

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:723
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016
Development of Forest Villages
Sanjar Shri Alok;Shetty Shri Gopal Chinayya

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of tribal villages at present in the country, State/UT-wise including the norms for declaring a village as a tribal village;
- (b) whether any specific programme for development of forest villages has been implemented by the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of funds allocated, released and utilized for the development of forest villages during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the number of forest villages/ habitations in various parts of the country, State/UT-wise along with the details of forest villages developed at present;
- (e) the number of persons benefited so far along with the time by which the remaining forest villages are likely to be included under the scheme; and
- (f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government towards development of various forest villages in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) This Ministry does not maintain data/information about number of tribal villages. Neither this Ministry has prescribed any norms for declaring a village as a tribal Village. However, this Ministry has issued guidelines, in compliance of Section 3 (1) (h) of "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, on conversion of forest villages, old habitations, unsurveyed villages in forests, whether recorded, notified or not into revenue villages vide letter No.23011/33/2010-FRA dated 08.11.2013. Status of conversion of Forest Villages to Revenue Villages based on the information received from the State Governments is at Annexure-1.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs had implemented a programme for development of forest villages since 2005-06 as a one-time measure for integrated development of forest villages with a view to raise the Human Development Index (HDI) of the inhabitants of the forest villages and for providing basic facilities and services in forest villages/habitations in the country. The programme included infrastructure works relating to basic services and facilities viz. approach roads, healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls, etc. and activities related to income generation. The programme was implemented as a part of the Special Area Programme 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan' and funds were released from the year 2006-07 to 2011-12 only. No fund has been released during 12th Five Year Plan period.

(d) The number of forest villages State-wise is as under:-
(Source : Census 2011)

Sl. No.	State Name	Number of Forest Villages
1	Jammu & Kashmir	41
2	Uttarakhand	421
3	Uttar Pradesh	89
4	Sikkim	51
5	Assam	897
6	Jharkhand	14
7	Odisha	47
8	Chhattisgarh	658
9	Madhya Pradesh	1165
10	Gujarat	162
11	Maharashtra	73
12	Andhra Pradesh	3
13	Tamil Nadu	736
14	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	169
	INDIA	4526

(e) & (f) In view of reply to part (c) above, question does not arise.

Annexure-1

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 723 for 21.11.2016 regarding "Development of Forest Villages".

Status of conversion of Forest Villages to Revenue Villages as per Forest Rights Act,2006 based on the information received from the State Governments.

S.No Name of the State Forest village to Revenue village

1. Madhya Pradesh 925 Forest Villages to be converted to Revenue Villages
- 2 Maharashtra All Forest villages are in the process of conversion into revenue villages
- 3 Chhattisgarh 421 Forest villages converted to Revenue villages
- 4 West Bengal 86 Forest villages converted to Revenue villages
- 5 Odisha Recorded 22 Forest Villages and unsurveyed habitations identified for being converted to Revenue villages
- 6 Gujarat 175 have been identified for conversion to Revenue villages
- 7 Uttar Pradesh 6 have been converted to Revenue Villages.