GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO –1896
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2024

PROGRAMME ON FOREST RIGHTS ACT

1896 SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered creating a pool of resource persons through intensive educational and training programme on the Forest Rights Act (FRA), if so, the details thereof, if not, reason therefor;
(b) the details of total individual and community title claims made and given under Forest Rights Act (FRA) for the members of Scheduled Tribe communities and other traditional forest dwellers, for the lasts 5 years, State-wise;
(c) the details of Schedule Tribes Status request pending, state wise; and
(d) the details of steps taken by Government to provide educational support to the tribals in Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a): 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA) seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been providing support to the State Governments for effective implementation of FRA. Ministry has also been engaging with Civil Society organizations and States to have their inputs so as to strengthen implementation of FRA.

In 2017-18, an amount of Rs. 2.15 crore was granted to State Government of Maharashtra for creation of a diploma course in sustainable management of MFPs under FRA & PESA with the aim to create a pool of trained professionals who can contribute to the effective management of community forest rights under FRA.
As informed by State Government of Maharashtra, State Tribal Research and Training Institutes in collaboration with the Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy has been conducting diploma at two prominent universities in Maharashtra-WADA college affiliated with Mumbai School of

Economics and Public Policy (MSEPP), University of Mumbai and Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada (SRTM) University, Nanded. As of now, **103 students** have successfully completed the diploma, equipped with the knowledge and skills to manage community forest rights effectively. In addition to that since implementation of FRA lies with State Government, many state governments have created their resource pools of master trainers and FRA coordinators to not only impart trainings but also to ensure that the benefits of provisions of FRA are fully realized.

(b): As per FRA and rules made thereunder, State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for implementation of various provisions of the Act. The State Governments /UT administrations submit the Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) to Ministry of Tribal Affairs regarding status of implementation of FRA, however segregated data of FDST and OTFD is not maintained centrally. As per information received from the State Governments as on 30.06.2024, a total of 50,54,316 claims (48,60,676 individual and 1,93,640 community claims) have been received and 24,87,347 titles (23,71,921 individual titles and 1,15,426 community titles) have been distributed. The state wise detail (as on 30.06.2024) is at **Annexure** and for the last 5 years, state wise MPRs have been published and is in public domain on this Ministry's website at-https://tribal.nic.in/FRA.aspx.

(c): The Government of India on 15.6.1999, and further amended on 25.6.2002 and 14.09.2022, has laid down the modalities for deciding the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying lists of Scheduled Tribes. As per the modalities, only those proposals which have been recommended and justified by the State Government/UT Administration and concurred with by Registrar General of India (RGI) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) are to be considered and legislation amended. All actions on the proposals are taken as per these approved modalities. The proposals for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes of a State or Union Territory follow certain processes as per the modalities. This is an ongoing process. Proposals received from the State Government should be accompanied by an ethnographic report. The proposals are examined by the Office of the RGI and then by the NCST. In case the proposal is not recommended by the RGI, the State Governments are communicated the points raised by the RGI, so that additional information, if any, may be furnished by the State Government. Many such proposals may therefore remain under examination at different levels.

(d): Several interventions have been taken by Government of India, including Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide educational support to Tribals across India, including Tamil Nadu. these interventions are as follows:-
(i) Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) to provide quality education to tribal children (from class VI to XII) in their own environment from the year 2018-19. Earlier EMRS was a component under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Under the new scheme, Government decided to establish one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). Ministry has sanctioned a total number of 8 EMRSs in the State of Tamil Nadu as detailed under:

S. No.	District	Block/ Taluka	Village	Year of sanction	Functional Status
1.	Kalakuruchi (Villupuram)	Kalrayan Hills (Chinnasalem)	Vellimalai	1997-98	Functional
2.	Kanchipuram (Chengalpattu)	Thiruporur	Pattipulam	2017-18	Functional
3.	Namakkal	Kolli Hills	Edappulinadu	2016-17	Functional
4.	Salem	Peddanaickenpalayam	Puthiragoundampalayam	2005-06	Functional
5.	Salem	Yercaud	Melur	2018-19	Functional
6.	The Nilgiris	Udhagamandalam	Nanjanad	2016-17	Functional
7.	Thiruvanna Malai	Jawathu Hills	Athipattu	2016-17	Functional
8.	Tirupattur	Kandili	Vishamangalam	2016-17	Functional

ii.   Funds in the form of Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution are provided to State Governments for filling the gaps of infrastructure in various sectors   including those related to educational activities as per proposal of State Government. Details of funds approved for education related activities/projects in the State of Tamil Nadu under Proviso to Article 275(1) during 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Tamil Nadu	0.00	150.70	0.00

iii.   For socio-economic and holistic development of PVTGs, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was implementing scheme of "Development of PVTGs" wherein funds have been provided to the concerned State Government / UT including Tamil Nadu on the basis of their proposals for Conservation cum Development (CCD) plans. An amount of Rs.3.32 crore was released to State in FY 2021-22. The Scheme of was later subsumed in Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha AbhiyaN (PM JANMAN), which was launched on 15.11.2023. The scheme is aimed at socio-economic development of 75 PVTG communities residing in 18 states and one UT with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in 3 years through 11 interventions of 9 Ministries. Construction of hostels for PVTGs is one of the identified interventions under the Mission. As per information from Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy, 07 hostels have been sanctioned (as on 01.08.2024) in the State of Tamil Nadu under Samagra Shiksha.

iv. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing Scholarship Schemes viz. Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship, National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students, National Fellowship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Student and National Overseas Scholarship for ST students to promote and encourage basic and higher education amongst ST population across the country including Tamil Nadu. Details of fund released and beneficiaries under scholarship schemes during last 3 Academic years in respect of Tamil Nadu State is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of Scheme	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Funds Released	Beneficiaries	Funds Released	Beneficiaries	Funds Released	Beneficiaries
Pre-Matric Scholarship	369.37	16854	430.39	15325	319.80	12341
Post-Matric Scholarship	2505.84	24441	2702.73	23529	1928.41	22773

Apart from above, educational support is provided to Government of Tamil Nadu for Tribal students under Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) of the schemes implemented by Department of Higher Education and Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Ministry Name	Name of Scheme	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Department of Higher Education	RashtriyeUchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)	151.23	129.15	-
Department of School Education & Literacy	National Programme of Mid day Meals in Schools	395.50	-	-
	Samagra Shiksha	1890.51	2592.66	2867.77
	New India Literacy Programme (NILP)	-	63.13	39.90
	Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM Poshan)	-	619.86	1070.09

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1896 for answer on 07.08.2024

State wise details of claims received and titles distributed, as on 30.06.2024:

S. No.	States	No. of Claims received upto 30.06.2024			No. of Titles Distributed upto 30.06.2024		
		Individual	**Community**	**Total**	**Individual**	**Community**	**Total**
1	Andhra Pradesh	284,685	3,294	287,979	226,297	1,822	228,119
2	Assam	148,965	6,046	155,011	57,325	1,477	58,802
3	Bihar	8,022	NA/NR	8,022	121	0	121
4	Chhattisgarh	888,028	53,949	941,977	478,563	49,270	527,833
5	Goa	9,758	378	10,136	856	15	871
6	Gujarat	182,869	7,187	190,056	97,690	4,791	102,481
7	Himachal Pradesh	4,880	466	5,346	256	59	315
8	Jharkhand	107,032	3,724	110,756	59,866	2,104	61,970
9	Karnataka	288,549	5,940	294,489	14,981	1,345	16,326
10	Kerala	44,200	991	45,191	28,641	258	28,899
11	Madhya Pradesh	585,326	42,187	627,513	266,901	27,976	294,877
12	Maharashtra	390,477	11,323	401,800	198,504	8,407	206,911
13	Odisha	657,308	18,329	675,637	460,533	7,838	468,371
14	Rajasthan	112,988	9,055	122,043	49,193	2,973	52,166
15	Tamil Nadu	34,877	2,584	37,461	10,536	531	11,067
16	Telangana	651,822	3,427	655,249	230,735	721	231,456
17	Tripura	200,557	164	200,721	127,931	101	128,032
18	Uttar Pradesh	92,577	1,162	93,739	18,049	861	18,910
19	Uttarakhand	3,587	3,091	6,678	184	1	185
20	West Bengal	131,962	10,119	142,081	44,444	686	45,130
21	Jammu & Kashmir	32,207	10,224	42,431	315	4,190	4,505
	TOTAL	**4,860,676**	**193,640**	**5,054,316**	**2,371,921**	**115,426**	**2,487,347**

NA/NR-Related figure is either not available or not reported.

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