

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3339
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

LIVING CONDITION OF TRIBALS

†3339. SHRI BHOLANATH (B.P. SAROJ):

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the living conditions of the tribals have not improved during the last several years in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the benefits of schemes meant for tribals have not reached them as per planned;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the system formulated for effective implementation of various schemes for socio-economic development of tribals in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Data pertaining to decennial Census, management information system, sample surveys conducted by different Ministries / Departments of Government of India, reveal that over the years there have been considerable improvements in living conditions of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), for example, literacy rate for STs has improved from 47.1% in 2001 to 59% in 2011. Further, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report (July 2018 - June 2019) reveals that literacy rate for STs increased to 69.4%. According to Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) Plus reports published by Ministry of Education, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for ST students at Senior Secondary (classes IX-X) level has increased from 62.4% in 2012-13 to 76.7% in 2019-20. Transition rate of ST students from Secondary to higher secondary (X to XI) level has increased to 62.7 in 2018-19 from 57.0 in 2015-16. As per National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in respect of Scheduled Tribes, Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 62.1 (2005-06) to 44.4 (2015-16); Under Five Mortality Rate has declined from 95.7 (2005-06) to 57.2 (2015-16), and Institutional Delivery has increased from 17.7% in 2005-06 to 68.0 % in 2015-16. Further, percentage of Underweight (weight-for age) ST children under age five years has declined from 54.5 in 2005-06 to 45.3 in 2015-16. Erstwhile Planning Commission estimated that percentage of ST people living below the poverty line in rural areas has declined from 62.3% in 2004-05 to 45.3% in 2011-12. Also, percentage of ST people living below the poverty line in urban areas has declined from 35.5% in 2004-05 to 24.1% in 2011-12. However, there are still gaps in human development indicators between STs and all India population.

(e) to (f): Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken various steps for monitoring and effective implementation of schemes / programmes for the development of the ST population. These include:-

- Release of funds to States under the schemes are made through PFMS platform.
- Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds as per provisions of GFR.
- Progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained.

- During Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meetings the information on the progress on implementation of previous sanctioned projects is discussed in details and updated status is ascertained from the State Government officials.
- Review Meetings/ Conferences are convened at the Central level with State officials for ensuring timely submission of proposals, speeding up of implementation of the schemes/ programmes, and reviewing the physical and financial progress.
- Mandatory Annual Inspection of NGO projects by District Authorities.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has inter-alia developed an online portal “ADIGRAMS” to ensure effective planning, management and implementation of five schemes/grants of Ministry of Tribal Affairs i.e., “Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme(SCA to TSS)”, Conservation-cum-Development of PVTGs”, “Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP (MSP for MFPs)”, “Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Produce” and “Grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution. The portal is meant to capture necessary data and information for monitoring of the schemes/grants.
- For monitoring of Tribal Sub Plan(TSP) / Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) funds of Central Ministries / Departments, based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog, an online monitoring system has been put in place with web address: <https://stcmis.gov.in/>. Further, nodal officer has been nominated in the line Ministries / Departments for coordination and monitoring of TSP / STC funds.
- NITI Aayog and Ministry of Tribal Affairs conduct evaluation studies of the schemes from time to time.
