

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1781

ANSWERED ON:20.07.2004

SCHEDULED AREAS AND SCHEDULED TRIBES COMMISSION

Murmu Shri Hemlal; Murmu Shri Rupchand

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has constituted a Commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled areas and Welfare of Scheduled Tribes in States with an initial tenure of 1 year w.e.f. July 18, 2002;
- (b) if so, the composition of the Commission, powers and other terms of reference of the Commission;
- (c) the reasons for appointing the Commission at present;
- (d) the number of extensions the Commission has already been granted;
- (e) the expenditure incurred so far on salaries and travel expenditure of Chairman/Members and officials;
- (f) the status of the report; and
- (g) the steps the Government proposes to take to review the Constitution of Commission in order to have secularistic recommendations?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The composition of the Commission, powers and other terms of reference of the Commission are contained in the Ministry's order No. 17014/8/93-TD(R) dated July 18, 2002 (vide Gazette Notification No. 1032 dated December 9, 2002 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, part-II, Section-3, Sub-Section-(ii).

(c) Article 339(1) of the Constitution provides that the President may at any time appoint a Commission to report on the administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

(d) The Commission has been granted two extensions. First extension was granted for a period of 8 months upto 31st March, 2004, and the second extension of the tenure was granted for a further period of 3 months upto 16th July, 2004, with another two months period for winding up of its office, with limited Staff.

(e) As on 12.7.2004 a sum of Rs. 190.21 lakhs for salaries and Rs. 51.06 lakhs on travel expenses have been booked on Chairman/Members and officials.

(f) Preparation of the Report is in progress.

(g) The recommendations pertaining to administration and welfare of Scheduled Tribes are yet to be received.