

communities of West Bengal for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes list so as to enable the people of those communities to avail benefits for their development;

- (b) the status and current position of Central Government in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RENUKA SINGH SARUTA): (a) Yes. The Government of West Bengal *vide* its letters dated 28.02.2014 had sent proposal for inclusion of 10 communities namely:- Bhujel, Gurung, Mangar, Newar, Jogi, Khas, Rai, Sunuwar, Thami and Yakha (Dewan) community of Darjeeling District in the list of STs of West Bengal and another community namely:- Dhimal (which was earlier sent in 2009-for Dhimal) in the Scheduled Tribe list of West Bengal.

(b) and (c) The Government of India on 15.6.1999 (further amended on 25.6.2002), has laid down the modalities for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying list of Scheduled Tribes. According to these modalities, only those proposals which have been recommended and justified by the concerned State Government/ Union Territory Administration and concurred with by the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes are to be considered for amendment of legislation. All actions are taken with respect to proposals of State/UT Governments for the communities demanding Scheduled Tribes status as per these modalities.

Challenges faced by the tribal communities

620. DR. BHAGWAT KARAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any assessment of the challenges being faced by the tribal communities in the country with special reference to Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by Government to address these challenges; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has undertaken evaluation studies of its schemes through

third party. The evaluation reports *inter-alia* indicated the problems and challenges faced by tribal communities in the country including Maharashtra. Further, Studies conducted by the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) also highlighted the challenges faced by tribal people. Some of the studies undertaken by Tribal Research Institute, Maharashtra are as under:—

- (i) Migration of Vulnerable Tribes in Maharashtra - Livelihood Resources, Health and Food habits of Korku Tribe
- (ii) Migration of Vulnerable Tribes in Maharashtra - Livelihood Resources, Health and Food habits of Katkari Tribe
- (iii) TRIBECON: National Conference on "Tribal Health Research - Issues, Challenges and Opportunities"
- (iv) Ethnographic Study of Bhilala and Pavra Communities of Buldhana District
- (v) Health and Nutritional needs of Adolescent Girls in Ashram schools: a study in Maharashtra
- (vi) Status of Implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006 (Gadchiroli and Nandurbar Districts)
- (vii) Handbook on Cultural Affinity for Tribal Identity Claims in collaboration with the Department of Anthropology, Savitribal Pune University, Pune.
- (viii) Ethnographic Study of 45 Tribes in Maharashtra
- (ix) Control the Population decline among Katkari tribe (PVTG Group) through Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
- (x) Maternal and Child health status of Kolam Tribe and Media Tribe (PVTG group)

There have been challenges in achieving desired pace of development among tribal people. This is mainly on account of their traditional life styles, remoteness of habitations, dispersed population and displacement, lack of employment opportunities, absence of skill development training, lack of awareness etc.

Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) [now called Scheduled Tribe Component (STC)] Strategy was adopted in 5th Five Year Plan (1974-75) for accelerated development of tribal people.

It envisages channelizing the flow of outlays and benefits from all sectors of development to ST population. TSP funds are dedicated source of fund for tribal development. Apart from Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 40 Central Ministries/Departments have been mandated to earmark Tribal Sub-Plan funds in the range of 4.3% to 17.5% of their total Scheme allocation every year for tribal development. Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging gaps. The efforts made through TSP / STC Strategy has brought out improvements, for tribals in terms of various indices relating to literacy, health, livelihood, etc. The details of Schemes/ Programmes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Schemes/Programmes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme / Programme
1.	Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Scheme (TSS)
2.	Grants-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution
3.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy Scheduled Tribe Students studying in Classes IX & X
4.	Post - Matric Scholarship Scheme (PMS)
5.	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. National Fellowship for ST Students II. Scholarship Scheme (Top Class Education) for ST Students
6.	National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Higher Studies Abroad
7.	Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP)
8.	Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)
9.	Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.
10.	Support to Tribal Research Institutes
11.	Scheme for Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Programme
12.	Tribal Festival, Research, Information and Mass Education
13.	Equity Support to National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation(NSTFDC)/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations (STFDCs)
14.	Institutional Support for Marketing and Development of Tribal Products (TRIFED etc.)

Assessment of Ashram Schools

621. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has done any assessment of Ashram Schools in the country regarding it's impact in career making of tribal students;
- (b) whether the drop out rate is very high in Ashram Schools;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised by the Ashram Schools during the last five years; and
- (e) whether Government is planning to bring Ashram Schools under the Ministry of Education?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA): (a) Running of Ashram Schools including performance assessment thereof is the responsibility of respective State Governments. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs only provides funds for construction and infrastructure development of Ashram Schools based on the proposals received from the State Governments.

(b) and (c) The information regarding dropout rate in Ashram Schools is not Centrally maintained and no State Government has made any reference to the Ministry about high dropout rates in Ashram Schools.

(d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs only provides funds for construction and infrastructure development of Ashram Schools. Running and overall maintenance of