

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO- \*31  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 06/12/2023**

**VULNERABLE TRIBES**

**\*31 SHRI RAKESH SINHA:**

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of vulnerable tribes in general, and Meghalaya in particular, are facing problem of not only cultural identity but also economic exclusion due to their own psychological reasons;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to protect their identity and existence;
- (c) the reasons for continuously decreasing population of these tribes; and
- (d) whether there are any statistics to show the number of children in these tribes in the age group of zero to twelve (0-12), if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. \*31 for answer on 06.12.2023 tabled by Shri Rakesh Sinha regarding “Vulnerable tribes”**

**(a) & (b):** There are 75 groups of most vulnerable sections amongst the tribal communities who are classified as the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) spread over 18 States and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. There are no such identified PVTGs in State of Meghalaya.

For cultural preservation and promotion of tribes including PVTGs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is administrating the scheme of “Support of Tribal Research Institute” under which financial assistance is provided to the State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) for implementing various projects including preservation and promotion of their art, culture, practices and traditions based on the annual proposals submitted by the States / UT.

In so far as socio-economic development of PVTGs, this Ministry is implementing the Scheme of “Development of PVTGs” with the objective of overall socio-economic development and welfare of these most vulnerable sections among tribal people. Funds are provided to the concerned State Government / UT on the basis of their proposals for Conservation cum Development (CCD) plans. Besides development projects are undertaken by the States out of Tribal Sub-Plan funds.

Government has recently launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) that aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing a flagship scheme “Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)” to provide quality education to ST Students from class 6th to 12th. 5% seats in each of the EMRSs is reserved for PVTG students.

In the scheme of National Fellowship, 25 slots out of 750 slots are reserved for PVTG students. Under National Overseas Scholarship for ST students, 3 slots out of 20 slots are reserved for PVTG candidate.

**(c) & (d):** As the enumeration of tribes other than STs has not been done separately in any of the decadal Censuses since 1951 Census, the population figure/trend for the PVTGs communities as a whole is not available centrally. However, information, as provided by the Office of Registrar General of India, on the State-wise decadal population for PVTGs does not show decreasing population of these tribes. Further, such statistics to show the number of children in these tribes in the age group of zero to twelve (0-12) are not available.

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