

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †5237
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 04/04/2022

EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY

†5237. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a) the names of the scheme being implemented by the Government for the empowerment of tribal communities in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the main objectives of these schemes along with achievements made so far in this regard;
- (c) the number of tribal communities benefited from these schemes so far; and
- (d) the improvements witnessed so far in the living standard of the tribal people?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing various schemes/programmes for the empowerment and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes in the country. Details of the schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry are given at **Annexure- I**.

Besides Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 40 Central Ministries / Departments have been obligated by NITI Aayog for earmarking in the range of 4.3 to 17.5 percent of their total Scheme allocation every year as Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)/Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) funds for tribal development. TSP funds are spent by different Central Ministries / Departments under their schemes for various development projects relating to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, drinking water, electrification, employment generation, skill development, etc. for accelerated socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes in the country.

The year-wise beneficiaries under some Schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs during last three years are given at **Annexure II**.

(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 2019 - June 2020) reveals that literacy rate for STs increased to 70.1%. According to Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) Plus reports published by Ministry of Education, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for ST students at Secondary (classes IX-X) level has increased from 62.4% in

2012-13 to 76.7% in 2019-20. 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.

Annexure I referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. † 5237 for 04.04.2022 by SHRI NIHAL CHAND regarding “EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY”

Brief details of Schemes/Programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the country:

(i) Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution: Under the Proviso to Article 275(1) of Constitution, Grants are released to 26 States, having ST population for raising the level of administration in Scheduled Areas and for the welfare of tribal people. This is a Special Area Programme and 100% grants are provided to States. Funds are released to the State Governments depending on the felt needs of ST population to bridge the gap in infrastructure activities in the fields of education, health, skill development, livelihood, drinking water, sanitation, etc.

(ii) Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) were introduced in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education exclusively to ST children with an objective to provide quality middle and high-level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors. In the Union Budget of 2018-19, Government announced that every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 ST persons will be eligible to have an Eklavya Model Residential School. Eklavya schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.

(iii) Grant-in Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes: Under the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry funds projects in the fields of education and health, covering residential schools, non-residential schools, hostels, mobile dispensaries, ten or more bedded hospitals, etc.

(iv) Pre-Matric Scholarships to ST students: The scheme is applicable to students who are studying in Classes IX –X. Parental income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. Scholarship of Rs.225/-per month for day scholars and Rs.525/-per month for hostellers is given for a period of 10 months in a year. Scholarship is disbursed through the State Government/UT Administration. Funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States except North East and Hills States/UT like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Central share.

(v) Post Matric Scholarship to ST students: The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education. Parental income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. Compulsory fees charged by educational institutions are reimbursed subject to the limit fixed by the concerned State Fee fixation committee and scholarship amount of Rs.230 to Rs.1200 per month, depending upon the course of study is paid. The Scheme is implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States except NE and Hilly States/UT of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Central share.

(vi) National Overseas Scholarships for ST Candidates: The Scheme provides for financial assistance to selected students to pursue Post Graduation, PhD & Post-Doctoral study abroad. A total of 20 awards are

given every year. Of these, 17 awards are for STs and 3 awards for students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Parental/family income from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum.

(vii) National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students:

(a) National Scholarship– (Top class) Scheme [Graduate level]: The objective of the scheme is to encourage meritorious ST students for pursuing studies in prescribed courses in any of the 246 institutions of excellence across the country like IITs, AIIMS, IIMs, NIITs, etc. identified by the Ministry. Family income from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum. Scholarship amount includes tuition fees, living expenses and allowances for books and computer.

(b) National Fellowship for ST students: 750 fellowships are provided to ST students each year for pursuing higher studies in India for MPhil and PhD. Fellowship is granted as per UGC norms.

(viii) Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)/Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY): Under scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) 100% grants is provided to the State Governments for activities related to education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood, skill development, Ashram Schools, Boys and Girls Hostels, minor infrastructure, etc. to bridge the gap between Scheduled Tribe (ST) population and others as a critical gap filling measure. The Scheme has been revamped as Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY).

The Ministry has analysed Mission Antyodaya data collated by Ministry of Rural Development and has identified 36,428 villages with 50% ST population and 500 STs to be covered under PMAAGY. Relevant schemes of different Central Ministries have been identified based on Tribal Sub Plan allocation. States would also be encouraged to supplement with State TSP funds, District Mineral Funds (DMF) and Finance Commission grants. Under PMAAGY, 20.38 lakh per village as 'Gap-filling' for approved activities including administrative expenses will be provided by the Ministry.

(ix) Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): The scheme of Development of PVTGs covers 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes in 18 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for activities like education, housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs.

(x) Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM): Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a Scheme 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and Development of Value Chain for MFP (MSP for MFP)' through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), since 2011 with the objective of providing safety net to ST MFP gatherers.

Ministry is implementing another scheme 'Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products' with 100 % grant to TRIFED and State Forest Development Corporations (SDCs) for development and marketing of tribal products.

PMJVM has been conceptualized with the merger of the above two Schemes i.e. "MSP for MFP" and 'Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products'. PMJVM seeks to achieve

livelihood driven tribal development through quality input, technology, credit and better marketing access etc. in the next five years.

(xi) Monitoring, Evaluation, Survey and Social Audit (MESSA): The Ministry is responsible for monitoring of Central and State Schedule Tribe Component as per framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog. Ministry has initiated end to end digitization of data bases of various schemes and has developed scheme specific portals. Still there is scope for strengthening the monitoring and evaluation framework through digital and physical verification of the projects. Ministry is revamping the scheme with the establishment of a Central PMU to monitor the scheme and non-scheme initiatives of the ministry, which will coordinate with State level PMUs.

(xii) Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) / Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes (VCF – ST): NSTFDC was started by the Ministry in 2001 to extend financial assistance at concessional rates to Scheduled Tribes Individuals / Self Help Groups, Co-operative society for undertaking income generation activities. The authorized share capital of NSTFDC stands at Rs 750.00 crore, which has already been provided completely by Government. Now, the Scheme of ‘VCF-ST’ has been conceptualized by the Ministry with a corpus fund of Rs 50.00 crore for a period of five years during 2021-26 for promoting entrepreneurship/start-up projects by ST youth. It is proposed that guidelines similar to the scheme of ‘Venture Capital for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes’ be adopted for the scheme.

(xiii) Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs): Ministry extends support to the State Governments through the Scheme to set up new TRIs where it didn't exist and to strengthen functioning of existing TRIs to carry out its core responsibility towards Research & Documentations, Training and capacity building, promotion of rich tribal heritage etc. To preserve tribal art and culture, financial assistance is provided to TRI's to carry out various activities to preserve and promote tribal culture and heritage across the country through research and documentation, maintenance and preservation of art & artefacts, setting up of tribal museum, exchange visits for the tribals to other parts of the State, organizing tribal festivals etc. Funding under this Scheme is 100% grant-in-aid by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the TRIs on need basis with the approval of APEX Committee. TRIs prepare proposal and detailed action plan for the year along with budgetary requirement and submit it to the Ministry through State Tribal Welfare Department. Within the set of TRIs, there are cultural museum, library, training centre, research wing etc.

(xiv) Tribal Festivals, Research Information and Mass Education : Through the scheme, promotion of rich tribal cultural heritage, dissemination of information and creation of awareness are given attention to which includes organization of Tribal Craft & Food Festivals, Sports, Music, Dance & Photo Competitions, Science, Art & Craft Expos, Workshops, Seminars, Production of documentary films by the Ministry & States, Bringing out Publications thereby highlighting significant studies, documenting historical facets of tribal communities, achievements of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) & State Departments besides other advertisements etc. at regular intervals. With a view to fill the gap of research studies on tribal issues, MoTA recognizes renowned NGOs, Research Institutes, Universities where expertise exist and which have already made a mark by carrying out pioneering research in the field of tribal cultures as Centre of Excellences (CoEs). It is envisaged that CoEs should play an important role in building knowledge bank to complement dedicated Activities of the Ministry.

Annexure II

Annexure II referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. † 5237 for 04.04.2022 by SHRI NIHAL CHAND regarding “EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY”

Year-wise beneficiaries under some Schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs

S.N.	Scheme	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	1449239	1451369	1346479
2.	Post-Matric Scholarship	1967029	2066667	2066044
3.	National Scholarship	1990	1914	2449
4.	National Fellowship	2519	2552	2625
5.	National Overseas Scholarship	21	28	30
6.	Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations Working for Welfare of STs	2350376	1726603	1249901
7.	Enrollment in EMRSs	65605	73391	90520
8.	National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)	70764	120831	169539
9.	Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)	As on 22.03.2022, total 679 EMRSs have been sanctioned and of them, 367 are functional.		
10.	Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)	As on 31/03/2022, 3225 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) have been sanctioned, wherein 963958 tribal forest gatherers/beneficiaries have been onboarded.		
