

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED No- † 2052**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 14/03/2022

**CONVERSION OF RELIGION**

†2052. SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the conversion of religion is a very big issue in the States of Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand etc. particularly in the Parliamentary Constituency of Banswada-dangarpur, if so the steps taken by the Government to stop the said conversion of religion and to save the thousand of years old culture of our tribes;
- (b) whether the Government has constituted or proposes to constitute any Committee to find out or to investigate the reasons for the conversion of religion by the Tribal Community;
- (c) the details of the steps taken for the development of tribals;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the tribal areas have not developed to the extent that it should have been developed even after 75 years of independence;
- (e) whether the Government is formulating or proposes to formulate any action plan to help the tribal people of our society to join them in mainstream of development; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) & (b):** 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Hence prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of offences related to religious conversions are primarily the concerns of the State Government/Union Territory(UT) Administrations. Action is taken as per existing laws by the law enforcing agencies whenever instances of violation come to notice.

**(c) to (f):** 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-pronged 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 plugging gaps through its schemes, which are as follows:

1. Revamping of the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme as Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana to enable holistic development of the tribal population.
2. The dedicated Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups for important gap filling activities for the survival, protection and development of PVTGs and which are not specifically catered to by any other scheme.
3. The “Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India” which is aimed 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.
4. The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) enables ST students from Classes 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.
5. The Ministry administers five scholarship schemes, catering to students studying in classes 9<sup>th</sup> till Post-Doctoral Research, including for studying abroad in accordance with the guidelines of the concerned scheme.
6. 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.
7. ‘Support to Tribal Research Institute (TRI)’ aims to strengthen Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in various activities.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*