

34	<i>Written Answers to</i>	[RAJYA SABHA]	<i>Starred Questions</i>		
1		2	3	4	5
	Odisha	0.25	0.23	0.33	0.35
	Punjab	0.26	0.27	0.32	0.31
	Rajasthan	0.20	0.23	0.30	0.31
	Sikkim	0.24	0.19	0.23	0.20
	Tamil Nadu	0.26	0.28	0.34	0.33
	Tripura	0.20	0.21	0.30	0.29
	Uttarakhand	0.23	0.26	0.34	0.34
	Uttar Pradesh	0.22	0.25	0.30	0.41
	West Bengal	0.24	0.24	0.36	0.38
	ALL INDIA	0.27	0.28	0.35	0.37

Review of ST status for tribal in Assam

*189. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of strong public resentment and large scale protest by the six communities, namely Tea Tribes, Koch Rajbongshi, Tai Ahoms, Morans, Mattaks and Tiwa in the State of Assam, who are demanding ST status for decades, which has turned violent in recent times in various places Government has decided to review the matter, and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by the State Government of Assam as well as Central Government to expedite the matter of recommendation of these six communities?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):
 (a) The proposal for identification of communities for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes should meet the following criteria:-

- (i) Indications of primitive traits;
- (ii) Distinctive culture;
- (iii) Geographical isolation;

- (iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large; and
- (v) Backwardness.

The Government of Assam had recommended granting of ST status to Koch Rajbongshi, Tai Ahoms, Morans, Mattaks and Tea Tribe communities on various occasions. But these communities could not fulfill the above criteria. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not received any proposal from the State Government of Assam for inclusion of "Tiwa" community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Steps for strengthening of Panchayati Raj system

†*190. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government is making legal changes and amendments to make Panchayati Raj system well-organized and empowered, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is taking any vital steps to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):
(a) A Bill to amend the Constitution to enhance the reservation for women in seats and offices of chairpersons in Panchayats from one third to 50% has been introduced in the Parliament. No other legal change has been proposed by the Union Government.

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) has been approved in the 12th Five Year Plan. RGPSA aims to strengthen the Panchayati Raj System in the country. RGPSA includes activities such as administrative and technical support at the Gram Panchayat level, capacity building and training of Elected Representatives and Panchayat functionaries, construction of Gram Panchayat buildings, strengthening of training infrastructure, e-enabling of Panchayats etc. Twenty percent of scheme funds are linked to States' performance on devolution and accountability from 2014-15 onwards.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.