

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1829
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2006
ISSUANCE OF CASTE CERTIFICATES TO STS
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any concrete plan to evolve a National Policy for Scheduled Tribes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Scheduled Tribe list has been updated by incorporating the castes recommended by State Governments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether Government is aware that most of the State Governments do not issue caste certificates to Scheduled Tribe people;
- (g) if so, the details and facts thereof alongwith the reactions of the Government thereto;
- (h) whether a National Commission on Scheduled Tribes could be pressed into service as to probe specific allegations with regard to denial of caste certificates to Malaivedan, Adhiyan, Kattunaickan. Kurumbans etc., in Tamil Nadu for more than a decade; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (P.R.KYNDIAH)

- (a) A National Policy for tribals is in the process of being finalised.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) to (e) In order to ensure that only genuine cases are taken up for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, reports from three independent agencies namely, the concerned State Government/UT administration, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, are obtained about the fulfillment of the stipulated criteria by the community concerned. Only those proposals which have been agreed to by all the above three agencies are taken up for inclusion through amending legislation. Following this procedure several modifications have been carried out to the list of Scheduled Tribes of different States, the most recent ones being contained in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act. 2002, by which 142 modifications in the list of Scheduled Tribes of 20 States have been carried out. The remaining proposals are being processed as per the modalities approved for deciding such claims.
- (f) to (l) ST Certificates can be issued only to those communities who are notified as Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution. There is no information in the Ministry regarding non issuance of ST certificates to notified ST communities. The STs Order must be read as it is. No claim for Scheduled Tribes status can be made for any person indicating that he or she belongs to a tribe, sub-tribe , part of, or group of any other tribe or tribal community, or that his/her community is synonymous with a Scheduled Tribe mentioned in the Order, unless the Scheduled Tribe is specifically mentioned in the Order. Some of the communities mentioned, viz- Kurumbans, Kattunaickan, Adhiyan, etc. are not notified as Scheduled Tribes in the State of Tamil Nadu. However proposals for inclusion of Kurumbans and Kattunaickan communities in the list of ST of Tamil Nadu have been received and are being processed as per approved modalities.