

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- †*107
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2023

RESERVATION OF TRIBAL TRADITIONS

†*107. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to preserve tribal traditions, culture and customs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to conversion there has been an adverse impact on tribal traditions, culture and customs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including steps taken by the Government to stop conversion;
- (e) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to stop conversion of tribal community in the country particularly in Jharkhand as conversion is a big issue in tribal dominated States;
- (f) whether the Government has any data of tribals converted in Jharkhand during the last five years; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. †*107 for answer on 11.12.2023

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken various steps to preserve tribal traditions, culture and customs through Centrally Sponsored Schemes of “Support to Tribal Research Institute” and Central Sector Scheme “Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events” under which various activities are undertaken to conserve and promote tribal culture, archives, artifacts, customs and traditions of the tribal communities. Under the scheme “Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)”, Ministry has sanctioned various projects to the Tribal Research Institutes of the States/UTs towards various activities for socio-cultural and economic development of the tribal communities including preservation of their cultural heritage and protection of the indigenous faith, practices, unique ideas and knowledge and of tribal people in diverse form. There are 28 Tribal Research Institutes in States/UTs and National Tribal Research Institute in Delhi. Some of the initiatives worth mentioning are as under:

- i. To acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal people and to exhibit rich tribal cultural heritage of the region, Ministry has sanctioned 10 Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums.
- ii. The Ethnographic Museum under the States’ TRIs have been sanctioned to preserve and showcase rare artifacts related to life and culture of various tribes.
- iii. Tribal Research Institutes have organized different events like National Tribal Craft Mela, National/State Tribal Dance Festival, Art Competition, Workshop – cum – Exhibition on Tribal paintings and state level tribal poet and writers meet. For promoting the unique tribal heritage, Ministry has sanctioned fund to organize the tribal fairs & festivals, festival like "Medaram Jathara" undertaken by the Koya Tribe of Telangana, Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, Sarhul Festival of Jharkhand, Lokotsav of Goa and Pawl Kut festival of Mizoram, etc.
- iv. Ministry has developed searchable digital repository where all research papers, books, reports and documents, folks songs, photos/videos are uploaded. The repository currently has more than 10,000 photographs, videos and publications which are mostly done by Tribal Research Institutes.
- v. Under the scheme “Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)”, reputed research institutes/organizations/universities have undertaken various research studies/publication of books/documentation including audio visual documentaries to fill the gap of research studies on tribal issues and Promotion of rich tribal cultural, traditions and customs as well as capacity building of tribal persons/institutions associated with tribal affairs, dissemination of information and creation of awareness. Tribal cultural exchange programmes was also sanctioned. Research and documentation of indigenous practices by tribal healers and medicinal plants, tribal languages, agriculture system, dances and paintings, organization of literary festivals, publication of books written by tribal writers/ authors, translation works and literature competitions, were undertaken under the scheme. Military Tattoo and Tribal Dance Festival was organized in January 2023 to exhibit the various dance performances by tribal communities showcasing the beauty of India’s diverse tribal culture from across India.
- vi. Government of India has declared 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to honour all the tribal freedom fighters and for remembering and acknowledging their contribution to the freedom struggle and cultural heritage, and to re-energize the efforts for the socio-economic

development of the tribal regions. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with others central ministries, state governments and other institutions are celebrating the glorious history of its tribal people, culture and achievements since 2021.

- vii. Development of bilingual Primers for preservation of tribal languages and enhancement of learning achievement level amongst the Scheduled Tribe Students. Many language primers have been developed by various State Governments.
- viii. Tribal dances are reflection of culture embodying the history, beliefs and tradition of people. These dances are very close to life and nature. Military Tattoo and Tribal Dance Festival was organized in January 2023 to exhibit the various dance performances by tribal communities showcasing the beauty of India's diverse tribal culture from across India. Tribal Dance presentation on January 23 & 24, 2023 is at **Annexure-I**. State-wise list of dances, which are preserved and promoted through their participation in various cultural events/other events is at **Annexure-II**.

The Ministry of Culture is the nodal Ministry for promotion of culture including tribal culture.

Further, there are adequate constitutional and statutory safeguards for protection, preservation, conservation and promotion of tribal culture, traditions and customs. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the establishment of Tribal Advisory Councils in States with Scheduled Areas. Further, it provides for Special Powers of the Governor in such States. The Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 similarly provides for extensive authority of the Gram Sabhas/Gram Panchayats to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs and their cultural identity. The Sixth Schedule, applicable in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, empowers the District and Regional Councils in matters of social customs.

(c) to (e): 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Hence, prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of offences related to religious conversions are primarily the concerns of the State Government/ Union Territory (UT) Administration. Action is taken as per existing laws by the law enforcing agencies whenever instances of violation come to notice.

(f): Figures about religious conversion are not being maintained Centrally

(g): Does not arise in view of (f).

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. †* 107 for answer on 11.12.2023

Tribal Dance presentation on January 23 & 24, 2023

S.No.	Name of State	Name of Art Form
1	Mizoram	Cherow
2	Chhattisgarh	Gaur Maria
3	Kerala	Irula
4	UT of Ladakh	Balti
5	Tamilnadu	Palaiyar
6	Jharkhand	Paika
7	Telangana/ Andhra Pradesh	Lambadi
8	Andhra Pradesh	Budigali
9	Jharkhand	Karma
10	UT of Jammu and Kashmir	Mangho
11	Madhya Pradesh	Baiga Pardhoni
12	Gujarat	Siddhi Dhamal
13	Arunachal Pradesh	Rikhampada
14	Telangana	Gussadi
15	Himachal Pradesh	Gaddi Nati
16	Meghalaya	Ka Shad Masti
17	Assam	Bagurumba
18	Maharashtra	Songi Mukhote
19	West Bengal	Purulia Chhau
20	Gujarat	Rathwa

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. †*107 for answer on 11.12.2023

Annexure-II

Illustrative State wise list of dances

Sl. No.	Name of Tribal Dance	State
1.	Popir	Arunachal Pradesh
2.	Rekham Pada	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Gumrag	Assam
4.	Mishawa	Assam
5.	Bagurumba	Assam
6.	Talwar Nrutya	Gujarat
7.	Kahadiya	Gujarat
8.	Rathwa	Gujarat
9.	Wangala	Meghalaya
10.	Kashad Mastieh	Meghalaya
11.	Birli	Odisha
12.	Dhemsā	Odisha
13.	Biha	Odisha
14.	Wija Pandum	Odisha
15.	Benta	Odisha
16.	Rinjodi	Odisha
17.	Budigali	Odisha
18.	Hojagiri	Tripura
19.	Mamita	Tripura
20.	Karam Thapadi	Jharkhand
