

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 782
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 26/07/2023

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF TRIBALS

782 DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government during the last three years to improve the socio-economic condition of tribals in the country;
- (b) the details of various schemes/programmes being implemented by Government for the Socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs);
- (c) the total amount allocated by Government and the actual amount spent thereon during the last three years; and
- (d) whether the aims and objectives of such socio-economic schemes have been achieved, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken various steps to improve the socio-economic condition of Scheduled Tribes in the country during last three years. These include: -

(i) Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is establishing Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) in tribal dominated blocks for providing better education to ST students. Since 2020- 21, 252 EMRSs have been sanctioned by the Ministry and 116 schools have been made functional.

(ii) For saturation of gaps in the development of Tribal villages, the scheme 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub- scheme has been revamped into Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY). The main aim and objective of the PMAAGY is to develop 36428 villages having at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs in a phased manner by bridging gaps in various sectors of development. States /UTs are encouraged for convergence of resources as Central / State Tribal Sub Plan / Scheduled Tribe Component

funds and other financial resources available with them for saturation of gaps in the villages identified under PMAAGY.

(iii) Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India' released to 26 States, having ST population for the purpose of promoting welfare of Scheduled Tribes in that State or raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas therein to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State.

(iv) Funds provided to States/UT having PVTGs under the scheme 'Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)' for socio-economic development of the PVTGs in a comprehensive manner while retaining culture and heritage of the community by adopting habitat development approach.

(v) Implementing Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) for promotion of tribal livelihood.

(vi) Providing scholarships to more than 30 lakh ST students annually under the Schemes Pre Matric and Post Matric Scholarships for strengthening education among STs.

(vii) Strengthening implementation and monitoring of schemes as indicated below:

- For monitoring of schemes online portals have been established.
- Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds as per the norms of General Financial Rules (GFR).
- Progress reports regarding the status of implementation of the schemes are obtained.
- Officers while visiting States / UTs also ascertain the progress of implementation of various schemes/ programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Review meetings/conferences are convened at the Central level with State officials for ensuring timely submission of proposals, speeding up of implementation of the schemes/ programmes, and reviewing the physical and financial progress.
- State Governments are also required to designate a Single Nodal Agency in terms of revised procedure by Ministry of Finance for release of funds and monitoring for each Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(viii) An online monitoring system has been put in place by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with web address: <https://stcmis.gov.in> for monitoring of allocation and utilisation under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) of the schemes of central Ministries /Departments. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) also convene meetings with central Ministries/Departments having DAPST funds from time to time to review the

allocation, expenditure of funds and progress for welfare and development of STs and guide them for better utilization of DAPST funds.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing various schemes/programmes for welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the country. Details of major schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry are given at **Annexure**.

Further, Government is implementing Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) as a strategy for the development of Scheduled Tribes and areas having tribal concentration. Besides Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 41 Ministries/Departments are allocating certain percentage of their total scheme budget every year under DAPST for various tribal development projects relating to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, electrification, employment generation, skill development, etc.

The details of allocation of funds and expenditure under DAPST made by the obligated Central Ministries / Departments including Ministry of Tribal Affairs during last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)			
Year	DAPST Allocation (BE)	DAPST Allocation (RE)	Expenditure
2020-21	52024.23	51780.82	48084.10
2021-22	78256.31	85930.47	82530.58
2022-23	87584.66	92781.15	90993.92*

* Provisional

(d): Data pertaining to Census, management information systems and large scale sample surveys conducted by different Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, reveal that over the years considerable improvements have been registered in socio-economic indicators with respect to the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the country, for example, literacy rate for STs has improved from 59% (Census) in 2011 to 71.6% (as per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report (July 2020 - June 2021). Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at upper Primary level has improved from 86.4 (2012-13) to 98.0 (2021-22); GER for ST students at secondary level (IX-X) has increased from 61.9 (2012-13) to 78.1 (2021-22); GER for ST students at senior secondary level (XI-XII) has increased from 30.7 (2012-13) to 52.0 (2021-22) and GER for ST students at higher education level has increased from 11.1 (2012-13) to 18.9 (2020-21). As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in respect of Scheduled Tribes, Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 44.4 (2015-16) to 41.6 (2019-21); Under Five Mortality Rate has declined from 57.2 (2015-16) to 50.3 (2019-21), and Institutional Delivery has increased from 68% (2015-16) to 82.3% (2019-21). Further, full immunization of children aged 12-23 months has increased from 55.8 % (2015-16) to 76.8 % (2019-21). As per the estimates of the earlier Planning Commission, percentage of ST people living below the poverty line in rural areas has declined from 62.3% in 2004-05 to 45.3% in 2011-12.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 782 for 26.07.2023 by DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA regarding “SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF TRIBALS”

Brief details of major schemes/programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the country:

(i) Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)/Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY): Under scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) 100% grants was provided to the State Governments for activities related to education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood, skill development, Ashram Schools, Boys and Girls Hostels, minor infrastructure, etc. to bridge the gap between Scheduled Tribe (ST) population and others as a critical gap filling measure. The Scheme has been revamped as Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY).

The Ministry has analyzed Mission Antyodaya data collated by Ministry of Rural Development and has identified 36,428 villages with 50% ST population and 500 STs to be covered under PMAAGY. The scheme envisaged to undertake the developmental activities in these villages mainly through convergence of funds available with different Ministries/Departments and State Government under TSP/DAPST and the funds from the scheme of PMAAGY would be used for gap filling. States are also be encouraged to supplement with State TSP funds, District Mineral Funds (DMF) and Finance Commission grants.

(ii) Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution: Under the Proviso to Article 275(1) of Constitution, Grants are released to 26 States, having ST population for raising the level of administration in Scheduled Areas and for the welfare of tribal people. This is a Special Area Programme and 100% grants are provided to States. Funds are released to the State Governments depending on the felt needs of ST population to bridge the gap in infrastructure activities in the fields of education, health, skill development, livelihood, drinking water, sanitation, etc.

(iii) Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): The scheme of Development of PVTGs covers 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes in 18 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for activities like education, housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs.

(iv) Grant-in Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes: Under the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the

welfare of Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry funds projects in the fields of education and health, covering residential schools, non-residential schools, hostels, mobile dispensaries, ten or more bedded hospitals, livelihood, etc.

(v) Pre-Matric Scholarships to ST students: The scheme is applicable to students who are studying in Classes IX –X. Parental income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. Scholarship of Rs.225/-per month for day scholars and Rs.525/-per month for hostellers is given for a period of 10 months in a year. Scholarship is disbursed through the State Government/UT Administration. Funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States except North East and Hills States/UT like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Central share.

(vi) Post Matric Scholarship to ST students: The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education. Parental income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. Compulsory fees charged by educational institutions are reimbursed subject to the limit fixed by the concerned State Fee fixation committee and scholarship amount of Rs.230 to Rs.1200 per month, depending upon the course of study is paid. The Scheme is implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States except NE and Hilly States/UT of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Central share.

(vii) National Overseas Scholarships for ST Candidates: The Scheme provides for financial assistance to selected students to pursue Post Graduation, PhD & Post-Doctoral study abroad. A total of 20 awards are given every year. Of these, 17 awards are for STs and 3 awards for students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Parental/family income from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum.

(viii) National Fellowship &Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students:

(a)National Scholarship– (Top class) Scheme [Graduate level]: The objective of the scheme is to encourage meritorious ST students for pursuing studies in prescribed courses in many institutions of excellence across the country like IITs, AIIMS, IIMs, NIITs, etc. identified by the Ministry. Family income from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum. Scholarship amount includes tuition fees, living expenses and allowances for books and computer.

(b) National Fellowship for ST students:750 fellowships are provided to ST students each year for pursuing higher studies in India for MPhil and PhD. Fellowship is granted as per UGC norms.

(ix) Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) were introduced in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education exclusively to

ST children with an objective to provide quality middle and high-level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors. In the Union Budget of 2018-19, Government announced that every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 ST persons will be eligible to have an Eklavya Model Residential School. A total number of 740 EMRSs are scheduled to be established. Eklavya schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.

(x) Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM): Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a Scheme ‘Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and Development of Value Chain for MFP (MSP for MFP)’ through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), since 2011 with the objective of providing safety net to ST MFP gatherers.

Ministry was implementing another scheme ‘Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products’ with 100 % grant to TRIFED and State Forest Development Corporations (SDCs) for development and marketing of tribal products.

PMJVM has been conceptualized with the merger of the above two Schemes i.e. “MSP for MFP” and ‘Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products’. PMJVM seeks to achieve livelihood driven tribal development through quality input, technology, credit and better marketing access etc. in the next five years.

(xi) Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs): Ministry extends support to the State Governments through the Scheme to set up new TRIs where it didn’t exist and to strengthen functioning of existing TRIs to carry out its core responsibility towards Research & Documentations, Training and capacity building, promotion of rich tribal heritage etc. To preserve tribal art and culture, financial assistance is provided to TRI’s to carry out various activities to preserve and promote tribal culture and heritage across the country through research and documentation, maintenance and preservation of art & artefacts, setting up of tribal museum, exchange visits for the tribals to other parts of the State, organizing tribal festivals etc. Funding under this Scheme is 100% grant-in-aid by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the TRIs on need basis with the approval of APEX Committee. TRIs prepare proposal and detailed action plan for the year along with budgetary requirement and submit it to the Ministry through State Tribal Welfare Department. Within the set of TRIs, there are cultural museum, library, training centre, research wing, etc.

(xii) Tribal Research Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE) : Through the scheme, promotion of rich tribal cultural heritage, dissemination of information and creation of awareness are given attention to which includes organization of Tribal Craft & Food Festivals, Sports, Music, Dance & Photo Competitions, Science, Art & Craft Expos, Workshops, Seminars, Production of documentary films by the Ministry & States, Bringing out Publications thereby highlighting significant studies, documenting historical facets of tribal communities, achievements of Ministry of Tribal

Affairs (MoTA) & State Departments besides other advertisements etc. at regular intervals. With a view to fill the gap of research studies on tribal issues, MoTA recognizes renowned NGOs, Research Institutes, Universities where expertise exist and which have already made a mark by carrying out pioneering research in the field of tribal cultures as Centre of Excellences (CoEs). It is envisaged that CoEs should play an important role in building knowledge bank to complement dedicated Activities of the Ministry.
