EXPANSION OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN ODISHA

2524 SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of Tribal Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of recent expansion of the Special Development Council (SDC) to 23 districts of Odisha to preserve tribal culture and heritage;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government is planning to collaborate with the State Government to support and enhance these initiatives; and

(c) the specific schemes implemented and the funds allocated by the Government to promote tribal welfare in these expanded areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (c): Yes. As informed, the Government of Odisha has set up Special Development Councils (SDC) for 9 Tribal dominated districts in Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati and Kandhamal in the year 2017. During 2023, Government of Odisha expanded the Special Development Council (SDC) to 23 districts by adding 14 new districts namely; Angul, Balasore, Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jharsusuda, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Nuapada & Sambalpur. These Councils especially focus on preservation of tribal culture and traditions, heritage and unique identity of each tribe.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has no provision of funds to support and enhance the state initiative. However, under the Special Development Council (SDC) Scheme, the District allocation for each Special Development Council is provided by the State Government in shape of Grant-in-Aid, which is determined on the basis of number of blocks in district. The allocation for nine existing SDCs is @1.50 Crores per block. For the newly included fourteen SDC Districts, blocks having more than 50,000 tribal populations receive allotment @Rs.1.50 Cr. per Block and blocks having less than 50,000 tribal populations receive allotment @Rs.0.75 Cr. per block.

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