

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †1789
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2023

TRIBAL COMMUNITIES LIVING IN FOREST AREAS

†1789. SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:

SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had conducted/proposed to conduct any study/survey to find out the number of people belonging to various tribal communities living in forest areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the basis/criteria adopted by the Government to start the welfare schemes for the tribal people?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

(a) to (b): The Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India conducts decennial Census to ascertain the population of the country including population of various tribal communities. In Census, Scheduled Tribe Population is also tabulated separately and made available in the link (<https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/data/census-tables>).

(c): Government is implementing Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) now known as Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) as a strategy for the development of Scheduled Tribes and areas having tribal concentration. Besides Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 41 Ministries/Departments are allocating certain percentage of their total scheme budget every year for tribal development under DAPST for various tribal development projects relating to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, electrification, employment generation, skill development, etc. State Governments are also supposed to earmark TSP funds in proportion to ST population (Census 2011) in the State with respect to total State Plan.

The Government has also taken various initiatives to ensure social inclusion such as reservation in education and employment, representation in Lok Sabha, State legislatures and Rural and Urban Local Bodies, subsidized credit facilities, entrepreneurship development and other infrastructure developmental programmes etc. by increasing allocations under various programmes and also bringing new programmes like schemes of start-up India and stand-up India, PM MUDRA, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, etc.

Further, apart from Constitutional safeguards, steps have been taken to safeguard the interest of tribal people through enactment of various laws such as The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, The Schedules Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, etc.
