

Incorporation of tribes from Madhya Pradesh in pre-existing tribes

†1024. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) the action taken as on date on the letter No. 53/Mu. Man./Ka./2014 dated 17 January, 2014 of the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh State regarding incorporation of three tribes of Madhya Pradesh viz. Keer, Meena, Pardi in pre-existing tribes and by when a decision would be taken to include them in this regard; and

(b) the tribes regarding which proposal is under consideration to include them in the Schedule of Scheduled Tribes Order Act, 1950 and by when these would be notified, the details of the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) The proposal of the Government of Madhya Pradesh for inclusion of Keer, Meena, Pardi in list of Scheduled Tribes was processed as per the modalities. The proposal has been rejected by the Registrar General of India and this has been informed to the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) As on date there is no proposal under consideration before the Union Cabinet. As per the modalities, any proposal has to be concurred with by Registrar General of India (RGI) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), before placing it before the Cabinet.

Forest land occupied by tribes in West Bengal

1025. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of forest area in West Bengal and the statistics of tribes living in the forest zone;

(b) whether there has been any rise of forest area in the last five years and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to resettle the tribes and if so, the details of procedure adopted; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of funds provided by Government to the State for tribal welfare, forest conservation and afforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) As per India State of Forests Report-2013, Ministry of Environment and Forests, the forest cover is 18.93% of the geographical area of the State. The main tribes living in the forest are Rawas, Mechs, Santhals, Oraos, Garos and Totos.

(b) Forest Survey of India brings out the India State of Forest Report on a biennial basis. The forest cover during the last three reports is as follows:

1.	ISFR 2009	-	12,994 sq.km.
2.	ISFR 2011	-	12,995 sq.km.
3.	ISFR 2013	-	16,805 sq.km.

Reasons for change detected in 2013 assessment: The increase in the forest cover of the State is due to coppice growth and afforestation inside the forests and growth of commercial plantations and shade trees in tea gardens etc., outside forests. Total increase in forest cover not only pertains to the period of ISFR 2011 and ISFR 2013, but a major part of increase has been attributed to inclusion of Trees Outside Forests (TOF) areas especially in North 24 Pargana district and Malda districts which could not be captured in the earlier assessments due to poor quality of satellite data.

(c) As per information received from the Govt. of West Bengal, some initiatives have been taken by the State for settlement as per provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. They are - (i) Individual rights provided to tribals dwelling in forest areas: 32027, (ii) Community rights Diovided: 312, (iii) Community forest rights resource: 454 no. applications have been received and (iv) Individual/community rights patta ready for distribution: 145.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forest is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country including State of West Bengal. The details of amount released to West Bengal under NAP since its inception in 2002 is given as under:

Year	(₹ in crore)
2000-2002	0.00
2002-03	2.26
2003-04	5.55
2004-05	6.03
2005-06	5.92
2006-07	7.00
2007-08	7.23
2008-09	9.06
2009-10	3.11
2010-11	4.12
2011-12	6.29
2012-13	2.57
2013-14	2.96
TOTAL:	62.11

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing various schemes for the welfare of tribals. The funds released to the State of West Bengal during 2013-14 under various schemes are as under:

Sl. No.	Schemes	(in lakhs)
1.	Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students	2277.63
2.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students studying in classes IX and X	2620.00
3.	Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes	360.57

Sl. No.	Schemes	(in lakhs)
4.	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)	1300.00
5.	Grants-in-Aid to STDCCs for MFP Operations	231.93
6.	Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India	6104.00
7.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP)	4181.36
8.	Eklavya Model Residential Schools	870.24

Non-disbursal of funds for Ashram School in Rajasthan

†1026. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-disbursal of an amount of ₹ 11,160 lakh by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the construction of 18 new ashram schools in Rajasthan; and

(b) the details of reasons for the non-disbursal of the above amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) and (b) The proposal for release of ₹ 11160.00 lakh for construction of 18 new Girls Ashram Schools in five (5) districts in the State of Rajasthan was considered in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the year 2013-14. Due to limited availability of fund during the Financial Year 2013-14, the proposal was restricted to construction of five (5) new Girls Ashram Schools. But the fund could not be released as the Utilization for amount '₹ 251.94 lakh' out of the released amount '₹ 634.89, for the period 2011-12' was pending. The Utilization Certificate in this regard is still awaited. The fund for these five new Girls Ashram Schools can be released during the Financial Year 2014-15, if the State Government meets the codal requirements in time.

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