

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribals Affairs is concerned only with the Scheduled Tribes (ST). This Ministry has no report from any State regarding exploitation of Scheduled Tribes by the politicians, contractors and industrialists, by grabbing their land.

The Scheduled Tribes are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various programmes aimed at ameliorating their condition and creating a conducive environment, thereby enabling them to participate in all spheres of life. Further development efforts are carefully directed towards the particularly vulnerable section amongst the STs, through implementing a 100% Central Sector Scheme for their exclusive development, keeping in view their socio-cultural environment.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements the efforts of the line Ministries through implementation of various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, in order to improve the socio-economic condition of the Scheduled Tribes, covering various parameters like education, employment and healthcare. This is borne out by an increase in literacy rate, gross enrolment ratio and a reduction in the drop out rate at the primary, elementary and secondary stages of education, since 1991, and increase in work participation rate for STs vis-a-vis the total population as per 2001 Census. Further, the Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission for providing basic healthcare for the entire country with special focus on SCs/STs, etc. Also, in order to bring the STs at par with others and enhance their Human Development Index, Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a Special Programme, in which Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution are provided to all ST populated States for taking up projects for bridging the critical gaps in infrastructure in tribal areas.

#### **Relaxation in scholarship for STs**

2758. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the ST students not getting relaxation for scholarship for higher education alike the minorities community students as introduced by the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether Government would implement the same for the ST students with an urgent basis; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor despite the literacy rate of STs is less than minority communities in Orissa specially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs already has four schemes of scholarship for

higher education for ST students viz. The Post Matric Scholarship scheme, the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme, the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme and the Top Class Education Scheme. Of these, the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme is available to all eligible ST students whose family income is less than Rs. 1.08 lakh per annum, for pursuing post-matric courses in recognized institutions, unlike the schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs which carry a fixed number of scholarships per state.

#### **Ownership of forest lands to tribals**

†2759. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress made in the programme aimed at granting ownership rights to tribals over forest lands under their possession, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases identified so far, the claims presented and the number of possessions granted out of them in Rajasthan;
- (c) the number of claims pending, the stages of their pendency, since when these are pending and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the person entrusted with the responsibility to remove shortcomings pointed out in the claims and by when Government would ensure their fulfilment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Details of the claims received and the number of title deeds distributed/ready for distribution in respect of forest land under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, State-wise, including Rajasthan, as on 30.11.2009, are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 lies with the State/UT Governments. The processing of the claims for recognition and vesting of forest rights is a continuing process. The data regarding the number of claims pending in the different States/UTs, the stages of their pendency, since when these are pending and the reasons therefor, etc. are not maintained in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(d) The claimants under the Act for recognition of their forest rights over forest land have to submit their claims in the Form prescribed in the Rules notified on 1.1.2008 for implementing the provisions of the Act. The claimant himself has to ensure that the particulars to be given in the Form are correct in all respects.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.