward.

(d): Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing schemes / programmes for upliftment of tribal people. These include-

- Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)
- Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution
- Scholarships schemes for ST Students
- Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
- Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.
- Institutional support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products / Produce and Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum support Price (MSP) and development of Value Chain for MFP.

(e): On receipt of any complaint regarding exploitation / encroachment of Tribal Land appropriate action is taken by National Commission for Scheduled Tribes as per the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and thereafter necessary recommendations are made to the concerned authorities for providing relief to the Tribals whose land has been exploited/encroached.

Land and its management fall under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States as provided under the Constitution of India, Seventh Schedule_List-II (State List)_Entry No. 18. Different States have their own legislation on the subject. However, Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights, 2006 (in short Forest Rights Act, 2006). This Act was notified for operation on 31.12.2007 to undo the historical injustice done to forest dwellers (both tribal and other forest dwelling communities) whose user rights over the forest land were not recognized by British regime as well as independent India. This Act provides a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and nature of evidences required for such recognition and vesting the rights over forest land. The State Governments are responsible for the implementation of the Act. In order to ensure effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the Ministry issued Rules on 01.01.2008 which was later amended on 06.09.2012. Further, a comprehensive guideline was issued to the State/UT Governments.