

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 248
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2017

UN REPORT ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

248. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the indigenous tribes in India suffer disproportionately high levels of poverty, illiteracy, poor health and human rights abuse, according to United Nations State of World's Indigenous Peoples Report and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether large dams and other infrastructural projects have displaced these indigenous tribes without adequate compensations and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether arbitrary actions have been taken against these people as a result of their mobilisation to defend their rights against Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is need for acceptance of their collective rights; and
- (e) steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): As per information available, the United Nations State of the World's Indigenous Peoples Report, 2009 reported that "Indigenous peoples all over the world continue to suffer from disproportionately high rates of poverty, health problems, crime and human abuses."

Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for overall development of STs across the country, which includes support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, skill development, livelihood, infrastructure, etc. Major part of infrastructure development and provision of basic amenities in tribal areas / regions in the country is carried out through various schemes / programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments concerned, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps.

Almost all developmental projects involve land acquisition, they result in displacement of people. Since large dams, etc., are constructed in remote areas mostly inhabited by tribal people, they are also affected. However, land and its management fall under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of States as provided under the Constitution of India (Seventh Schedule – List II – (State List) – Entry No. 18). Hence, data on people displaced due to construction of dams and other infrastructural projects is not maintained centrally. Tribal people, who are displaced due to construction of large dams and infrastructural projects are provided compensation in terms of the provisions of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

Further, arbitrary actions against the indigenous tribal people as a result of their mobilization to defend their rights against the Government relate to law and order matter, which falls within the purview of State Governments. Such details are not centrally maintained.