

(c) the number of tribals and forest dwellers who are benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (c) As per the information available with the Ministry, States have progressed in varying degrees in implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. While States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan have established the prescribed structures and procedures, have received a large number of claims and some have even started distributing title deeds, other States, because of various reasons, including holding of State and Panchayat elections, are still to catch up. As on 30.9.2008, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have distributed 5000 (approx), 59548 and 4186 pattas respectively.

Inter-State visits by tribals

292. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme regarding exchange of inter-State visits by tribals; and

(b) if so, whether there is any such scheme for the tribal people of Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. All the States including the State of Meghalaya are eligible to apply as per provision of the Scheme.

Scheme for upliftment of tribal people

293. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the effect of various schemes for the upliftment of tribal people, whether it is negligible, marginal or substantial;

(b) what are the various measures underway to do something substantial for the growth and development; and

(c) whether there would be a time-frame for such measures, to get the desired growth and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) The main objective of the schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as well as other Ministries of Government of India is to bring the tribal people into the mainstream economy through their economic, educational, health and social development, while simultaneously retaining their culture and traditions to suit their own genius. As a result of these schemes, there has been all-round socio-economic development of tribal people and they are getting benefits by way of increase in income and employment, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement of their health.