

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1408
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF TRIBAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

1408 : DR. D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY:
SMT. D K ARUNA:
SHRI EATALA RAJENDER

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

- (a) the details of initiatives taken/being taken by the Government to promote tribal culture and heritage during the last three years;
- (b) the details of total number of conferences, cultural programs and exhibitions organized along with their geographical distribution in the country, State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Bihar;
- (c) whether any conference has been organised by the Government alongwith other organisations including NGOs, to document the linguistic resources of the tribes, especially the tribal languages spoken in various States and if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (d) the budgetary allocation for promoting tribal culture for the current fiscal year and the funds utilized thereon so far; and
- (e) the details of the impact of these initiatives on preserving and promoting tribal heritage, especially in tribal dominated areas during the last ten years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, under the Centrally Sponsored scheme 'Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)' provides financial support to 29 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in States/Union Territories (UTs) on the basis of the Annual Action Plan submitted by the States/UTs subject to the approval of the Apex Committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Under the Scheme, proposals relating to infrastructural needs, research & documentation activities and training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals, yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and tourism and organisation of exchange visits by tribals are organised so that their cultural practices, languages and ritual are preserved and disseminated. Ministry has sanctioned various projects to the Tribal Research Institutes of the States/UTs towards activities for the socio-cultural, educational, and economic development of the tribal communities. TRIs are primarily institutions under the State

Government/UT Administration. The activities undertaken by TRIs to benefit the tribal communities are mentioned as under:

(i) To acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal people and to exhibit rich tribal cultural heritage of the region, Ministry has sanctioned 11 Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums.

(ii) Ministry has developed searchable digital repository where all research papers, books, reports and documents, folks songs, photos/videos are uploaded. The repository currently has more than 10,000 photographs, videos and publications which are mostly done by Tribal Research Institutes. The repositories can be visited at <https://repository.tribal.gov.in/> (Tribal Digital Document Repository) and <https://tribal.nic.in/repository/> (Tribal Repository).

(iii) State level festivals like Hornbill festival of Nagaland, Medaram Jatra of Telangana are funded through TRI scheme. State Tribal festival, fair and cultural programmes are funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) to showcase glimpses of rich cultural heritage of tribal people across the country through unique forms of folk dances, songs, cuisine, exhibition and demonstration of traditional skill in painting, art and craft, medicinal practices etc.

(iv) TRIFED organizes Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs) to identify new artisans and new products at the sourcing level in States/Districts/Villages for expanding the tribal producers base.

(v) The Ethnographic Museum of the states preserve and showcase rare artefacts related to life and culture of various tribes.

(vi) The Ministry also provide financial assistance under the scheme “Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)”, to reputed research institutes/ organizations/ universities to undertake various research studies/publication of books/ documentation including audio visual documentaries to fill the gap of research studies on tribal issues and Promotion of rich tribal cultural, traditions and customs as well as capacity building of tribal persons/ institutions associated with tribal affairs, dissemination of information and creation of awareness.

(b) Under the scheme of Support to TRIs, Ministry has sanctioned various projects/ activities wherein 100% funding is provided by the Central Government on the proposal submitted by States. The details of total number of Conferences, Cultural Programme and exhibitions sanctioned under the Support to Tribal Research Institutes scheme may be viewed at Ministry's website https://tribal.gov.in/Display_Apex_Minutes.aspx .

(c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs extends support to State Governments/UTs Tribal Research Institutes under the Centrally Sponsored scheme ‘Support to Tribal Research Institute(s)’ for development of bilingual Primers for preservation of tribal languages and enhancement of learning

achievements level amongst the Scheduled Tribes students. States/UTs TRIs are conducting documentation and preservation of endangered tribal languages through preparation of primers, dictionaries and organization of cultural programmes. Further, under the scheme "Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)", Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides financial assistance to reputed Institutions for carrying out research study programmes including documentation of tribal languages. In this regard, Ministry had sanctioned projects to Bhasha Research and Publication Centre during 2018-19 and 2019-20 which inter-alia covered activity of identification and documentation of threatened/dying languages. The organization had carried out documentation of Korku, Nihali, Kolami, Vadi, Halpati, Dungra Bhili, Dhavadi, Dhatti, Thali, Nahal and Seheriya languages.

(d) The budgetary allocation for promoting tribal culture for the current fiscal year and the funds sanctioned may be viewed at Ministry's website https://tribal.gov.in/Display_Apex_Minutes.aspx

(e) The initiatives preserve the heritage, customs, culture and traditions of the tribal communities for the future generations. Further, through these projects and activities, tribal communities participate in conferences, seminars, workshops, and exchange programs to abreast themselves about the various welfare and development schemes/activities of the Government/Organization facilitating socio-economic improvement/betterment in the life of the tribal communities.

Teachers from Government Ashram Schools along with language experts from respective communities are associated in developing the dictionaries and primers in tribal dialects and language, which not only preserves and conserve the tribal languages but also help tribal students in their education by facilitating basic learning in their own language/dialect from class I to III and help in smooth transition when they go to higher classes. More than 200 primers and dictionaries have been developed in different tribal languages by Tribal Research Institute(s) to support and encourage multilingual education among tribal communities.

Through the State Tribal Festivals, fair and cultural programmes, Tribal Artisan Melas and Aadi Mahotsav etc. new artisans and products have been identified and promoted enabling commercial recognition and at the same time generating income to the tribals, enhancing their livelihoods in States/District/Village level. Organising state tribal festivals, fairs, and cultural programs to showcase glimpses of the rich cultural heritage of tribal people across the country through unique forms of folk dances, songs, cuisine, exhibitions, and demonstration of traditional skills in painting, art, and craft, medicinal practices, etc. All these activities have not only contributed to the preservation, protection and promotion of tribal cultural heritage but also provide unity and fraternity among the tribal communities.
