

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5707
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2005
DISCONTENTMENT AMONG TRIBALS
Gamang Shri Giridhar

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the discontentment in the minds of Scheduled Tribes is growing resulting unrest in scheduled areas due to their exploitation in different forms;
- (b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to check the exploitation through constitutional, legal and other policy measures as recommended by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commissions from time to time; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) Government is aware of discontentment among scheduled tribes.

(b) & (c) The provisions of Panchayats [Extension to the Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA) has been enacted to empower the Gram Sabhas/Panchayats in the scheduled areas to function as institutions of self governance
Under the provisions of PESA, the Gram Sabhas/Panchayats at the appropriate level have inter-alia been empowered as follows:

(a) planning and management of minor water bodies in the scheduled areas. The recommendation of the Gram Sabhas/Panchayats shall be mandatory prior to grant of prospecting license or mining lease for minor minerals in the scheduled areas.

(b) Prior recommendation of Gram Sabha/Panchayat shall be mandatory for grant of concession for the exploitation of minor minerals by auction.

The Gram Sabhas in the scheduled areas are specifically empowered with:

1. to approve plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Panchayats at the village level;
2. the responsibility for the identification or selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes;
3. the power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant;
4. ownership of minor forest produce;
5. the power to prevent alienation of land in the scheduled areas and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a scheduled tribe.

The Protection Civil Rights Act, 1995 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 have been enacted to prevent exploitation of scheduled tribes.

The Tribal Sub Plan programme has been in existence since 5th Five Year Plan. As per this programme, a proportion of the plan funds of a State at least equal in proportion to the Scheduled Tribe population in the State are to be spent for the welfare of scheduled tribes. Similarly, each Central Ministry is to spend 8% of their plan funds for the benefit of scheduled tribes.

These are some of the steps taken for the benefit of scheduled tribes.