

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2539
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/03/2025

INCLUSION OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

2539 SMT. MAHUA MAJI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of tribal beneficiaries of rural development schemes; and
- (b) the special initiatives being taken to ensure inclusion of tribal and marginalized communities in these schemes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

(a): The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is implementing a number of schemes/programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAYG), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) to alleviate poverty and to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural areas including tribal areas of the country. The percentage of tribal beneficiaries under these schemes/programmes are as under:-

- i. Under MGNREGS, tribal beneficiaries account for around 18% of the total beneficiaries on average, though this figure can vary depending on the state and specific region within India. The share of tribal beneficiaries is directly linked to the concentration of tribal populations in various states and districts.
- ii. Under PMAY-G, minimum 60% of the target at the national level is earmarked for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) households. To maintain this, 60% of the target allocated to each State/UT is earmarked for SC/STs, subject to availability of eligible PMAY-G beneficiaries in the Permanent Wait List (PWL). Within earmarked targets the proportion of SC and ST is to be decided from time to time by the respective States/UTs.
- iii. PMGSY is not a beneficiary oriented scheme and it covers the entire population of the habitations connected under the scheme.
- iv. Under DAY-NRLM, as of February 2025, 1.25 crore women members have been mobilized from Scheduled Tribes into 12.3 lakh SHGs, constituting 12.5% of the total Scheduled Tribe member mobilization.
- v. Under DDU-GKY, the average percentage of Scheduled Tribes (ST) trained to the total trained from the financial year 2014-15 till 2024-25 (as of February 2025) is 18.05%.

- vi. Under RSETIs, the average percentage of Scheduled Tribes (ST) trained to the total trained from the financial year 2021-22 to 2024-25 (up to 31st January 2025) is 14.5%.
- vii. Under NSAP, around 10% of Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries are being covered in the financial year 2024-25.
- viii. Under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, out of the total annual budget allocation, 10% is earmarked for Tribal Sub-Plan/Scheduled Tribe Component (STC), as per the national average percentage of ST population. Since WDC-PMKSY is an area development programme, all the people of the project area, including Scheduled Tribes (STs) are benefited through the interventions undertaken under the programme.

(b): To ensure the inclusion of tribal and marginalized communities several special initiatives have been implemented. MGNREGS ensures that both tribal men and women receive equal wages for the work they do, addressing the gender and social disparities often seen in rural areas. In tribal-dominated areas, special efforts are made to ensure that the works taken up under MGNREGS are suitable for tribal communities. This includes projects that are relevant to the local way of life and economic activities such as water conservation, forestry, and soil and water management. Various awareness programs and campaigns are conducted to educate tribal communities about their rights under the scheme, the types of work available, and how to apply for employment under MGNREGS. MGNREGS encourages work related to forest management, afforestation, and conservation activities, which directly benefit tribal communities who depend on forests for their livelihood.

Under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), the provision of pucca house to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) households is one of the interventions which is being implemented by the MoRD. The target is to provide financial assistance to 4.90 lakh PVTG beneficiaries in convergence with PMAY-G for the construction of pucca houses with basic amenities at Rs. 2.39 lakhs/house, including unit cost of Rs. 2 lakh with Rs 12,000/- for toilet construction in convergence with Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) and 90/95 days unskilled wages (Rs 27,000/- approx.) under MGNREGS. Under PMGSY, target length is 8,000 Km with a period of 5 years (2023-24 to 2027-28). So, far 4,831 Km has already been sanctioned under PM-JANMAN for Rs. 3,711 crore.

Further, under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA JGUA), the aim is to saturate infrastructural gaps in 63,843 villages, improving access to health, education, Anganwadi facilities and providing livelihood opportunities benefiting more than 5 crore tribals in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States/UTs in 5 years. The Abhiyan aims at saturation through convergence and outreach. PMAY-G is being implemented by MoRD under DA JGUA to achieve saturation of providing houses to eligible ST beneficiaries.

Under PMGSY, a new vertical named PMGSY-IV was launched on 11th September 2024 with a focus on providing all-weather connectivity to unconnected habitations of 500+ population in plain areas and 250 + population in North Eastern and Hill States/UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule-V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert Areas) and 100+ in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts as per Census 2011. The scheme will be implemented from 2024-25 to 2028-29 with a total outlay of Rs. 70,125 crore with a target to provide connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations. The Central Government is working in close coordination with the States to facilitate the submission of proposals under the scheme.

Under DAY-NRLM, the following initiatives have been taken to ensure inclusion of tribal and marginalised communities:

- As of February, 2025, over 10.05 crore households have been organized into approximately 90.90 lakh SHGs. Among these, 12.3 lakh SHGs are predominantly composed of ST members, reflecting a strong emphasis on inclusivity.
- DAY-NRLM has facilitated financial linkages for these SHGs, enabling access to credit and financial services.
- Recognizing the unique challenges faced by ST communities, DAY-NRLM has adopted the 'Dasa Sutra Strategy' to integrate health and nutrition into livelihood programs. This approach aims to create awareness and encourage behavior change among rural women regarding food, nutrition, health, and sanitation. It also mobilizes SHG members to access relevant public health entitlements.
- The mission has a special focus on the early inclusion of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable sections into SHGs. This inclusive approach has led to significant participation of ST members in Farm and Non Farm related livelihood generation activities.

In addition to this, DDU-GKY guidelines provide for earmarking 50% of the funds for SCs and STs. Under DDU-GKY, coverage of 15% minorities, 5% of Persons with Disabilities & 33% of women is mandatory. NSAP is a social security programme for the most vulnerable persons of our society living below poverty line, both in rural and urban areas irrespective of the category of the beneficiaries. Under the programme, the old aged, widows, and disabled persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and fulfilling eligibility criteria prescribed in the NSAP guidelines, are provided with financial assistance in form of pension. In the case of death of the breadwinner of such family, a lump sum assistance is also provided to the bereaved family. Under WDC-PMKSY, local communities are involved in planning and execution stages.
