

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -3804
ANSWERED ON – 25/03/2026

CONSTITUTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DNTs/NTs/SNTs

3804. SHRI SANJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs/NTs/SNTs) are presently not recognized as a separate constitutional category under Articles 15(4),15(5) and 16(4) of the Constitution of India, despite being historically stigmatized under the Criminal Tribes Acts;
- (b) whether Government admits that the continued forced dispersion of DNTs across SC, ST, OBC and open categories has resulted in systemic exclusion, denial of representation and erosion of targeted welfare; and
- (c) if so, the legal justification for not creating a distinct and exclusive classification for DNTs, despite repeated recommendations of national commissions and judicial observations on substantive equality?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

- (a) De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs/NTs/SNTs) are not recognized as a separate constitutional category under the Constitution of India.
- (b) & (c) The Government has taken steps for the welfare and development of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities. The Government constituted Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities in February, 2019 and started implementing the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of De-notified and Nomadic Tribes (SEED) for the welfare of DNTs/NTs/SNTs communities with the following four components:
- (i) Educational Empowerment (through government and non government agencies)
- (ii) Health through Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) of National Health Authority.
- (iii) Livelihoods through National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), State National Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs), and other government & non government agencies
- (iv) Land and housing through Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) and other government schemes.
