

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2032**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 19/12/2022

**ST LIST OF WEST BENGAL**

2032. DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received the representations from West Bengal regarding the inclusion of various communities/castes into the Central Government's Scheduled Tribes list;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Kol community from West Bengal has been included in the Central Government's Scheduled Tribes list;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) any initiatives/measures taken by the Government for the welfare of tribal community in the country including West Bengal during the last three years?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) & (b):** Yes sir, representations from West Bengal have been received, regarding inclusion of various communities/castes in Scheduled Tribes (ST) list of West Bengal. The Government of India has laid down the modalities for deciding the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying lists of Scheduled Tribes. As per the modalities, only those proposals which have been recommended and justified by the State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration concerned, can be processed further. Thereafter, it has to be concurred with by the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) before being considered for amendment legislation. All actions are taken as per these approved modalities.

**(c) & (d):** Kol community has not been included in the list of STs of West Bengal. On the proposal of State Government of West Bengal for including Kol in the list of STs, comments of Registrar General of India have been received which have been sent to the State Government.

**(e):** The Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for the development of tribal population and to bring them into the mainstream of development. Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), now called Scheduled Tribe Component (STC), is a dedicated source of fund for tribal development and conservation and promotion of tribal culture, language and traditions. STC is a multi-pronged strategy which includes support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood etc. Major part of infrastructure development in tribal dominated areas and provision

of basic amenities to tribal people 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 (MoTA) provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging gaps through its schemes, which are as follows:

1. Revamping of the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme as Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana to enable holistic development of the tribal population.
2. The dedicated Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups for important gap filling activities for the survival, protection and development of PVTGs and which are not specifically catered to by any other scheme.
3. The “Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India” which is aimed to enable the States to meet the cost of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by the State for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in that State or raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas therein to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State.
4. The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) enables ST students from Classes 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.
5. The Ministry administers five scholarship schemes, catering to students studying in classes 9<sup>th</sup> till Post-Doctoral Research, including for studying abroad in accordance with the guidelines of the concerned scheme.
6. The scheme of grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of scheduled tribes has the prime objective to enhance the reach of welfare schemes of the Government and fill gaps in the sectors such as education and health in service deficient tribal areas through the efforts of voluntary organizations.
7. ‘Support to Tribal Research Institute (TRI)’ aims to strengthen Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in various activities.
8. The scheme of Tribal Festival, Research Information and Mass Education utilizes the expertise of reputed organizations, research institutes, universities to create replicable models in areas of education, health, livelihood, digital governance etc.
9. The scheme of Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North Eastern Region has been recently introduced, to be implemented for a period of two years, with TRIFED as the nodal agency for the same.
10. The schemes of the Ministry have now been merged into the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission viz (a) ‘Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce and Development of the Value Chain for MFP’ and (b) the scheme of Institutional Support to TRIFED for Marketing Development and Marketing of Tribal Products.

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