

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2643

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011

TRIBALS IN FORESTS

Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any specific scheme for the welfare of tribals living in forests in the country including Uttaranchal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide alternate means of livelihood to these tribals in the wake of shrinking of forest areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether some tribals are surviving on wild vegetation in the forests; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the steps taken for their upliftment?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a) to (d): There is no specific scheme for welfare of tribals living in forests in the country. However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements Special Area Programmes/Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the socio-economic development of tribal people in all the States/Union Territories, including those living in forests. The schemes of the Ministry relate to income generation, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement in literacy of all the tribal people. The Ministry provides grant to States/ UT Administration, institutions and voluntary organisations for upgrading the skill of tribal youths in various vocations to enable them to gain suitable employment or self-employment. The Ministry also provides fund for integrated development of forest villages in 12 States. The development envisaged would be in terms of providing basis minimum facilities and services like safe drinking water, healthcare, primary education, approach roads and other infrastructure facilities. The Ministry administers the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, with the objective to recognize and vest forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes for their bonafide livelihood needs.

(e) & (f): No incident of some tribals surviving on wild vegetation in the forests have been reported to this Ministry. While traditionally forest dwelling tribals are known to earn their livelihood through natural resources in the forests, the main objective of the schemes/programmes administered by the Government of India and those implemented by State Governments, is their socio-economic development. Implementation of the schemes/programmes of the Government for the upliftment of tribal people is an on-going process.