

Van Dhan Kendras in Andhra Pradesh

3020. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has targeted for setting up of 211 Van Dhan Kendras in the State of Andhra Pradesh in 2019-20;

(b) if so, the number of VDKs so far set up, district-wise and the amount sanctioned, released and utilised; and

(c) to what extent setting up of VDKs help tribals to improve their economic status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) and (b) As informed by Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), it is envisaged to establish 211 Vana Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) in Andhra Pradesh with District-wise breakup is given in the Statement (*See below*). An amount of ₹ 1064.00 lakh has so far been released to Andhra Pradesh State for the purpose.

(c) Van Dhan Vikas Kendra envisages to provide training to Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collection, value addition, brand building and marketing of value-added products to fetch higher returns for their products.

Statement

No. of Vana Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) envisaged to be established in Andhra Pradesh State

Sl. No.	District	No. of VDK
1	2	3
1.	Visakhapatnam	45
2.	Vizianagaram	40
3.	East Godavari	20

1	2	3
4.	Guntur	20
5.	Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore	20
6.	Srikakulam	20
7.	Anantapur	10
8.	Chittoor	10
9.	Prakasam	10
10.	Krishna	8
11.	West Godavari	8
TOTAL		211

ST status to communities from Assam

3021. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a bill for conferring ST status to six communities of Assam namely, Koch Rajbongshi, Tai-Ahom, Moran, Motak, Chutiya and Tea Tribes;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the said Bill therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the proposal of Government in conferring ST status to such communities thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) A Bill namely, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill – 2019, with respect to the State of Assam was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 9th January, 2019. It proposed to include 41 communities *i.e.* Moran, Matak, Chutia, Koch Rajbongshi, Tai Ahom and 36 Tea Tribes, at Sl.No. 15 to 55, in the list of the Scheduled Tribes of Assam.

(b) and (c) The Government of India on 15.6.1999 (further amended on 25.6.2002),