

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1901
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2024

INCLUSION OF COMMUNITIES IN THE ST LIST

1901 SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government will include the 12 left-out communities in Sikkim in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list;
- (b) the steps taken to expedite their inclusion;
- (c) the expected timeline for the inclusion of these communities;
- (d) the manner in which Government will address the socio-economic challenges faced by these communities in the interim; and
- (e) the manner in which Government will ensure that the benefits of inclusion reach all members of these communities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (c): The Government of India on 15.6.1999 (further amended on 25.6.2002 and 14.9.2022) has approved the modalities for deciding the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying lists of Scheduled Tribes. According to these modalities, only those proposals which have been recommended and justified, along with ethnographic details by the State Government/UT Administration concerned, can be processed further. Thereafter, it has to be concurred with by the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) before being considered for amendment legislation. All actions 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 a continuous process. Proposals received from the State Government should be accompanied by an ethnographic report. The proposals are examined by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) and then by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (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. The proposal of Sikkim Government for inclusion of 11 communities was not supported by RGI and the matter has been referred back to the State Government.

(d) to (e): Welfare of such castes due to pendency of proposal cannot be ascertained. The benefit of Scheduled Tribes can be availed only when a community is notified as Scheduled Tribes (ST).
