

development of forest villages with a view to raise the Human Development Indices (HOI) of the inhabitants of the forest villages and for provision of basic facilities and services in 2474 forest villages/habitations spread over 12 States. Under the programme, funds are released out of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan for infrastructure work relating to basic services and facilities viz. approach roads, healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls, etc. for development of forest villages.

Seng Khasi community of Meghalaya

2928. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many tribal communities have been declared as Minority also as well as enjoying tribal status, State-wise list of those communities;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware of the growing unrest amongst the Seng Khasi community of Meghalaya, who has not been granted a minority status despite several memorandums; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to assuage the hurt feelings of Seng Khasi community, who has been deprived of minority benefits in the State, is there any religious persecution angle to it also, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH) : (a) A person claiming to be Scheduled Tribe may profess any religion. As the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is mandated for scheduling of communities as Scheduled Tribe in a particular State/UT, no such information is maintained.

(b) As per the information provided by the Government of Meghalaya, no such unrest has been reported.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Devolution of functions, funds and finances to the PRIs

2929. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is preparing Activity Maps for the devolution of