GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *197

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14TH MARCH, 2023/ PHALGUNA 23, 1944 (SAKA)

NAXAL AFFECTED DISTRICTS

†*197. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current number of naxal affected districts in the country particularly in Jharkhand;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to take any concrete steps to free the said districts and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether any steps are likely to be taken by the Government in future for the said purpose;
- (d) the present status of the schemes run by the Government in naxal affected areas; and
- (e) whether the Government inspects the said areas by constituting special team?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION 197 FOR 14/03/2023 REGARDING "NAXAL AFFECTED DISTRICTS"

(a) to (c): To address the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) menace holistically, Government of India (GoI) approved 'National Policy and Action Plan to address LWE' in 2015. The Policy envisages a multi-pronged strategy involving security related measures, development interventions, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities, etc. Steadfast implementation of this policy has resulted in consistent decline in LWE violence across the nation.

The number of LWE related violent incidents have come down by 77% in 2022 in comparison of high of 2010. The number of resultant deaths (Security Forces + Civilians) have also reduced by 90 % from all time high of 1005 in 2010 to 98 in 2022.

Geographical spread of violence has significantly reduced and only 176 Police Stations of 45 districts reported LWE violence in 2022 as compared to high of 465 Police Stations of 96 districts in 2010. Decline in geographical spread is also reflected in the reduced number of districts covered under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme. Number of SRE districts reduced from 126 to 90 in April 2018 and further to 70 in July 2021.

There has also been considerable improvement in security situation in Jharkhand. Existing security vacuum in the state has been almost filled. Places like Burha Pahar, area of Tri Junction of West Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan and Khunti and Parasnath Hills have been freed from Maoist presence through establishment of camps and sustained operations by security forces. The number of violent incidents in Jharkhand reduced by 82% from a high of 742 incidents in 2009 to 132 incidents in 2022. The numbers of SRE districts in Jharkhand have also reduced from 19 in 2018 to 16 in 2021. Details of SRE districts are given in Annexure-I.

(d) & (e): Gol provides assistance for capacity building of LWE affected States through various schemes of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and schemes/ initiatives of other line Ministries. Special emphasis is laid on expansion of road network, improving telecommunications, educational empowerment and financial inclusion in LWE affected areas. MHA works in close coordination with all the Ministries of Gol to ensure optimum implementation of these schemes in LWE affected areas.

Review meetings are taken by the Union Home Minister regularly to review LWE scenario. Meetings and visits by other senior officers are being undertaken to ensure expeditious completion and monitoring of the works under various schemes. Details of schemes are given in Annexure II.

LIST OF DISTRICTS COVERED UNDER THE SRE SCHEME FOR LWE AFFECTED STATES

S. No.	State	Number of Districts	Name of Districts
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	Alluri Sitharama Raju, East Godavari, Parvathipuram
			Manyam, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam
2	Bihar	10	Aurangabad, Banka, Gaya, Jamui, Kaimur,
			Lakhisarai, Munger, Nawada, Rohtas, West
			Champaran
3	Chhattisgarh	14	Balrampur, Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada, Dhamtari,
			Gariyaband, Kanker, Kondagaon, Mahasamund,
			Narayanpur, Rajnandgaon, Sukma, Kabirdham,
			Mungeli
4	Jharkhand	16	Bokaro, Chatra, Dhanbad, Dumka, East
			Singhbhum, Garhwa, Giridih, Gumla, Hazaribagh,
			Khunti, Latehar, Lohardaga, Palamu, Ranchi,
			Saraikela-Kharaswan, West Singhbhum
5	Kerala	3	Malappuram, Palakkad, Wayanad
6	Madhya Pradesh	3	Balaghat, Mandla, Dindori
7	Maharashtra	2	Gadchiroli, Gondia
8	Odisha	10	Bargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput,
			Malkangiri, Nabrangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada,
			Sundargarh
9	Telangana	6	Adilabad, Bhadradri-Kothagudem, Jayashankar-
			Bhupalpally, Komaram-Bheem, Mancherial, Mulugu
10	West Bengal	1	Jhargram
	Total	70	

SCHEMES/ INITIATIVES FOR LWE AFFECTED AREAS MHA

- 1. <u>Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme</u>. Under the SRE Scheme, expenditure on operational requirements of security forces, rehabilitation of surrendered LWE cadres, community policing and ex-gratia etc is carried out. Rs 1,446 Crore has been provided to the State Governments since 2018-19 under this scheme.
- 2. <u>Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)</u>. Under this scheme, projects/works worth Rs 371 Crore have been approved for upgradation and strengthening of Special Forces /Special Intelligence Branches along with construction of 250 Fortified Police Stations in LWE affected areas with a cost of Rs 620 Crore. The scheme has now been extended upto 31 March 2026 with an additional outlay of Rs 1160 Crore for new works. Rs 175 Crore has been released to states since 2018-19.
- 3. <u>Special Central Assistance (SCA) Scheme for the Most LWE Affected Districts</u>. This scheme is used to fill critical gaps in public infrastructure and services in most affected districts/ districts of concern. Under this scheme, Rs 3,054 Crore has been released to the States since 2018-19.
- 4. <u>Assistance to Central Agencies for LWE Management (ACALWEMS)</u>. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for basic structure of camps and for provisioning of helicopters for counter LWE operations. Rs 760 Crore has been provided to Central Agencies through this scheme since 2018-19.
- 5. <u>Media Plan</u>. Under this scheme, funds are provided for Tribal Youth Exchange Programs (TYEP), radio programs, LWE related documentaries etc and for spreading awareness about government initiatives/ schemes. The scheme has been extended upto 2025-26 with an enhancement in annual outlay from Rs. 7.5 Crore to Rs. 10 Crore per annum. Rs 31.93 Crore has been released under the scheme since 2018-19.
- 6. <u>Civic Action Program (CAP) in LWE Affected areas.</u> Under the scheme, funds are released to the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in LWE affected areas for conducting various civic activities for welfare of local people. This scheme has been extended upto 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs. 20.00 Crore per annum. Rs 85.22 Crore have been released since 2018-19 under the scheme.

Schemes/ Initiatives of Other Line Ministries

7. Road Requirement Plan-I (RRP-I). This scheme is being implemented through Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) since February, 2009 for improving road connectivity in LWE affected areas. 5,361 km roads were sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.8,585 Crore. 5,082 km roads (95%) have been constructed.

- 8. Road Connectivity Project For LWE Affected Areas (RCPLWEAs). This scheme is being implemented through Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) since 2016-17 with an outlay of Rs 12,114 Crore. 12,110 km roads (1342 roads and 705 bridges) have been sanctioned, out of which 7,140 km roads (570 roads and 251 bridges) have been completed.
- 9. <u>Mobile Connectivity Project in LWE Affected Districts</u>. 2343 mobile towers have been installed with an expenditure of Rs 4081 Crore. Union Cabinet has approved the upgradation of these 2G sites to 4G in April 2022 and work for upgradation has been awarded in November 2022. Installation of another 4072 mobile towers has been approved involving an expenditure of Rs 7,330 Crore. Post survey, work order has been issued for 2542 mobile towers.
- 10. <u>Skill Development Scheme in 47 LWE Affected Districts</u>. The scheme is being implemented through Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) since 2011 for establishment of 01 Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in 47 districts and 02 Skill Development Centers (SDCs) in 34 districts, with an estimated cost of Rs. 407.85 Crore. 43 ITIs and 38 SDCs are presently functional.
- 11. <u>Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) and Jawahar Nava Vidyalava (JNV)</u>. 11 KVs and 06 JNVs were sanctioned to ensure that all erstwhile most LWE affected districts had coverage of KV and JNV.
- 12. **Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)**. This scheme is being implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). 245 EMRSs have been sanctioned in 90 LWE affected districts with 121 functional. Out of these, 159 have been sanctioned and 65 made functional since May 2019.
- 13. **Financial Inclusion**. 4903 Post Offices have been opened in LWE affected areas since 2015. Out of these, 3114 have been opened in 2021-22. 1258 bank branches, 1348 ATMs and 22,202 banking correspondents have also been made functional in last eight years.
