

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2324
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.3.2025

ST MAJORITY DISTRICTS

2324. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Scheduled Tribe (ST) majority districts in the country along with the number of districts out of these declared as scheduled areas under Article 244(1), State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that ST majority districts and habitations in several States including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir have not been brought under the Fifth Schedule and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has any proposals to declare the said ST majority districts as scheduled areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a): As per the 2011 Census there are 87 tribal majority districts having at least 50% Scheduled Tribes population. As per the notifications declaring Scheduled Areas under article 244(1) of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, 97 districts (33 fully and 64 partially covered) have been notified as Scheduled Areas in 10 states namely Andhra Pradesh (including Telengana), Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa.

(b): Specification of “Scheduled Areas” in relation to a State is by notified Order of the President, after consultation with the State Government concerned. The criteria for declaration of Scheduled Area, which are not spelt in the Constitution of India, but have been used as a matter of practice, are:

- (i) *preponderance of tribal population;*
- (ii) *compactness and reasonable size of the area;*
- (ii) *a viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk; and*
- (iv) *economic backwardness of the area as compared to the neighbouring areas.*

As such for declaration of any areas as Scheduled Areas in any State fulfilling the above criteria the State Government after consultation with the Governor of the concerned State has to submit a proposal to Ministry of Tribal Affairs for further action for notification of Scheduled Areas

(c): The Ministry has received a proposal, during October 2024, from the State of Maharashtra for restructuring of Schedule Areas.
