

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- †*53
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 06/02/2025

SCHEMES FOR THE WELFARE OF TRIBALS IN MAHARASHTRA

†*53. SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched any new scheme to improve education and health facilities in tribal areas of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase employment and self-employment opportunities for the tribal Communities in the said State;
- (c) the efforts being made by the Government to preserve the cultural heritage of the tribal communities in the said State;
- (d) whether the Government has implemented any special scheme for the welfare of tribal women and children; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. †*53 for answer on 06.02.2025.

(a): During FY 2023-24, Government launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) for socio-economic development of 75 PVTG communities residing in 18 states and one UT. The mission aims to provide basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in 3 years. These objectives are planned to be met through 11 interventions including Hostels and Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) implemented by 9-line Ministries. PM JANMAN has total budgetary outlay of Rs.24,104 Cr (Central share: ₹15336 Cr and State share: ₹8768 Cr). Based on the data captured (as on 31.01.2025), 3909 PVTG habitations in 17 districts of Maharashtra covering 6,21,046 PVTG population is being covered under PM JANMAN.

Hon'ble PM launched Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan on 2nd October, 2024. The Abhiyan comprises of 25 interventions implemented by 17-line Ministries and aims to saturate infrastructural gaps in 63,843 villages, *provide social infrastructure like hostels, Anganwadi facilities and mobile medical units and set up Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to provide livelihood opportunities* benefiting more than 5 crore tribals in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States/UTs in 5 years. The Abhiyan has a total budgetary outlay of Rs.79,156 Cr (Central share: ₹56,333 Cr and State share: ₹22,823 Cr). *About 4975 villages under 32 districts of Maharashtra covering 46,94,682 STs are being covered under Abhiyan.*

Further, the Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra has informed that it declared 250 Ashram Schools as Model Ashram Schools in 2023. In the first phase, the project “Establishing Digital Environment” has been started to provide state of the art digital educational facilities in 121 Ashram schools out of said 250 Model Ashram Schools. For the academic year 2025-26, the project will be extended to cover the remaining 129 Ashram schools in the second phase.

(b): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs through its two agencies namely Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) & National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSTFDC) have contributed significantly in promoting economic activities including entrepreneurship among the tribal communities.

The Ministry is implementing the scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)’ through TRIFED which envisions to strengthen tribal entrepreneurship initiatives and to facilitate livelihood opportunities by promoting more efficient, equitable, self-managed, optimum use of natural resources, Agri / Minor Forest Produce (MFPs) / Non-farm produce. Under the scheme, financial support of INR 15.00 lakhs is provided to the State Governments for setting up of each Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVKs) which are *envisaged to be* the centres of value addition activities of MFPs/Non-MFPs. Under the PMJVM scheme, a total of 265 VDVKs, benefiting 79,650 members, have been sanctioned with sanctioned amount of Rs 3,975 Lakhs in the State of Maharashtra. Besides, 40 VDVKs having 3624 members, have been sanctioned with sanctioned amount of Rs 181.2 lakhs in the state of Maharashtra under the PM JANMAN scheme.

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, provides credit linkage by extending concessional loans to the eligible Scheduled Tribe persons for undertaking income generation activities/ self-employment thereby instilling the spirit of entrepreneurship. The prominent schemes of NSTFDC are Term Loan Scheme, Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY), Micro Credit Scheme for Self Help Groups (MCF) and Adivasi Shiksha Rin Yojana (ASRY). During the last five years, Rs. 45.96 crore of loan *was* disbursed and 11649 beneficiaries assisted in Maharashtra under the schemes of NSTFDC.

Further, Tribal Development Department, Maharashtra has informed it is implementing skill development training programme for tribal students through Shabari Finance and Development Cooperation Ltd, Nasik to increase employment and self-employment opportunities for the tribal communities in Maharashtra.

(c): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken various steps to conserve and protect the tribal culture, heritage, tradition and customs *in all states of the country* including Maharashtra. The Ministry is implementing the schemes of “Support to Tribal Research Institute” and “Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events” under which various activities are undertaken to conserve and promote tribal culture, heritage, archives, artifacts, customs and traditions of the tribal communities. There are 29 Tribal Research Institutes in States/UTs including one in Pune, Maharashtra and National Tribal Research Institute in Delhi. TRI, Pune has continuously been working for Protection of Tribal Culture, tradition and customs through tribal cultural museum, organizing tribal cultural festival, organizing various competitions etc. The Government has given approval for Rs. 132.10 crores for establishing Gondwana museum at Nagpur.

(d) to (e): The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has informed it is implementing schemes - Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls) and Mission Shakti for the welfare of tribal women and children. Under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST), MoWCD is mandated to earmark 8.6% to total scheme allocation for welfare of tribal women and children. In FY 2024-25, MoWCD has allocated Rs. 2380 Crores for the welfare of tribal women and children.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various schemes, including Eklavya Model Residential Schools and scholarship programs for ST students. Additionally, schemes such as Grants under Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, and Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) benefit all, including women and children.

Further, to reduce the malnutrition, infant mortality, maternal mortality, Tribal Development Department, the state of Maharashtra has launched Bharat Ratna Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Amrit Aahar Yojana which aims to provide a balanced meal once a day to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
