

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1679
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2023

PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS

1679. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether new tribal groups have been added to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) category and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the PVTGs have lost their land or have been displaced for the developmental purpose, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is running any programme for decreasing the vulnerability of these groups;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a): In 1975, 52 groups were identified as the Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) being the most vulnerable tribal groups and in 1993, 23 more groups added to Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) category, bringing total number to 75. In 2006, PTGs renamed as Particularly Vulnerable Tribes Groups (PVTGs). New tribal groups have not been added to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) category after 1993.

(b): Land and its management falls 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)]. The data about land acquisition is not maintained at Central level. Whenever land is acquired for any Infrastructure project, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure compliance of The RFCTLARR Act, 2013. Section 4 (5) of the FRA, 2006 also provides safeguards which reads that "Save as otherwise provided, no member of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or Other Traditional Forest Dweller shall be evicted or removed from Forest Land under his occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete". Further, under Section 3 (r) (ii) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, 'land owner' includes any person who is granted forest rights under the FRA, 2006 (2 of 2007) or under any other law for the time being in force.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a Scheme “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” with the objective of overall socio-economic development and welfare of these most vulnerable sections among tribal people. Funds are provided to the concerned State Government / UT on the basis of their proposals in diverse sectors i.e. education, housing, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, conservation of culture and traditional practices or any other innovative activity with respect to these identified 75 PVTG communities in the nature of gap filling intervention besides interventions undertaken by the States out of Tribal Sub-Plan funds. Further, under Grants under Article 275(1) of Constitution, funds are given to the states for the development of tribal and tribal areas including PVTGs.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing a flagship scheme “Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)’ to provide quality education to ST Students from class 6th to 12th. 5% seats in each of the EMRSs is reserved for PVTG students.

Section 3(1)(e) of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 provides recognition of forest rights including rights of habitat and habitation for primitive tribal groups (now called the PVTGs) and pre- agricultural communities.

In the scheme of National Fellowship, 25 slots out of 750 slots are reserved for PVTG students. Under National Overseas Scholarship for ST students, 3 slots out of 20 slots are reserved for PVTG candidate.

(e): In view of (c) & (d), it does not arise.
