

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2247
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1.1.2018

PROBLEMS FACED BY TRIBALS

2247. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the tribals in the country live in sparsely populated hills and communications in the tribal areas remain tough and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the tribals need to be protected against leading isolated life, away from towns and cities, through a network of new roads and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the main problems of the tribals identified by the Government are poverty, indebtedness, literacy, bondage exploitation, disease and unemployment and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) & (b): As per Census 2011, the States in the North East have a very large population of Scheduled Tribes as compared to total population. More than half of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is concentrated in the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan. However, data relating to Scheduled Tribe habitations in sparsely populated hills is not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The overall socio-economic development of the tribal population along with preservation and promotion of traditional tribal cultural heritage is being done through different schematic interventions of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and other Ministries / Departments of Government of India. Also, various schemes / programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), etc., support development initiatives including connectivity of tribal areas / forest areas from their respective Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) components. Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides additives to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps.

(c) & (d): Over the years, the Central and State Governments have been taking various initiatives for socio-economic upliftment of tribal population of the country. This includes the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) strategy. This is a multi-pronged strategy which includes support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood, etc.

Data pertaining to decennial census, large scale sample surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and various other surveys conducted by different Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, reveal that there have been vast improvements in socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribes, for example, the percentage of STs below poverty

line in rural areas has improved from 47.4 % in 2009-10 to 45.3 % in 2011-12, literacy rate for STs has improved from 47.1% in 2001 to 59% in 2011 and, Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 57.0 (2005-06) to 44.4 (2015-16). However, there are still gaps as compared to figures of total population, as shown in the Table given below:

Indicators	Total population	Scheduled Tribes
Rural BPL(2011-12) (Tendulkar Method)	25.7%	45.3%
Literacy Rate: Census 2011	73.0%	59.0%
Infant Mortality Rate (number of infant deaths per 1000 live births during the year): National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), 2015-16	40.7	44.4

As regards unemployment, Employment - Unemployment Survey, 2015-16 conducted by Labour Bureau, has revealed that the Unemployment Rate (per 1000) in respect of STs (44) is less than the Unemployment Rate of overall population (50). Further, as regards indebtedness, as per All India Debt Investment Survey, 2013 of National Sample Survey Office, in rural India, among all social groups, 'Incidence of Indebtedness (IOI)' was lowest for ST households (16.9%) and also, 'Average Amount of Debt (AOD)' per household was lowest for ST households.

The list of the schemes / programmes being implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes (STs) is given at **Annexure**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) & (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2247 for 1.1.2018 regarding 'Problems faced by Tribals'

Schemes being implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for STs

S. No.	Name of the Scheme / Programme
1	Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Scheme (TSS) (hitherto known as SCA to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)).
2	Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India.
3	Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students.
4	Post Matric Scholarship for ST students.
5	Girls & Boys Hostels for STs.
6	Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Area.
7	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.
8	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students.
9	National Overseas Scholarship for ST Students.
10	Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP.
11	Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Corporative Corporations (STDCCs), etc. for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations.
12	Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs.
13	Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts.
14	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
15	Institutional support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products / Produce.
16	Equity Support to National /State Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporations.
17	Research Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festival and Others.
18	Grant-in-Aid to Tribal Research Institutes.