

Besides funds are provided for other specific schemes, both Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector to the States including Maharashtra for socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes.

**Tribals living in sub-human conditions**

109. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals across the country continue to live in poverty, illiteracy and sub-human conditions in the new millenium;

(b) if so, the reasons for raw deal given to tribals; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure proper implementation of Central schemes and utilization of funds for the upliftment of tribals only?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The tribals across the country have over the years improved their living standards as revealed from various human development indicators. The literacy rate among STs has increased from 8.50% in 1961 to 29.60% in 1991. The percentage of ST population below poverty line has come down from the level of 68.10 in 1977-78 to 41.14 (urban) and 51.94 (rural) in 1993-94. The number of ST persons employed in different jobs in Govt. of India has increased from 50,989 in 1965 to 2,17,705 in 1995. However more need to be done to bring them at par with general population.

The TSP strategy has been adopted since 5th Plan, so that funds at least in proportion to tribal population in the States is deployed from the State and Central Plans for development of Scheduled Tribes. Besides, several Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes aim at development of education, health and income generating activities among Scheduled Tribes.

(c) In order to ensure proper implementation of Central Schemes and utilization of funds for the upliftment or tribals, the following measures are taken:

- (i) Utilization certificates for earlier releases are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds.
- (ii) Central Government officers visit the States/UTs to ascertain on the spot progress of implementation of schemes.
- (iii) Meetings/Conferences are convened at Central level with the State

Secretaries of Tribal Welfare to ensure timely submission of proposals for release of funds and to speed up implementation of schemes.

- (iv) At the State-level, the agencies like Tribal Advisory Committee, Project Implementation Committee of ITDPS at Block-levels, and Panchayat Samities monitor timely spending of money and effective implementation of schemes.

**Tribal status to Gaddies and Gujjars in H.P.**

†110. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that 'Gaddies' and 'Gujjars' were given the status of scheduled tribe in Himachal Pradesh prior to 1966, but after the reconstitution of the State in 1966 anomaly has been created by not giving the status of scheduled tribe to 'Gaddies' and 'Gujjars' of the areas included in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh Government has forwarded all required information to his Ministry; and

(c) if so, the action being taken to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) 'Gaddi' and 'Gujjar' communities have been notified as scheduled tribes in relation to the areas which formed Himachal Pradesh prior to November, 1966 and in relation to areas merged in Himachal Pradesh on account of re- organization of Punjab in the year 1966, these communities are treated as Other Backward Class (OBC). The Government of Himachal Pradesh has recommended that these communities may be declared as Scheduled Tribes throughout the State. The proposal of Government of Himachal Pradesh has been processed in accordance with modalities approved for deciding such claims.

**P.M.'s concern regarding corruption in DDA**

111. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed serious concern over rampant corruption, lack of accountability and absence of redressal mechanism in DDA;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.