

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry to track such cases, look into the causes of their deaths and to find out the person accountable for the lapses in administering the rights of such tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) No such reports have been received in Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Enhancing HDIs of tribals living in bio-diverse areas

2979. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the most bio-diverse areas on the earth are home to indigenous and tribal people including India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India recorded highest malnutrition-led mortality among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof and the steps taken by Government to enhance their Human Development Indices (HDIs) and protect their rights with conservation of their ethnicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) There are reports in the available literature which suggest that 80 per cent of the most bio-diversity areas in the world are home to indigenous and tribal peoples including India (Sobrevila, 2008; Etchart, 2017).

(b) Indigenous people occupy a significant area of the world's natural ecosystem. In India, the North-Eastern Region comprises of seven States, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, which is known for high ethnic and biological diversity, and is often referred to as "Biological Hotspot" (Dollo et al., 2009). Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand States are also home to rich biological diversity and support several indigenous population.

(c) No such details have been reported to Ministry of Tribal Affairs in recent past.

(d) Government has been implementing several schemes/programmes aimed at improving human development indices like Integrated Child Development Services

and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana of Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Health Mission and Mission Indradhanush of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Mid-Day Meals Scheme and Samagra Shiksha of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Drinking Water and Total Sanitation Campaign of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Targeted Public Distribution System of Department of Food and Public Distribution etc. Apart from giving grants for gap filling in respect of sectors like education, health etc., Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides untied funds for demand driven interventions for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Land right issues of tribals

2980. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not paid enough attention on the land right issues of tribals:

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to protect the land rights of tribals;

(d) whether the tribals are targeted after they file their claims for land rights; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) and (b) Government has enacted the 'The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013' (RFCTLARR Act, 2013 in short). The purpose of the said Act is to ensure, in consultation with Institutions of local Self Government and Gram Sabhas established under the Constitution, a humane, participative, informed and transparent process for land acquisition with the least disturbance to the owners of the land and the other affected families and provide just and fair compensation to the affected families whose land has been acquired or proposed to be acquired. The provisions of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 are implemented by appropriate Government as defined under Section 3 (e) of the said Act.

Further, Government has enacted The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 2006 in short). The objective of the Act is to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers