

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 683**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 28.11.2024

**HIGH POVERTY RATE AMONG TRIBALS**

†683. SHRI CHINTAMANI MAHARAJ:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tribes are lagging behind in competing with others due to shift from traditional subsistence economies to market based systems;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said problem is the main reason for prevalence of high poverty rate among tribes; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to overcome the said problem along with the details thereof including the achievements made in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

**(a) to (d):** The Ministry conducted evaluation study for the scheme “Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce” through Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) during the year 2019-20 wherein the assessment of challenges being faced by the STs in marketing their products revealed lack of credit linkage, inadequate exposure to new designs, lack of penetration of Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) below the level of State capitals, Patenting issues and Lack of funds for scaling-up of products.

Also, Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) (now called Scheduled Tribe Component) Strategy has been adopted by the Government for accelerated development of tribal areas. It envisages channelizing the flow of outlays & benefits from all sectors of development to ST population. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also administers Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution wherein funds are released to the State Governments inter-alia for creation of productive assets for income generating opportunities which may help in addressing the issue of Poverty. Also, the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, provides concessional loans to individuals or groups of STs for undertaking self-employment income generation activities through its channelizing agencies. During the last five years an amount of Rs. 1577.12 cr has been disbursed to 623605 beneficiaries.

Under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM), TRIFED provides revolving funds to State Governments for procurement of Minor Forest Produce (MFPs) and establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) for value addition activities of MFPs & non-MFPs. The Ministry has released Rs 319.65 cr. as revolving funds to States Governments against which procurement of Rs.664 cr. of MFPs has been undertaken under the scheme by them. Also, an amount of Rs. 587.36 crores have been sanctioned for establishment of 3958 VDVKs across the country.

In addition, TRIFED provides backward & forward linkages to its empaneled tribal artisans / suppliers for marketing of their products under various categories like metal craft, textile, jewelry, painting, cane & bamboo, terracotta & pottery, organic & natural food products etc. through online and offline platforms. During the last five years, TRIFED has made a procurement of Rs 130.58 cr and has realized a sale of Rs. 186.02 cr.

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