

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 Gurang 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.

(d) at which places the temporary shelter homes have been established to impart counselling with education and professional education to destitute children and the number of destitute children availing of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The Government is seized of the problem of destitute children in the country and is therefore implementing various schemes and programmes for the welfare & rehabilitation of these children.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing the following schemes:

(i) "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" which aims at prevention of destitution and withdrawal of children from life on the street and their placement in to national mainstream.

A child helpline, viz Childline is also being assisted under the said scheme. Childline is a 24 hours toll free service and any child in distress or any adult on his/her behalf can dial 1098 to obtain assistance for immediate relief and restoration to family or referral to institutions for long-term care. This service is at present available in 83 cities.

(ii) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is providing financial assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice", for establishment and maintenance of children's homes set up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 as amended in 2006 which is the primary law for care and protection of children who are in need of care and protection in the country. These homes can be established and run by the State Government itself or in association with voluntary organizations.

Recently, the Ministry has introduced a new Centrally sponsored scheme namely 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme(ICPS)' for care and protection of children who are in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law, in the country.

While there are multiple reasons for destitution of children, no specific data is available on the increase or decrease in the number of such children.

(c) The competent authority has approved the 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' on 26.02.2009.

(d) The details of the organizations being assisted under the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' for running street children centres are available in the Ministry's website- www.wcd.nic.in

Cooked meals in Anganwadis

1785.SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide hot cooked meals in Anganwadis;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and