

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 145
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 07/12/2022

NEW INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY IN KERALA

145 SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the new initiatives taken up by the Ministry in last five years in Kerala;
- (b) the details thereof;
- (c) what is the status of these initiatives; and
- (d) what are the benefits that tribal population have received?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is mandated with the gap filling role of the activities pertaining to Line Ministries and State Governments. Consequently, the schemes administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are normally demand driven and are not state specific but applicable to tribal beneficiaries across the country including Kerala. Some of the major initiatives taken by the Ministry during the last five years are as under:

- I. Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram is an initiative under the Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission' targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing the wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan. The programme aims to tap into traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribals by adding technology to upgrade it at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity. Under this program, tribal community owned multi-purpose Kendras (known as Van Dhan Vikas Kendras - VDVKS) are set-up in predominantly tribal districts. The VDVKS act as common facility centres for procurement cum value addition to local tribal produce. Value addition of raw produce is expected to increase the value of the produce considerably and consequently the income of the gatherers. Till date 44 number of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) have been sanctioned in the State of Kerala targeting around 12,000 beneficiaries

- II. Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana: MoTA has launched a transformed scheme of 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)' with the aim of transforming tribal dominated villages into model village (Adarsh Gram) in a phased manner wherein Schedule Tribes (ST) people would have access to basic services and infrastructure facilities to enable them lead a dignified living and utilize their inherent potential to the fullest. The scheme of PMAAGY will facilitate ST people to have access to basic services and infrastructure facilities by mitigating gaps in 14 sectors of development through appropriate convergence of resources at State Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Schedule Tribe Component (STC) with Central Line Ministries, Corporate Social Responsibility funds, District Mineral Funds etc. In the first phase of five years, 36428 tribal dominated villages with at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs are targeted under the scheme. This includes 6 tribal dominated villages of Kerala.
- III. The scheme of 'Venture Capital Funds for STs' with a Corpus of Rs. 50.00 Crore has been approved during 2021-22. It aims to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Tribes. No project has been sanctioned under the scheme so far.
- IV. Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers the scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) for the educational upliftment of tribal population across the country, including that of Kerala. EMRS was introduced in the year 1997-98 to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) students (Class 6th to 12th) in remote areas to enable them to access to education. In April 2019, a separate central sector scheme for EMRS was carved out and National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization, was created on 01.04.2019 to establish, endow, maintain, control and manage EMRSs. As on 01.12.2022, a total number of 689 EMRSs have been sanctioned across the country including 4 EMRSs in Kerala. A total number of 560 students were enrolled in the EMRSs of Kerala during 2021-22.
- V. Besides, the earlier schemes related to scholarship are also continued under which 1,30,512 Scheduled Tribe students in Kerala availed scholarships to the tune of Rs.139.23 crore during the last five years to pursue their studies.
