

(c) what remedial measures Government has taken/proposes to take to get rid of hunger and malnutrition amongst the tribals in Maharashtra and other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR): (a) and (b) There have been recent reports of malnutrition in tribal areas in Odisha and Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, the problem has been reported in Palghar district and also in residential schools for tribal children in the State. In Odisha, the problem has been reported in Jajpur and Malkangiri districts.

(c) Public health is a State subject and Government of India provides funds and technical support to States to address the health needs. Taking cognizance of media reports, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has advised the Tribal Development Departments of Governments of Maharashtra and Odisha to address the problem of malnutrition promptly.

All the States have also been advised for use of traditional food, and minor millets in the food basket, through intervention in schools and also for supplementing food with iron and folic acid. Funds are also provided to States, as Special Central Assistants to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and grants under Article (275(1)) of the Constitution of India, for addressing health needs of Tribals.

This Ministry had revised Guidelines for 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP)' and 'Grants under Article (275(1) of the Constitution of India' in June 2016, to provide for 10-15% of allocation under health sector.

Low literacy rates among tribals

958. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes is 59 per cent as per 2011 Census;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that this is 14 per cent low as compared to literacy rate of total population as per Census 2011;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan to upgrade the literacy rate of STs upto the national average in a time-bound manner; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In order to bridge gap in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe (ST) children, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing following schemes for improving education level and literacy rate amongst tribals:

- (i) Scheme of Girls and Boys Hostels for STs: Under the scheme, Central assistance is given to States / UTs / Universities for construction of new hostel buildings and / or extension of existing hostels. State Governments are eligible for 100% central share for construction of all Girls' hostel and also for construction of Boys' hostel in naxal affected areas. The funding pattern for other Boys' Hostel to State Governments is on 50:50 basis.
- (ii) Scheme of Ashram Schools in Tribal Areas: The objective of the scheme is to provide residential schools for STs to increase the literacy rate among the tribal students and to bring them at par with other population of the country. Under the scheme, State Governments are eligible for 100% central share for construction of all Girls' Ashram Schools and also for construction of Boys' Ashram Schools in naxal affected areas. The funding pattern for the other Boys' Ashram Schools is on 50:50 basis.
- (iii) Scheme for Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts: The scheme aims to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women, through facilitating 100% enrolment of tribal girls in the identified Districts or Blocks, more particularly in naxal affected areas and in areas inhabited by Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), and reducing drop-outs at the elementary level by creating the required ambience for education. Improvement of the literacy rate of tribal girls is essential to enable them to participate effectively in and benefit from, socio-economic development.

2. In addition to above, to maximize retention of ST students within various stages of school education and promoting higher learning, monetary incentives are provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the form of scholarships such as Pre Matric Scholarship, Post Matric Scholarship, National Overseas Scholarship, Scholarship for Top Class Education and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students.

3. As informed by Ministry of Human Resource Development, following initiatives have been taken:

- (i) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA),

districts with high concentration of population of Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs). The criteria for identifying the SFDs is of 25% and above population of STs.

- (ii) The percentage of enrolment of children from ST community, as per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2014-15, is 10.47% of the total enrolment in elementary education, which is more than the share of tribal population at 8.6% as per census 2011.
- (iii) For the year 2016-17, an amount of ₹ 998433.32 lakh has been allocated for ST concentrated SFDs under SSA, which is 13% of the total allocation of SSA. Besides, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) have played an important role in furthering the goal of girls' education in educationally backward blocks of the country. A total of 508 KGBVs, which are upper primary residential schools for girls, have been sanctioned in the ST concentrated SFDs, out of which 507 are operational. In ST concentrated SFDs, 147 residential schools and 190 hostels have been sanctioned.
- (iv) SSA also supports provisions for textbooks to all children in Government/ local body and Government aided schools and two sets of uniform to all girls, Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) children and Below Poverty Line (BPL) children, wherever State Governments have incorporated provision of school uniforms as a child entitlement in their State RTE Rules.
- (v) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 under Section 29 states that wherever practicable children should be taught in their mother tongue. In the last few years several States have taken initiatives to bridge children from tribal groups speaking a different language at home to transition to school language.
- (vi) Teacher training under the SSA has sessions on sensitizing teachers to actively dispel traditional perceptions regarding gender or caste roles, take measures which would help girls, children from disadvantaged groups and weaker sections pursue education which is equitable and free of anxiety. Further, revision of syllabi, textbooks and supplementary learning material are done to incorporate gender and social inclusion dimensions.
- (vii) In order to improve literacy rate, Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development is being implemented in rural areas of 410 districts in 26 States and one UT that had adult female

literacy rate of 50 per cent and below as per Census 2001, and including left wing extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rates, with special focus on women, SCs, STs, minorities and other disadvantaged groups. The principal target of the programme is to impart functional literacy to 70 million adults (60 million female) including 8 million STs (6 million female) in the age group of 15 years and beyond. Plan-wise targets are fixed to achieve higher levels of literacy in a phased manner. The present targets are to raise the overall literacy rate of the country to 80 per cent and reduce the gender gap to 10 percentage points by the end of XII Five Year Plan (*i.e.* 31.07.2017).

Eviction of tribals in west and east godavari districts

959. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many forest dwellers and tribals have been evicted since January 1, 2015 from villages of Chenogondapalli, Mamidigondhi, Devragondhi, Pydipaka, Singanapalli, Thotagandhi, Itikalakota in Polavaram Mandal in West Godavari district and Devipatnam Mandal in East Godavari district for Polavaram dam;

(b) whether it is a fact that no tribal has since got any benefit under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, in all the above mentioned villages; and

(c) what steps are proposed to halt all evictions in such villages till the Forest Rights Act is fully and satisfactorily implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR): (a) In so far as land related issues are concerned, the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources (DoLR) is the nodal Ministry at the Centre, which plays a monitoring role in the field of rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced people. Land and its management fall under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of States as provided under the Constitution of India (Seventh Schedule -List ii (State List) - Entry No. (18). Therefore, State-wise details are not maintained centrally. DoLR is responsible for collecting data regarding land acquisition and displacement covering ST families also. Further, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is the nodal Ministry for implementing irrigation and Water Resources Projects in the country.

National Monitoring Committee Constituted under Sec.48 of Right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013 has taken up the work of compilation of information regarding and acquisition and displacement.