

Conversion of forest villages into revenue villages

1208. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the conversion of forest villages into revenue villages as per the Forest Rights Act (FRA) has not been done in most States;

(b) whether it is a fact that forest departments resist the rights of village communities and so far community titles account only for 2 per cent of total FRA titles;

(c) whether Government proposes to bring more clarity on the roles of forest department and introduce Minimum Support Price for all Minor Forest Produce to address the concerns of forest communities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (Forest Rights Act, 2006, in short) provides for conversion of Forest Villages into Revenue Villages as one of the forest rights conferred on forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. Different State/UT Governments carry out the process of conversion of forest villages to revenue villages as a component of Forest Rights Act, 2006 and they are at different stages of progress.

(b) Officials of forest departments of different States are a part of the committees constituted at different levels for the recognition and vesting of forest rights. There is significant increase in community rights title distribution. As on 28.2.2015 as many as 15,32,555 individual titles and 29,898 community titles have been issued. A single community title covers a large geographical area as compared to an individual title and hence these two cannot be compared in percentage terms.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has introduced from the year 2013-14, a centrally sponsored scheme of 'Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP'. The scheme initially covers 12 MFP namely (i) Tendu, (ii) Bamboo, (iii) Mahuwa Seed, (iv) Sal Leaf, (v) Sal Seed, (vi) Lac, (vii) Chironjee, (viii) Wild Honey, (ix) Myrobalan, (x) Tamarind, (xi) Gums (Gum Karaya) and (xii) Karanj which are non-nationalized and abundantly available in the States having areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, *e.g.*, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Ministry

of Tribal Affairs has already issued guidelines which envisage, among other things, to involve forest department for scientific collection and sustainability of process. At present, this Ministry has no proposal to include all MFP under coverage of the Scheme.

Coaching for ST students

1209. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Scheduled Tribes students who obtained coaching for competitive exams from reputed coaching institutes under Coaching for Scheduled Tribes programme during last five years; and

(b) the details of funds spent on them and the coaching institutes in which they took coaching during last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) and (b) Under the scheme of 'Coaching for Scheduled Tribes' implemented by this Ministry, financial assistance is provided to Coaching Institutes for providing coaching to ST students. The scheme is demand-driven and need based. Funds are released to the selected Coaching Institutions each year on submission of complete proposals by them along with the Utilization Certificates for previous grants and subject to their fulfillment of the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2005 and norms of the scheme.

The details of grants-in-aid provided to coaching institutes during the last five years along with the number of students benefitted under the scheme of 'Coaching for STs' are given in the Statement (*See below*).