

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3149

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2015

POPULATION OF TRIBALS IN FOREST AREAS

Naik Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera;Neta Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of forest villages/habitation areas in various parts of the country, State/UT-wise including Gujarat;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the socio-economic development of such forest dwellers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has implemented any programme for development of forest villages in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the basic services and facilities provided in such villages/ habitations; and
- (e) the funds allocated, released and utilized under the said programme during the 11th and 12th Five Year Plans so far, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA)

(a): As per information available in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, presently there are 2,474 forest villages/habitations spread over 12 States as under:-

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of forest villages/habitations
1.	Assam	499
2.	Chhattisgarh	425
3.	Gujarat	199
4.	Jharkhand	24
5.	Meghalaya	23
6.	Madhya Pradesh	893
7.	Mizoram	85
8.	Orissa	20
9.	Tripura	62
10.	Uttarakhand	61 habitations
11.	Uttar Pradesh	13
12.	West Bengal	170
	Total	2474

(b): No, Madam. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not conducted any survey on the Socio-economic situation of forest dwellers as Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for implementation of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA) and survey on the Socio-economic situation of forest dwellers does not come under the purview of FRA.

(c)& (d): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Tribal Affairs had implemented a programme for development of forest villages since 2005-06 as a one-time measure for integrated development of forest villages with a view to raise the Human Development Index (HDI) of the inhabitants of the forest villages and for providing basic facilities and services in the 2,474 forest villages/habitations spread over twelve States in the country. The programme was implemented as a part of the Special Area Programme 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan'. The programme included infrastructure works relating to basic services and facilities viz. approach roads, healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls, etc. and activities related to income generation.

(e): A statement showing funds allocated, released and utilized under the programme of "Development of Forest Villages" under SCA to TSP during 2007-08 to 2011-12 is at Annexure. No fund has been released during 12th Five Year Plan period.