

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2535
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR TRIBALS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Eco-Development Committees have been set up to develop alternative employment for tribals and other people in protected areas including Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of villages covered and the funds sanctioned for the purpose; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for effective implementation of the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Central assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Project Tiger' and 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' is provided to States, including Tamil Nadu, for ecologically viable livelihood options to local stakeholders, in the peripheral / buffer areas towards reducing their dependency on forests with reciprocal commitments through Eco-Development Committees (EDCs).As reported by the State of Tamil Nadu, details of Sanctuary/Tiger Reserve-wise EDCs are at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) The funding assistance provided to States including Tamil Nadu under the above ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, interalia, including support for EDCs, during the plan period are at Annexure-II (a) & Annexure-II (b).As reported by the State, 670 villages have been covered under EDCs in Tamil Nadu,and details of assistance provided are at Annexure-III. Independent Assessment of Tiger Reserves / Protected Areas is carried by the Government of India,apart from entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with States for tiger reserves, to monitor effective implementation, besides supervisory checks through Utilisation Certificates in prescribed formats.