

[Refer to the statement appended to answer to USQ No.2610 part (a) and (b)]. This statement also includes the projects sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan for Jammu & Kashmir.

National policy for welfare of tribals

2612. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a national policy for the welfare of tribal groups of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has addressed the issues of participation of tribal community in legislative machinery of the country and in the formulation of national tribal policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has formulated a draft National Tribal Policy for the welfare of tribal groups of India in order to address the critical issues concerning tribals such as lower Human Development Index, poor infrastructure, diminishing control over the natural resource base, persistent threats of eviction from their natural habitat, inequality in distribution of wealth and opportunities, lack of empowerment and to ensure their active and informed participation in development. The draft policy aims at ensuring access of the Scheduled Tribes to mainstream education, health care and income generation to improve the quality of their life.

(c) and (d) One of the objectives of the proposed National Tribal Policy is ensuring protection of political rights by active participation of tribals in political bodies at all levels. Various tribal organisations and forums were consulted by the Ministry during the course of formulation of the draft National Tribal Policy.

Schemes in Chhattisgarh

†2613. SHRI SHIVPRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.