UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2346
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013
FOREST VILLAGE
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters of deciding/declaring an area as forest village and the infrastructural facilities covered thereunder for their development; and

(b) the minimum or maximum number of habitants who are given/provided financial assistance and the procedure adopted for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SMT. RANEE NARAH)

(a) & (b): As per information received from Ministry of Environment & Forests, in the mid 19th Century to mid 20th Century, people from rural areas including tribals were brought to different forest areas for working in various forestry operations viz., harvesting of timber and other forest produce, logging, construction of forest roads, demarcation of boundaries of forests etc. These workers were accommodated near the activity site within or near such forest area. Over a period of time, these habitations became permanent settlements known as forest villages and in most cases have not been included in the revenue records. The basic amenities were provided by the concerned forest departments for meeting their livelihood needs. Therefore, there are no specific parameters including minimum or maximum number of inhabitants for declaring an area as forest village.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the programme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) considers sanction of funds for the Development of Forest Villages for integrated development of Forest Villages with a view to raise the Human Development Index (HDI) of the inhabitants of the Forest Villages and to provide basic facilities and services such as approach roads, healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water sanitation, community halls etc. Funds under the programme are provided to the State Governments and not to the inhabitants of such Forest Villages.