

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4534
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014
TRIBAL DISTRICTS REGIONS
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of districts and regions across the country are tribal;
- (b) if so, the names thereof, State/UT wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for proper development of those tribal districts and regions?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Statement showing State-wise number of district where the ST population is more than 50% and between 25% to 50% as per Census 2011 is at Annexure.

(c): Government has adopted multipronged approach for tribal welfare in the country. The Tribal Sub Plan strategy adopted since the Fifth Five Year Plan continues to operate till date, in order to bring about speedy socio-economic development among tribals, including the poor. Under this, the States are expected to provide funds which are at least equal to the percentage of tribal population to the total population in the States. In addition, the Central Government provides Special Central Assistance to TSP, as an additive to the States to bring about, more rapid economic development of tribals living below the poverty line. Further, in pursuance of the Constitutional obligations, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to 26 States, with the objective of promoting the welfare of STs (primarily through bridging critical infrastructure gaps) or raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas. Apart from providing institutional finance for schemes/projects aimed at ameliorating the condition of poor tribals, funds for tribal development are also sourced from various programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Some of such major initiatives are enlisted below:-

- (i) "Vocational Training in Tribal Areas" to upgrade the skills of the tribal youth in various traditional/ modern vocations to gain suitable employment or enable them to become self employed.
- (ii) Schemes implemented by National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) for self-employment of Scheduled Tribes by providing concessional financial assistance to individual or group of STs for undertaking income generation activities.
- (iii) Activities undertaken by Tribal Co -Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) involves imparting skill development and capacity building training to tribal Minor Forest Produce (MFP) gatherers and tribal artisans.
- (iv) Under Forest Right Act 2006, individual and community right have been recognized and vested to the Tribals and other traditional forest dwellers which, inter-alia, entitle them to collect and sell Minor Forest Produce (MFP) etc. Further, as a social security measure to MFP gatherers who are primarily Scheduled Tribes, a package of interventions through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and Development of Value Chain" has been launched.
- (v) Scholarship schemes for professional education for STs facilitating them to get employed.