

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:303  
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004  
DECLINE IN PRIMITIVE TRIBES  
Nayak Shri Ananta

**Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the number of certain primitive tribes due to unnatural deaths;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken to save these primitive tribes; and
- (d) the schemes prepared for the upliftment of the primitive tribes, State-wise and Tribe-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) & (b): The total population of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) during 1981 to 1991 has increased from 20,42,767 to 24,12,664. The population figures of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as per 2001 Census has not yet been published. Comparative study of population of PTGs as per 1981 and 1991 Census reveals that the population of Great Andamanese in Andman & Nicobar (A & N) Islands and Jenu Korbas in Karnataka has declined slightly; and the population figures of Sentinelese in A & N Islands is not available. There are numerous reasons for the decline.

(c) & (d): Various Schemes/Programmes in the sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, small scale and cottage industry, education, health and drinking water etc. are being implemented for the upliftment of all 75 Primitive Tribal Groups in 18 States/UTs under the Tribal Sub-Plan Strategy since Fifth Five Year Plan.

Besides, the Ministry has been implementing a Special Central Sector Scheme of `Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)` since 1998-99 for the benefit of PTG exclusively. Under the Scheme, 100% financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UTs and Non-Governmental Organisations for undertaking various activities for the socio-economic, educational development and health-care of the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).