Sl. No.	Name of the State	Forest village to Revenue village
4.	West Bengal	86 Forest villages converted to Revenue villages
5.	Odisha	Recorded 22 Forest Villages and unsurveyed habitations identified for being converted to Revenue villages
6.	Gujarat	Out of total 196 recorded forest settlement, 175 have been identified for conversion to Revenue villages
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Out of total 12 recorded forest settlements, 6 have been converted to Revenue Villages.

Change in criteria for inclusion in STs list

1251. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and modalities for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution;

(b) whether there is any proposal to change these criteria and modalities in view of the recent demands from some advanced communities for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) the safeguards put in place by Government to protect the interests of the Scheduled Tribes in the original list against these new demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The criteria presently followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are: (i) indications of primitive traits, (ii) distinctive culture, (iii) geographical isolation, (iv) shyness of contact with the community at large, and (v) backwardness. However, these criteria are not spelt out in the Constitution.

Government of India on 15.6.1999 (as further amended on 25.6.2002), has approved modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying lists of Scheduled Tribes (STs). Accordingly, only those proposals which have been recommended and justified by concerned State Government / UT Administration can be processed further. Thereafter, it has to be concurred with by Registrar General of India (RGI) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) for consideration for amendment of legislation.

(b) and (c) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary (Tribal Affairs) was constituted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in February, 2014 to examine the existing criteria and procedure. The Task Force in its report submitted to the Ministry has made recommendations, among other things, for revision of criteria and procedure for scheduling of tribes as STs. The recommendations of the Task Force were examined and accordingly the proposal for streamlining of procedure for scheduling of communities as STs and revision of criteria for scheduling of communities as STs was circulated to States / UTs. Views / comments have been received from all States/UTs except from one State.

Forest Land Area Act in Himachal Pradesh

1252. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tribals living in forest villages in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the tribal living in forest villages are denied the privileges under the Forest Land Area Act and if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to convert such a forest villages into revenue villages in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR): (a) Total number of Scheduled Tribes (STs) living in forest villages in the country, State /UT wise, is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir. Section 4(5) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 provides specific safeguards against the eviction or removal of a member of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or Other Traditional Forest Dweller from forest land under his occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 also provides special safeguards for Scheduled Tribes with regard to their land rights and livelihood.

(c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs, *vide* its letter No.23011/33/2010-FRA dated 08.11.2013, has issued guidelines to all State Governments /UT Administrations, including Himachal Pradesh, on conversion of forest villages, old habitations, unsurveyed villages, etc. into revenue villages.