

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:265

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014

RIGHTS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Kulaste Shri Faggan Singh

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Tribal population of the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government is satisfied with the progress made under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in ensuring forest rights in occupation in Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) the number of claims filed, titles distributed, claims rejected and percentage claims dispensed off and those pending during the last three years and current year, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the reasons for low level of disposal of claims in some of the States including North-Eastern region and if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken thereon; and

(e) the details of the initiatives taken by the Government for the socio-economic development of the tribals and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a): The tribal population of the country, State/ UT-wise is at Annexure-I.

(b): Yes, Madam. Satisfactory progress has been made with regard to recognition and vesting of individual rights. The recognition and vesting of community rights is receiving Ministrys due attention.

(c): As on 31.05.2014, 37,64,315 claims were filed of which 30,57,126 have been disposed of. 14,36,290 titles have been distributed. State-wise/UT wise details of the number of claims filed, titles distributed, claims rejected and percentage claims dispensed off and those pending during the last three years and current year as on 31.05.2014, is at Annexure-II.

(d): The responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 lies with the State/ UT Governments. Implementation of the Act is varied amongst the NE States. Mizoram has notified its adoption in the entire State in 2010. Nagaland is in the process of examining the law. Assam and Tripura have been implementing the law. Manipur, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh feel that the FRA is not so relevant because of the prevalent customary community ownership of forest land. Ministry continues to monitor implementation of the Act in the States/UT and facilitates wherever assistance has been sought.

(e): Various initiatives by the Ministry for socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes are at Annexure III. Details of the outcome of various programmes of the Ministry is placed as Annexure IV.