

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †2456
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 01/08/2022

RELIGIOUS CONVERSION

†2456. SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that religious conversion is taking place on a large scale in many cities, villages and towns in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same;
- (c) the details of the appropriate steps taken by the Government to protect the thousand years old culture of our tribes;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any committee to find out the reasons of religious conversion by the tribal community people;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for the development of tribals; and
- (g) the plans of the Government to bring the tribals into the mainstream of development?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (b): Figures about religious conversion are not being maintained by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(c): Preservation and promotion of culture of the tribes of India is a priority of the Government of India. The twin objectives of the schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes while preserving and promoting their culture.

(d): No sir.

(e): Does not arise.

(f to g): The Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for the development of tribal population and to bring them into the mainstream of development. Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), now called Scheduled Tribe Component (STC), is a dedicated source of fund for tribal development and conservation and promotion of tribal culture, language and traditions. STC is a multi-purpose strategy which includes support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood etc. Major part of infrastructure development in tribal dominated areas and provision of basic amenities to tribal people in the country is carried out through various schemes / programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments concerned, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) provides additive to these initiatives by way of bridging gaps through its schemes, which are as follows:

- i. Revamping of the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme as Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana to enable holistic development of the tribal population.
- ii. The dedicated Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups for important gap filling activities for the survival, protection and development of PVTGs, while preserving and promoting their culture.
- iii. “Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India” to enable the States to meet the cost of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by the State for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in that State or raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas therein to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State.
- iv. The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) enables ST students from Classes 6th to 12th to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.
- v. The Ministry administers five scholarship schemes, catering to students studying in classes 9th till Post-Doctoral Research, including for studying abroad in accordance with the guidelines of the concerned scheme.
- vi. The scheme of grant-in-aid to voluntary organization working for the welfare of scheduled tribes has the prime objective to enhance the reach of welfare schemes of the Government and fill gaps in the sectors such as education and health in service deficient tribal areas through the efforts of voluntary organizations.
- vii. ‘Support to Tribal Research Institute (TRI)’ aims to strengthen Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in various activities.
- viii. The scheme of Tribal Festival, Research Information and Mass Education utilizes the expertise of reputed organizations, research institutes, universities to create replicable models in areas of education, health, livelihood, digital governance etc.
- ix. The scheme of Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North Eastern Region has been recently introduced, to be implemented for a period of two years, with TRIFED as the nodal agency for the same.
- x. The schemes of the Ministry have now been merged into the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission viz (a) ‘Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce and Development of the Value Chain for MFP’ and (b) the scheme of Institutional Support to TRIFED for Marketing Development and Marketing of Tribal Products.
