

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 144
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 07/12/2022

DECREASING POPULATION OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTH EAST REGION

144 SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tribal communities in the North East region whose population are less than 1000, and less than 100;
- (b) whether Government has diagnosed the reasons for their decreasing population;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) what steps are being taken to safeguard their existence; and
- (e) what is the distribution of such communities in the various States of the North East?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

(a) to (c): As per Census 2011, there are 76 Scheduled Tribes (STs) communities in North East region of India which have population of less than 1000 and among them 37 Scheduled Tribes (STs) communities have population of less than 100. Latest population figures are not available for these ST communities. Communication has been sent to concerned States in respect of decreasing population of some ST communities.

(d): Apart from the Constitutional safeguards, Parliament has enacted laws inter-alia for protection and promotion of the scheduled tribe communities in the country. These include:

- The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- The Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) (PESA in short) Act, 1996
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act {popularly known as the Forest Rights Act (FRA)}, 2006
- The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013

Further, Government is implementing Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)/Schedule Tribe Component (STC)/Development Action Plan for Development of STs (DAPST) for overall development of tribal people across the country. Besides Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 41 Central Ministries / Departments are earmarking certain percentage of their total scheme allocation every year as DAPST funds for tribal development. DAPST funds are spent by the Central Ministries / Departments under their schemes

for various development projects relating to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, drinking water, electrification, employment generation, skill development, etc. for accelerated socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes in the country. State Governments are also supposed to earmark TSP funds in proportion to ST population (Census 2011) in the State with respect to total State Plan for the development of Scheduled Tribes.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs also extends support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) for carrying out various research & documentation activities including programs for documentation of tribal languages, dialects, art, culture, dance, music and development of bilingual Primers. Under the component “Financial Assistance for support to Centres of Excellence (CoE)” of the scheme "Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE) ", financial assistance is provided to reputed Institutions for carrying out research/ study/programmes. TRIs and CoEs undertake studies /research on the tribal communities including demographic studies.

(e): Distribution of such communities in various North East Region (NER) States are given below:

NER States	No. of communities Less than 1000	No. of communities Less than 100
Arunachal Pradesh	50	24
Assam	6	3
Meghalaya	2	1
Manipur	5	3
Mizoram	6	4
Nagaland	3	1
Sikkim	0	0
Tripura	4	1

Source: Census, 2011
