

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO- \*460**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 03/04/2023

**DEVELOPMENT OF ST IN KERALA**

\*460. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the amount allocated by the Government for the development of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala for the year 2020-22;
- (b) the details of the amount allocated for the education of Scheduled Tribes in districts of Kerala including Kottayam during the last five years;
- (c) the difficulties faced by the tribals in getting caste certificate and its verification; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to simplify the said process?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

**(a) to (d):** A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. \*460 for answer on 03.04.2023**

**(a) to (b):** Government of Kerala informed that Rs. 635.43 crore in 2020-21 and Rs. 630.78 crore in 2021-22 have been allocated by the Union Government and Government of Kerala for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala.

Funds are released by the Union Government to the States/UTs based on the proposal submitted by them. Ministries/Departments do not provide funds directly to the districts, however, as informed by Government of Kerala, they have allocated funds to the districts of the state including Kottayam for education to the tune of Rs.170.13 crore, Rs.123.00 crore, Rs.147.50 crore and Rs.163.38 crore during the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively.

**(c) to (d):** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for issuance of Notification of a community as Scheduled Tribe under Article 342 of the Constitution.

Two directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are relevant in this regard.

- i. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its decision dated 28-11-2000 in case No. 652 of 2000 (Civil Appeal No. 2294 of 1986) **State of Maharashtra Vs. Milind** regarding order issued under Article 341 and 342 of Constitution had held (refer Para 29 of the decision) which inter-alia states as under: -

*“STs Order must be read as it is. It is not even permissible to say that a tribe, sub-tribe, part of or group of any tribe or tribal community is synonymous to the one mentioned in STs Order, if they are not so specifically mentioned in it.”*

- ii. As per directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in decision dated 02.09.1994 in case of **Kumari Madhuri Patil & Others** vs. Addl. Commissioner, Tribal Development Department (State of Maharashtra) and Others, each State Government has to set up Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee to validate certificate issued to a person by District Authorities and also verify caste status of claimant on receipt of a complaint or a request from Government/ appointing authorities. Further, Caste certificate holder has to get his/her certificate validated from Committee before applying for any benefits from Government.

Therefore, the responsibility for issuance of Scheduled Tribe Certificate and verification of social status rests with the concerned State Government / Union Territory Administration and the 'State Government Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee', as per said guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

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