

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1612**  
ANSWERED ON- 15.03.2023

**PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE COUNTRY**

1612# SHRI ADITYA PRASAD.

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:-

(a) Whether any mechanism has been put in place with regard to the study and preservation of the age-old heritage and traditional knowledge of the country in view of the fact that forest dwellers and tribes in our country have traditionally been living in the lap of nature, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) Whether the programmes related to forest dwellers and tribes have been included in the academic and research syllabi of higher education, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) A separate division called as Indian Knowledge System (IKS) has been setup in the Ministry of Education to encourage and initiate the integration of traditional knowledge of the country.

(i) 25 Centers of Indian Knowledge System (IKS) have been setup in public/private funded higher educational institutions across the country, and two relate to forest dwellers and tribal knowledge and practices.

(a) IKS Center setup in Assam University, Center for Indian Knowledge Systems- with Special Reference to North East Studies focuses on sustainable agriculture and food practices of the Northeast.

(b) IKS Center setup in NIT Calicut focuses on the sacred groves in the state.

(ii) Among the 64 research projects funded by the IKS Division, two projects are related to the tribal knowledge.

(a) The Central Tribal University, Andhra Pradesh focuses on medicinal plants used by tribes of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) IIT BHU IKS project focuses on copper mining and smelting in tribal areas of Singhbhum.

Government of India through Centrally sponsored scheme “**Support of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)**” is providing financial assistance to State / UTs for various activities to be undertaken by State Tribal Research Institutes. These State TRIs take up research studies/publication of books/documentation on tribal cultural heritage. The domain of research studies carried out by State TRIs includes tribal traditions and various social and cultural practices, which are characteristic to the particular tribal communities. Such unique social and cultural practices and traditions also help in ethnographic identification of tribes.

Government of India through its Research Councils *viz.* **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM)** is engaged in documentation of traditional knowledge from tribals by their respective programmes. CCRAS has been executing a “**Tribal Health Care Research programme (THCRP)**” in 14 states/UTs through 14 peripheral institutes/units of CCRAS **under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)** for documentation & validation of Local Health traditions/Folk lore practiced by local health traditional/ folk healers/tribes related to therapeutic use of Medicinal Plants.

(b) The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, under Para 22.8 talks about the accurate inclusion of traditional Indian knowledge including tribal and other local knowledge throughout into the curriculum, across humanities, sciences, arts, crafts, and sports, whenever relevant; and a much greater flexibility in the curriculum, especially in secondary schools and in higher education, so that students can choose the ideal balance among courses for themselves to develop their own creative, artistic, cultural, and academic paths. Also, the Universities/colleges have autonomy to frame courses/curricula/books/syllabi as per their statutes/ordinance/rules.

\*\*\*\*\*