

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 356
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 05/02/2024

CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES

356. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced any scheme/plan/mission/initiative to address the climate change challenges in tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the details of such scheme/plan/mission/initiative and the status of their implementation, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the current status of special allocation of funds for climate change initiatives in tribal areas through Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) in FY 2021-22 and 2022-23, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) the total percentage of the overall budget of the Ministry that has been specifically designated for climate change-related projects in tribal and rural regions through ITDAs over the last three years; and
- (e) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has put forward any submission/research/ proposal regarding the impact of climate change on tribal areas in the State, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b): The Government of India stands committed to combat climate change challenges. As per allocation of Business Rules, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal Ministry for climate Change including climate change challenges in tribal areas. As informed by MoEFCC, the Government is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which is the overarching policy framework and comprises of national missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan eco-system, sustainable habitat, health, green India, and strategic knowledge on climate change. The NAPCC is being implemented on pan India basis considering India's commitment under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement. Further, 34 States/Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) consistent with the objectives of NAPCC.

In addition, the Government has launched many schemes and programs to scale up India's action on both, the adaptation and mitigation, which envisages to take appropriate measures across many sectors including

water, agriculture, forest, energy, sustainable mobility, housing, waste management, circular economy, and resource efficiency, etc.

Besides, Government has enacted Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA) wherein under Section 3(1)(i), Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and Other Traditionally Forest Dwellers (OTFD) enjoy the rights to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use. Further, Section 5 of FRA empowers the holders of any forest right, Gram Sabha and village level institutions in areas where there are holders of any forest right under this Act to –

- (a) protect the wild life, forest and biodiversity;
- (b) ensure that adjoining catchments area, water sources and other ecological sensitive areas are adequately protected;
- (c) ensure that the habitat of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers is preserved from any form of destructive practices affecting their cultural and natural heritage;
- (d) ensure that the decisions taken in the Gram Sabha to regulate access to community forest resources and stop any activity which adversely affects the wild animals, forest and the biodiversity are complied with.

(c) & (d): Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), now called as Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) is a dedicated source of fund for tribal development. Besides Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), 42 Ministries / Departments including MoEFCC are allocating certain percentage of their total scheme budget every year. During last 3 years i.e. 2021-22 to 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 152 cr , 165 cr and Rs 159 Crore has been allocated under DAPST in different schemes aimed at protecting environment, wildlife, natural resources , wildlife habitat including climate change, National Mission for Himalayan studies etc. The details of funds allocated can be seen at stemis.gov.in.

(e): MoEFCC has informed that no proposal regarding the impact of climate change on tribal areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Climate Change Division.

*****.