

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:996  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006  
NEW POLICY FOR STS  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the Government has requested to States to prepare exclusive annual plan to spend the outlay earmarked for Scheduled Tribes population as reported in the Hindu dated October 13, 2006;
- (b) if so, the response of the States thereto;
- (c) whether the Union Government has prepared new tribal policy;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the new tribal policy; and
- (e) the extent to which new tribal policy would bring the scheduled tribes on a par with the rest of the population in terms of Human Development Index, socio-economic development and basic infrastructure facilities in their areas?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R KYNDIAH)

- (a) & (b) : The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has written to the State Governments to ensure earmarking of funds under TSP in proportion to the Scheduled Tribe population in the State and to prepare the Annual Plan for 2006-07 accordingly. The guidelines of the Planning Commission in this regard were also brought to the notice of the States.
- (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has prepared a draft National Tribal Policy, which is being finalized taking into consideration the comments received from various stakeholders.
- (d) Implementation of the National Tribal Policy can be taken up only once it is finalized.
- (e) The draft policy envisages measures for regulatory protection, socio-economic and political empowerment, women empowerment, development of infrastructure, increased livelihood opportunities, improved governance and administration, preservation of cultural and traditional rights and traditional knowledge, conservation and protection of intellectual property rights regime and access to privileges, in order to bring STs at par with the rest of the population in terms of their Human Development Index, socio-economic conditions and basic infrastructure facilities in tribal areas.