

Besides the above 54 identified districts, any other tribal block in a district which has ST population of 25% or above and tribal female literacy rate below 35% and the areas below a block level inhabited by the notified Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) are also covered, including naxal affected areas. Such tribal blocks as intimated by West Bengal and Karnataka are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of District	Name of Tribal Block
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	Raichur	Devadurga
		Chitradurga	Molakalmur
		Bellary	Sandur
			Kudligi
2.	West Bengal	Darjiling	Phansidewa
		Jalpaiguri	Mal
			Matiali
			Nagrakata
			Madarihat
			Kalchini
			Kumargram
		Maldah	Habibpur
		North 24 -Parganas	Sandeshkhali-I
		Bankura	Hirbandh
		Puruliya	Santuri
			Hura
			Balarampur
			Manbazar-II
			Bundwan
		West Medinipur	Gopiballavpur-I
			Nayagram
			Kharagpur-II

ST status to Gujjars

†2299. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the report and the main recommendations of the high level committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of retired justice Shri Jasraj Chopra to look into the matter of providing reservation to Gujjars in Rajasthan, had been sent to the Central Government;

(b) whether the Central Government had returned these recommendations sent by the Rajasthan Government;

(c) if so, whether the Rajasthan Government has again sent these recommendations to the Central Government;

(d) whether the Central Government thinks that the parameters fixed for declaring a caste as Scheduled Tribes are no more applicable now and there is a need to have a re-look on them; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has again asked the Rajasthan Government to examine the report of the High Powered Committee and send its specific recommendation with justification in support of its proposal. The State Government has not done so.

(d) and (e) The draft National Tribal Policy prepared by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has addressed this issue.

Quality education to tribal students

2300. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme with the objective of providing quality education to the tribal students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of tribal students benefited from that scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON):

(a) to (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has introduced a new Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for ST Students from the academic year 2007-08 with the objective of enabling meritorious ST students to pursue degree and post degree level courses in any of the identified institutes. 125 institutes have been approved under the scheme, in both the Government and private sectors covering the field of management, medicine, engineering, law and commercial courses. Each institute has been allocated a maximum of five awards with a ceiling of total 635 scholarships per year. A meritorious ST student who has gained admission in any of these 125 identified institutes shall be eligible for receiving the scholarship under this scheme provided he falls within the *inter-se* seniority of top five meritorious ST students and the total family income of the ST student from all the sources does not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum'.