

S. No.	States/UT	Number of Proposals
15.	Punjab	1
16.	Sikkim	1
17.	Tamil Nadu	8
18.	Tripura	1
19.	Uttarakhand	1
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3
21.	West Bengal	3
22.	Puducherry	1

Preservation of naturalist wisdom of tribals

625. DR. SONAL MANSINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to preserve naturalist wisdom of the tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware that the number of women and men are decreasing year by year in various tribal communities nationwide, especially in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(e) if so, the details of steps taken for the survival of such tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) to (c) The naturalistic wisdom is an integral part of tribal cultural heritage. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is providing support to State Governments for protection and promotion of rich tribal heritage including art and artefacts, handicraft, sports, tribal medicines, naturalistic medicinal practices etc., Government has set up Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in the State, to work as a body of knowledge & research and as a think tank for tribal development and to work towards preservation and dissemination of distinctiveness/uniqueness of tribal culture and their naturalistic knowledge. Funds are provided to TRIs under the Scheme 'Support

to TRT for various activities including construction of museum, library, language primers, research works, seminar/workshop, publication of books, development of documentaries, organisation of tribal festivals etc. Funds are also provided to private institutions for carrying out research work on various tribal issue under the Scheme 'Tribal Festival, Research Information and Mass Education'. National level tribal festival / carnival is organized by the Ministry to showcase glimpses of rich cultural heritage of tribal people across the country through unique forms of folk dances, songs, cuisine, exhibition and demonstration of naturalistic skill in painting, art and craft, medicinal practices etc.

(d) As per figures reflected in Census 2001 and 2011, total population of Scheduled Tribes in the country has been on the increase as given in the table below:—

	2001	2011	Decadal Growth in % from 2001
Total ST population in the country	84326240	104281034	23.66
ST population in Andaman and Nicobar Islands	29469	28530	-3.19

(e) Central Government provides dedicated Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) / Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) funds to the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for welfare and development of tribal population as per details given below:—

(₹ in crore)

Year	TSP/STC funds provided to UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2012-13	214.53
2013-14	122.00
2014-15	103.83
2015-16	221.39
2016-17	129.60
2017-18	311.44
2018-19	246.10

Besides above, Ministry of Tribal Affairs(MoTA) is implementing a scheme namely "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribes Groups (PVTG)" for the welfare of PVTGs in 18 States and UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The scheme envisages to focus on areas relevant to their socio-cultural environment. Activities under it include housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs. Funds are provided to the UT based on their proposal.

Further, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has opened various channels of communication with the STs so as to ascertain their present concerns as well as their future needs. Exclusive medical wards in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) located near the Jarawa Reserve at Tushnabad, Kadamtala and GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair have been set up for treatment of Jarawas. Such wards are also declared as Tribal Reserve under the Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation, 1956 to prevent any interaction of the unauthorised non-tribals with the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Medical Sub Centres have been established by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration at Dugong Creek in Little Andaman and Strait Island for providing health care facilities to the Onges and Andamanese tribes. Health card of each individual of PVTGs is maintained by Tribal Welfare Officers of Andaman AdimJanjati Vikas Samitie (AAJVS)/ Medical Sub Centres and are regularly updated. The expertise available with the Central Government Institutions like Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) & GB Pant Hospital is utilized for the wellbeing of the PVTGs from time to time. Nutritional supplements are being provided to the pregnant women, lactating mothers and infants belonging to Onge and Andamanese tribes through AAJVS. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration through AAJVS extends all financial support to the tribal students of Onge & Andamanese communities for their education at the primary, middle and higher secondary levels. Exclusive Middle level schools have been established in the tribal settlements for Onges at Dugong Creek, Little Andaman and for Andamanese at Strait Islands. Informal education system has been introduced amongst the Jarawas and Onges children through bilingual bicultural curriculum developed by Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research Institute (ANTRI) and AAJVS.