

Atrocities on religious minorities in Pakistan

1739. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the atrocities being committed on religious community such as Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan especially their abduction and forcefully conversion etc.;

(b) if so, the details of such cases as received by Indian High Commission in Pakistan during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) The Government, from time to time, has come across reports of atrocities against the members of the minority communities in Pakistan, including those of intimidation, abduction, persecution, forced conversions, forced marriages and vandalism of the places of religious worship. Some of the recent cases include that of vandalism of the holy Gurudwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib; the killing of a minority Sikh community person in Peshawar and the abduction, forced conversion and marriage of Hindu girls in the Sindh Province.

Based on these reports, the Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and asked it to take steps to protect and to promote the safety, security and well-being of its minority communities including various places of religious worship. Pakistan has also been asked to take immediate measures to expeditiously bring the perpetrators of such despicable and heinous acts to justice.

India has also highlighted the human rights violations in Pakistan, including at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. It has recommended to Pakistan, *inter alia*, to end forced conversions and forced marriages of minorities, including Hindu, Sikh and Christian women, and prosecute all cases.

Post-Matric Scholarship scheme in Maharashtra

1740. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been submitted to the Central Government by the

State Government of Maharashtra for implementation of the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribes students;

(b) the details of the funds released for the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme by Government during the period 2017-20, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the maximum time likely to be taken by Government to release the remaining central assistance to the State; and

(d) whether there are any other measures taken/being taken by Government for improving the literacy level of tribal communities in Maharashtra, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) and (b) The Central assistance under the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe students is released to State/UTs based on proposals received from them, and subject to availability of funds during the financial year. Accordingly, based on the proposals received from the Government of Maharashtra, a total of ₹ 15750.00 lakhs admissible under the Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students was released for the academic year 2018-19. Further, based on the proposal for the year 2019-20, an amount of ₹4800.00 lakhs was also released as 1st instalment for the year 2019-20 as per availability of funds. The details of fund released from 2017 to 2020 (Financial year-wise) is given below:—

*Fund released to Maharashtra under the Scheme of Post-Matric
Scholarship for ST students*

State/UT	F.Y. 2016-17	F.Y. 2017-18	F.Y. 2018-19	(₹ in lakh)
				F.Y. 2019-20 (Release as on 02.03.20)
Maharashtra	22092.28	10884.91	15238.15	15575.38

(c) Further funds will be released based on the availability of funds under the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme.

(d) The Government is implementing the following schemes for the overall development of tribal communities (including literacy level) in all over the country

including Maharashtra:-

- (i) Pre-Matric Scholarships for ST students.
- (ii) Post-Matric Scholarships for ST students.
- (iii) National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students.
- (iv) National Overseas Scholarships for ST students for studying abroad.
- (v) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.
- (vi) Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts.
- (vii) Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India.
- (viii) Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).
- (ix) Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS).
- (x) Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Formulation of National Tribal Policy

1741. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

- (a) the present status of the formulation of the National Tribal Policy;
- (b) whether the views of various stakeholders have been received and the status of their incorporation; and
- (c) the time-frame for the formulation of the said policy and its implementation status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs had prepared a draft National Tribal Policy in 2006. This became out of context in view of certain legislative and policy changes and these necessitated further revision of the draft policy. Meanwhile, a High Level Committee (HLC) was constituted on 14.08.2013 to prepare a position paper on socio-economic status of STs and suggest a way forward. The Committee submitted its report on 29.05.2014 which contains 108