

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1376
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 25/07/2022

FUNDS TO POOR AMONG STs

1376. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the funds sanctioned under the scheme are utilized effectively, as reports suggest poor indicators of literacy rate, infant mortality rate etc.;
- (b) the policy interventions the Government deem fit to ensure effective utilization of the funds;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to improve the implementation of the schemes, given that the percentage of poor among the STs has increased from 71% to 76% over the last decade; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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 2020 - June 2021) of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation reveals that literacy rate for STs increased to 71.6 %. 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 41.6 (2019-21); Under Five Mortality Rate has declined from 95.7 (2005-06) to 50.3 (2019-21), Institutional Delivery has increased from 17.7% (2005-06) to 82.3 % (2019-21) and immunization of children aged 12-23 months has increased from 31.3 % (2005-06) to 76.8 % (2019-21). Further, percentage of Underweight (weight-for age) ST children under age five years has declined from 54.5 in 2005-06 to 39.5 in 2019-21. 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.

Government is implementing Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)/Schedule Tribe Component (STC)/Development Action Plan for STs (DAPST) for overall development of tribal people across the country. Besides Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 41 Central Ministries / Departments have been obligated for earmarking in the range of 4.3 to 17.5 percent of their total Scheme allocation every year as TSP/STC/DAPST funds for tribal development. TSP/STC/DAPST 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 STs. NITI Aayog has issued guidelines for earmarking, effective utilization of TSP/ STC/DAPST funds by the obligated Ministries/Departments for the welfare and development of STs.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has developed STC MIS Portal with web address: <https://stemis.gov.in> for monitoring of TSP/STC/DAPST funds of the obligated Ministries/Departments. The Ministry also takes meetings periodically with the obligated Ministries/Departments to review allocation, utilization, and physical progress under TSP/STC/DAPST. Adherence of TSP/STC allocation earmarking norm as per guidelines, identification of schemes, allocation and utilization of TSP/STC/DAPST funds under such schemes which provide specific benefits to STs, setting up of target/deliverables under TSP/STC/DAPST and monitoring of progress, etc., are emphasized in the review meetings. Physical progress under TSP/STC/DAPST is also obtained from the Ministries/Departments. Apart from this, various mechanisms for improving implementation of schemes and monitoring utilization of funds have been put in place. Some of them are as under:

- i. Release of funds to States/UTs under the schemes made through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) platform.
- ii. The Government has introduced Single Nodal Agency (SNA) model which ensures that allocation of funds to States for the CSS are made in a timely manner and after meeting various stipulations. Effective implementation of this Model has brought about greater efficiency in CSS fund utilization, tracking of funds, pragmatic and just-in-time release of funds to the States; ultimately all contributing to better Cash Management of the Government.
- iii. Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds as per the norms of GFR.
- iv. Progress reports regarding the status of implementation of scheme is obtained.
- v. Officers while visiting States/UTs also ascertain the progress of implementation of the scheme.
- vi. Meetings/ Conferences are convened at the Central level with State officials for ensuring timely submission of proposals, speeding up of implementation of the scheme, and reviewing the physical and financial progress.
- vii. Scheme/programme-wise progress and utilization of funds are also monitored through dedicated online portals and performance dashboard.
- viii. Besides, evaluation of the schemes is conducted from time to time.
