

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†3265
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2019

FOREST VILLAGE IN GUJARAT

†3265. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of forest villages in Gujarat at present;
- (b) the laid-down criterion for declaring forest village;
- (c) the development work being done in these forest villages; and
- (d) the amount spent thereon during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) : As per the information provided by Government of Gujarat, there were 196 Forest Settlement villages in the State of Gujarat. All villages, except 14 villages in Protected Areas have been declared as Revenue Villages.

(b) : Section 2 (f) of ‘The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 provides that “forest village” means the settlements which have been established inside the forests by the forest department of any State Government for forestry operations or which were converted into forest villages through the forest reservation process and includes forest settlement villages, fixed demand holdings, all types of taungya settlements by whatever name called, for such villages and includes lands for cultivation and other uses permitted by the Government.

(c) & (d): Development work like road, drinking water, school, electrification, sanitation, etc are done in forest settlement villages by the respective line Departments and Forest Department of State Governments. Total fund utilized by Forest Department of Gujarat in the Forest settlement villages during last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Year	Funds utilized
1.	2016-17	Rs. 223.98
2.	2017-18	Rs. 232.45
3.	2018-19	Rs. 42.02
