

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1017**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND DECEMBER, 2024

**UNIQUE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES OF TRIBAL POPULATION**

1017. SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has been conducted to understand the unique cultural and religious practices followed by various tribal populations across the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the geographical areas where such study was conducted;
- (c) the present status of the study along with the details of the time limit stipulated for completion of the study; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), a Subordinate Office under the Ministry of Culture, has conducted several studies to understand the unique cultural and religious practices followed by various tribal populations across the country, under the following national projects :
  - (i) People of India Project - AnSI conducted extensive fieldwork among 4,635 communities including all the tribal communities of India. The findings of this comprehensive study were compiled into 43 state-wise volumes, documenting the cultural, social, and religious practices of these communities.
  - (ii) Anthropological Study of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) - AnSI undertook detailed studies of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, focusing on their socio-economic conditions, development status and other ethnographic aspects. A concise ethnographic profile for each PVTG was prepared and findings were published in the book "The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in India : Privileges and Predicaments" in 2016.
  - (iii) Ethnographic Study of De-Notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities - AnSI conducted an ethnographic study of 280 De-Notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic communities. A detailed report was submitted to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and NITI Aayog. Ethnographic notes on many tribal groups were also prepared as part of this project.

These studies have been conducted across the country.

- (c) & (d) : The aforementioned studies have been completed.

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