

Criteria for scheduled tribes

†1783. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that many tribes in the country have not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes despite their being of tribal nature;
- (b) whether there are certain criteria for defining the term 'tribes';
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has any proposal to include Nepali speaking Rai and Gurung people and the Dhimal community; who are tribe by nature, in the category of Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The tribes or tribal communities or parts of, or group within such tribes having the tribal characteristics are notified as Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution if they fulfill the following criteria, and the proposal for their inclusions are justified as per the modalities laid down in 1999:-

1. Indications of primitive traits
2. Distinctive culture;
3. Geographical isolation;
4. Shyness of contact with the community at large, and
5. Backwardness

(d) This Ministry had received the proposals for inclusion of Khombu (Rai), Gurung and Dhimal communities in the State's list of Scheduled Tribes from the Government of West Bengal. Proposals for inclusion of Kirat Khambu Rai and Gurung communities in the State's list of Scheduled Tribes have also been received from the State Government of Sikkim. These proposals have been processed as per the modalities approved by the Government of India on 15.06.99 for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Lists.

Patronage for destitute children

†1784. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the destitute children of the country do not have any patronage;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the reasons for increase or decrease in the number of such children;
- (c) whether the Child Protection Scheme planned for destitute children has been approved or not; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.