

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:924
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015
PER CAPITA INCOME OF TRIBALS
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any study with regard to per capita income of tribals in various States including Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether per capita income of tribals is less than those of general and other castes; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the average income of tribals along with the extent to which the Government has achieved success as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No, Madam. The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation collects data on the household consumer expenditure but not on income in their household surveys. The erstwhile Planning Commission had estimated poverty ratios for the years for which household consumer expenditure surveys have been conducted by NSSO. The percentage of persons below poverty line among Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Castes, Others and All Population, State-wise (including Gujarat) and at all India level for the year 2011-12 estimated by the erstwhile Planning Commission as per Tendulkar Methodology is at Annexure-I. As per these estimates, the percentage of ST persons below poverty line during 2011-12 in both, rural and urban areas, at all India level is higher as compared to other social groups.

(d): Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to increase average income of tribals by providing employment opportunities. Ministry of Tribal Affairs under its Special Area Programme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and other Central Sector / Centrally Sponsored schemes provides funds as an additive to the State Plan for economic development of tribals in the States covering skill development and employment- cum-income generation activities. During the current financial year, the Ministry has impressed upon the State Governments for promotion of need based integrated livelihood initiatives such as Dairy development with State cooperative, horticulture, floriculture, vegetable production, apiculture, sericulture, fisheries, backyard poultries etc. without in any way disturbing the traditional agricultural practices, in order to create enabling environment for tribals to earn their livelihood at doorsteps and increase employment opportunities.

Besides these, Government has also taken other steps to provide employment to tribal population. Some of the major initiatives are enlisted below:-

(i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guaranteeing 150 days wage employment to ST households living in forest area who have got 'pattas' under the Forest Right Act 2006.

(ii) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) which aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

(iii) Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) to facilitate and upscale civil society action in partnership with Government for transforming livelihoods and lives of rural households, with an emphasis on women, particularly in the Central Indian Tribal Region.

A statement showing number of ST beneficiaries likely to be benefitted under SCA to TSP for Skill Development /Employment Generation during 2014-15 is at Annexure-II.