

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*393

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH AUGUST, 2014/SHRAVANA 14, 1936 (SAKA)

INFLUENCE OF NAXALISM ON TRIBALS

*393. SHRI VIJA Y KUMAR HANSDAK:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing influence of Naxalism on the tribals in the country particularly in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Government proposes to deal with the issue;

(c) whether there are reports of recruitment and training of children by naxal organisations in the country including Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last two years and the current year, State-wise; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

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STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *393 FOR 05.08.2014

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Many instances of exploitation of tribals by the naxalites/maoists have come to the notice of the government. Such atrocities primarily include sexual exploitation of tribal women cadres in the Maoist camps, which have been disclosed in statements of several surrendered women CPI (Maoist) cadres of Odisha, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand and other States. This has been widely reported in the media also from time to time. Such instances of sexual exploitation include rape, forced marriage and molestation by senior male CPI (Maoist) cadres.

In Chhattisgarh, some surrendered tribal CPI (Maoist) male cadres have disclosed that they were forced by the senior leadership to undergo vasectomy operations as a pre-condition for marriage with women cadres. There are allegations that women cadres of CPI (Maoist), who become pregnant, are forced to undergo abortion against their will. The surrendered women cadres have also disclosed that even if they are married to male cadres, they are not allowed to have children since the senior leadership of the CPI (Maoist) feel that it impairs their fighting capability and mobility. Further, forced recruitment of children from families of poor and marginalized segments of the society, including the tribals, by the Maoists has also come to notice.

In order to instil a sense of fear in their areas of dominance, the naxals also kill civilians after branding them as police informers. Out of 4955 civilians killed by the Maoists since 2004 to 2014 (upto 15.07.2014), the overwhelming majority are tribals. The Maoists have in reality killed thousands of innocent Adivasis, whose cause they profess to espouse. This tragic reality is glossed over by the Maoist Front organizations and their apologists in towns and cities who have launched a propaganda war against the Indian state and project Maoists as the champions of Adivasis.

(c) & (d): The Left Wing Extremist groups, particularly the CPI(Maoist), recruit minors, both boys and girls, from the tribal belt of naxal affected areas in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha. In Bihar and Jharkhand, these children are enrolled in 'Bal Dasta' and in Chhattisgarh and Odisha, the children's squad is known as 'Bal Sangham'. The idea behind recruiting tribal children is to wean them

away from their rich traditional cultural moorings and indoctrinate them into Maoist ideology. Such children are asked to perform multifarious tasks such as acting as informers, fighting with non-lethal weapons like sticks etc. Subsequently, after attaining the age of 12 years, they are branched into other children units like 'Chaitanya Natya Manch', 'Sanghams', 'Jan Militia' and 'Dalams'. In 'Sanghams', 'Jan Militia' and 'Dalams', the CPI(Maoist) provide training to children on weapons handling and on use of different types of Improvised Explosive Devices. The children recruited to 'Jan Militia' and 'Dalams' also participate in armed exchanges with the security forces where they are tactically pushed to the forefront. This is to derive propaganda mileage by the CPI(Maoist) in case of casualties of minors. It has been reported that children recruited in 'Dalams' are not permitted to leave. They face severe reprisals including killing of family members, if they surrender to security forces. There are no precise estimates of total number of children recruited by the CPI (Maoist).

(e): The aforesaid problem has to be seen in the overall context of the LWE insurgency. The Central Government closely monitors the LWE situation and supplements the efforts of the State Governments over a wide range of issues, both on the security and development fronts. These measures include deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), help to State Governments towards capacity building of State Forces and implementation of a wide range of development schemes in LWE affected States.

The State Governments initiate legal action when they receive complaints of exploitation of tribals, under the relevant provisions of law. In order to prevent exploitation of tribals, the Government of India also issues advisories to the State Governments from time to time. The Union Government has advised the State Governments to consider facilitating vasectomy reversal operations of willing Maoist cadres who were forcibly sterilised. The Government has also enacted the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers,

who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have issued comprehensive guidelines to the State/UT Governments for expeditious recognition of forest rights. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has also written to the Chief Ministers of all States to treat bamboo as a minor forest produce and respect the rights accrued to communities as per the aforesaid act.

The Bal Bandhu Scheme, specifically focusing on children in violence affected States, was implemented as a pilot project in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Chhattisgarh from December, 2010 to March 2013 by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The scheme, inter-alia, attempted to bring stability in the lives of children and to ensure that all their entitlements to protection, health, nutrition, sanitation, education and safety are fulfilled through Government action.
