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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2024-25)**

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2025-26)**

SEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2025/ Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

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(2025-26)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.3.2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.3.2025



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25)**

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Smt. Vijayalakshmi Devi
5. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
6. Km.Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi
7. Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi
8. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
9. Shri Murari Lal Meena
10. Smt. Bag Mitali
11. Shri Bhojraj Nag
12. Shri Godam Nagesh
13. Shri Gajendra Singh Patel
14. Shri Rajkumar Roat
15. Shri Matheswaran V. S.
16. Adv. Priya Saroj
17. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
18. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki
19. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
20. Dr. Lata Wankhede
21. Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
23. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
24. Shri Narayana Koragappa
25. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
26. Shri Ramji
27. Shri Rameswar Teli
28. Smt. Mamata Thakur
29. Smt. P. T. Usha
30. Shri Abdul Wahab
31. Shri Niranjana Bishi

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary
3. Shri Aritra Das - Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2024-25) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Seventh Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2025-26' pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which were laid on the Table of the House on 13 February, 2025. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 21 February, 2025. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 18.03.2025.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for tendering oral evidence and placing before them the detailed written notes and post evidence information as desired by the Committee in connection with the examination of the 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)'.

4. For ease of reference observations/ recommendations/ comments of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

New Delhi
18 March, 2025
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

SHRI P.C MOHAN
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Justice
and Empowerment

REPORT
CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTORY

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes besides a Special Area Programme, viz. Grants-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to contribute the overall efforts for development of tribal people in the country.

1.2 The programmes and schemes of the Ministry are intended to support and supplement, through financial assistance, the efforts primarily of other Central Ministries/Departments, the State Governments and partly of voluntary organizations, and to fill critical gaps in institutions and programmes, taking into account the situation of STs. While the primary responsibility for promoting the interests of Scheduled Tribes in implementation of sectoral schemes rests with all the Central Ministries/Departments, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements their efforts by way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially designed schemes. These schemes are administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and implemented mainly through the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations for social, economic and educational development and through institution building.

1.3 The following Schemes are being implemented by the Ministry:

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)

1. Pre-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes
2. Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes
3. Support to Tribal Research Institutes
4. Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) / Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)
5. Pradhan Mantri Adi Akrash Gram Yojna –PMAAGY (previously known as Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme - SCA to TSS)
6. Administrative Cost to States / UTs.

Central Sector Schemes (CS)

1. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
2. National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students
3. Scholarship to the ST Students for studies abroad
4. Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes
5. Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)
6. Tribal Research Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)
7. Monitoring, Evaluation, Survey and Social Audit (MESSA)
8. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes
9. Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North Eastern Region

1.4 The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is a constitutional body under the Ministry. Other than this, National Schedule Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) are also set up under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

1.5 The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was set up with effect from 19th February, 2004 by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution, through the Constitution of India (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003. The main duties of the Commission are to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Tribes and to evaluate the working of such safeguards, and to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Scheduled Tribes. The Commission is vested with all the powers of a civil court trying a suit while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint relating to deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Scheduled Tribes.

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

1.6 National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) is an apex organisation set up on 10.04.2001, exclusively for the economic development

of Scheduled Tribes. This Corporation was incorporated as a Government company under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and granted license under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013). It is managed by a Board of Directors with representation from Central Govt., State Channelising Agencies, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) and eminent persons representing Scheduled Tribes, etc. The Corporation plays a significant role in providing credit support for economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes at concessional rates of interest.

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)

1.7 The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, has been registered as a Society, under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 at New Delhi on 1st April 2019 to implement the scheme of EMRS.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)

1.8 The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) is a Multi-state Cooperative Society set up in 1987 under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (now the Multi state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002) which functions both as a service provider and market developer for tribal products. It markets tribal products through the network of its retail outlets “TRIBES INDIA” in the country. As a capacity builder, it also imparts training to Scheduled Tribe artisans and Minor Forest Produce (MFP) gatherers.

National Informatics Centre (NIC)

1.9 NIC Cell in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is well equipped with latest computer systems for delivering and implementing secure multi-platform computer-based Applications/ solutions, Database Support, Internet, Email, e-Office, Network and Video Conferencing facilities. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has adopted Cloud services of NIC – Meghraj to ensure optimum utilization of the infrastructure and speed up the

development and deployment of e-Governance applications of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. NIC has a dedicated team of the officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Ministry has undertaken activities in coordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC) cell of the Ministry under the various categories:

1.10 During the examination of Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25, the Committee exhaustively examined the various issues relating to the Schemes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The main Schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were elaborately discussed by the Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment. The Committee dealt with the following issues in their Report on Demands for Grants for 2024-25:

- (i) Budgetary allocation;
- (ii) Scholarship Schemes for Tribal Students;
- (iii) Eklavya Model Residential Schools;
- (iv) Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes;
- (v) Pradhan Mantri Adi Akrash Gram Yojna –PMAAGY;
- (vi) Pradhanmantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission;
- (vi) Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

1.11 The Committee exhaustively examined all the Schemes / Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the examination of Demands for Grants of 2025-26 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs,. However, the Committee decided to draw the attention of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on the welfare schemes meant for educational and economic upliftment of the Tribals in this Report. These Schemes have been dealt in the succeeding chapters of this Report.

CHAPTER-II

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION & EXPENDITURE

The Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2025-26 are given under Demand No.100. The detailed Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were laid on the table of the House on 13th February, 2025.

2.2 The Budgetary Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure of the 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 alongwith Budget Estimates for 2025-26 under all Schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are as follows:-

Sl. No	Name of the scheme/ project/ programme	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			BE 2025-26
		BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Exp.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Exp. (As on 11.02.2025)	
1.	Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes	110.00	110.00	109.25	140	149.95	149.95	160	175.00 (Subject to approval)	148.63	175.00
2.	Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	1350.00	976.49	976.49	1472.10	1172.10	1172.10	1541.47	1170.57	1098.26	1541.47
3.	Development of PVTGs	252.00	137.179	137.179	256.14	0.00	0.00	20.00	74.55	0.00	-
4.	PM JANMAN (MPCs)	-	-	-	0.00	100.00	99.99	240.00	150.00	19.25	300.00
5.	DA JGUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	0.00	2000.00
6.	Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST Students	1965.00	1965.00	1965.00	1970.77	2371.01	2668.83	2432.68	2462.68	2242.65	--
7.	Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST Students	419.00	357.30	357.30	411.63	411.63	308.61	440.36	200.00	57.77	--
8.	National Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students	145.00	140.00	145.00	145.00	230.00	230.00	165.00	240.00	164.91	--
9.	National Overseas Scholarship for ST students	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	7.00	7.00	6.0	6.0	6.0	--
10.	EMRS	2000.00	2000.00	1999.98	5943.00	2471.81	2447.61	6399.00	4748.92	4265.28	7338.36
11.	Support to TRI	121.00	58.50	12.40	118.64	50.00	43.54	111.00	90.00	45.44	111.00
12.	Tribal Research Information, Education, communication and Events (TRI-ECE)	15.00	18.00	15.08	25.00	45.00	32.04	32.00	32.00	7.25	27.00

2.3 A statement showing the Budget Estimates (BEs), Revised Estimates (REs) & Actual Expenditures (AEs) for 2022-23, 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 and the Budget Estimate (BE) of 2025-2026 are as follow:

(₹. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure	%of Exp.w.r.t RE
1	2	3	4	5
2022-23	8451.92	7301.00	7278.77	99.70
2023-24	12461.88	7605.00	7545.23	99.21
2024-25	13000.00	10237.33	*8119.51 (as on 06.02.25)	79.31*
2025-26	14,925.81	-----	----	

The Ministry of Finance allocated ₹14,925.81 crore against the proposed demand of Ministry of Tribal Affairs of ₹13,424.24 crore for the financial year 2025-26.

2.4 On being enquired about the reasons due to which the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were not able to spend the Budgetary Estimates for 2024-25, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:-

“most of the projects/works approved under different Schemes are for creation of capital assets and they take time for completion by the States due to land acquisition formalities, weather conditions etc., which slows down the pace of progress. However, the expenditure under each Scheme is monitored regularly and States have been advised to submit proposals only after ascertaining the availability of land.”

2.5 On being asked regarding steps taken to ensure that the Budgetary Estimates for 2024-25 is fully utilized, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:

“Manthan Shivir have been held and efforts have been taken to strengthen the implementation of the Schemes at the state level by ensuring creation of implementing structure at State/District level, setting of State PMUs, FRA cells etc. The delay in construction of EMRS Schools has been resolved by Coordinating with the States due to which the expenditure has increased during the current year. The SNA balances in respect of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes were Rs.3168.96 cr as on 31.3.2024. Constant efforts are being taken to improve the expenditure by the States by helping them to resolve PFMS related issues and reduce the SNA balance. However, challenges still remain”

2.6 On being asked about the measures being taken to reduce SNA balances pending with States, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:-

“In order to ensure timely release of funds to the States/UTs and to facilitate reduced SNA, the Ministry will:

- (i) Monitor and review the progress on implementation and execution of schemes/projects with States/UTs Governments.
- (ii) Conduct Manthan Shivirs at regular intervals and sensitize the states about the need to release the funds with the treasury, utilize SNA balances and submit UCs within the stipulated time.
- (iii) Regular review of fund utilization and regular interaction with the State Governments to reduce the SNA Balance and to address the PFMS related issues of the States.
- (iv) Meetings at Secretary/Financial Advisor/Joint Secretary level with the State Tribal Welfare Departments to monitor the progress of the implementation of the schemes and accelerate the implementation, understand the problems/bottlenecks for delayed expenditure and resolving the same.
- (v) The Ministry has designated senior officers as State Prabharis to liaise with States, undertake field visits and resolve bottlenecks.”

2.7 With respect of funds parked with States, representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs deposed before the Committee that:-

“in order to streamline the fund so that it does not get parked in the States unnecessarily, the procedure has been revised. What happens now is that as per the allocation, only 50 per cent of the fund is being released in the first instalment, and that goes to the SNA balance of that particular State. Then they would have to spend at least 75 per cent of that 50 per cent which is being released, and then only the next tranche of 50 per cent is being released. Any State which was facing any technical issue in this, the Secretary has been holding the meetings, and we have been also asking the CCA, who is looking after the PFMS, to come and sort out their issues.”

2.8 A representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted during the deliberation of the Committee with regard to expenditure and budgetary allocation that:-

“अगर हम देखे, तो हमारा बजट शुरू में करीब 7 हजार या 7 हजार पांच सौ करोड़ रुपया हो ताथा, जो पिछले दो सालों में एकदम से बढ़ गया, यानी 12-13 हजार करोड़ तक बढ़ गया। इसका

मुख्य कारण यह है कि हमारी जो ईएमआरएस स्कीम है, वह शुरू हो गई। अगर आप इस साल का देखें और दिसम्बर तक के फिगर्स लें, तो हमने 80 परसेंट से ऊपर एक्सपेंडिचर कर दिया है। जो अप्रूव्ड बजट है, यह उससे थोड़ा ज्यादा ही है। अगर हम दिसम्बर तक पिछले 5 सालों का कम्पेरिजन करें, and if we look at the figures from April to December, the expenditure trend shows that every year we have been spending more, and this year is much more than what we have been spending earlier”

2.9 When asked about the reasons for enhanced Budget Allocation for 2025-26, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:-

“The Budget allocation for FY 2025-26 is Rs.14925.81Cr. The Budget proposal is based on the trend of expenditure in the previous years and also keeping in view the declaration of 2025 as Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh. Ministry is confident of complete utilization of the Budget allocation in 2026 as the tendering processes are complete for the construction of EMRS School and also the recruitment of the remaining teaching and non- teaching staff. Further, in new Scheme Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), has been launched in 2024 with a total outlay of Rs.79,156 crore (Central Share: Rs.56,333 crore and State Share: Rs. 22,823 crore). It is expected that states would utilize the funds under the scheme. As stated already due to constant engagement with the states through meetings and Manthan Shivirs, it is proposed to ensure increased expenditure by the States.”

2.10 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been allocated ₹14,925.81 crore by the Ministry of Finance against the proposed allocation of ₹13,424.24 crore for the financial year 2025-26. Since Budgetary allocation for 2025-26 is higher as compared to previous year, the Ministry owes a greater responsibility for overall development and welfare of the tribal population through various Schemes and expect that the Ministry will utilize the funds fully towards all the schemes and programmes that are under the purview of the Ministry. The Committee hope that the trend of previous years will not be continued as ₹7,287.77 crore could only be spent out of the budgetary allocation of ₹8,451.92 crore and ₹7,545.23 crore out of budgetary allocation of ₹12,461.88 crore during 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. The Committee further note that the Ministry have spent ₹8,119.51 crore by 6th February, 2025 out of budgetary allocation of ₹13,000 crore for the year 2024-25. The Committee understand that the reasons for low utilization of funds in previous years and downwards

allocation at RE stage are due to various reasons such as SNA balances, non-submission of utilization certificates, technical issues with PFMS etc. The Committee strongly believe that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs need to strictly implement the measures to overcome the difficulties so that the funds earmarked for each scheme are spent by States/UTs in implementation of the various schemes and are not parked unutilised. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should ensure that the funds allocated to the Ministry for 2024-25 are fully utilized and the enhanced allocation made for 2025-26 is not revised downward at RE stage but fruitfully utilized in achieving the objectives of all the Schemes.

CHAPTER-III

TRIBAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES (TRIs)

The Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) are engaged in the work of conducting research and evaluation studies, collection of data, identification of challenges in the field of social-economic development of tribals and in understanding, promoting and preserving their culture through various studies and other kind of interventions. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken various steps to preserve tribal traditions, culture and customs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- of 'Support to Tribal Research Institutes' under which various activities are undertaken to conserve and promote tribal culture, archives, artifacts, customs and traditions of the tribal communities. As part of the research activities of the TRIs, the Ministry also supports construction of tribal museums within the premises of the TRIs to preserve the tribal art, craft and culture.

3.2 The National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) was inaugurated on 7th June 2022 at the rented building of Indian Institute of Public Administration Campus in Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi. NTRI is a coordinating agency to provide guidance and assistance for conducting evidence-based research projects, workshops, seminars, and capacity-building activities addressing tribal concerns, issues, and matters of 28 TRIs."

3.3 The State-wise details of the Tribal Research Institutes established in the country alongwith the year of establishment are as follows:-

S. No.	State Name	Name	Year of Establishment
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Tribal Research Institute	2014
2.	Assam	Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes	1962
3.	Andaman & Nicobar	Tribal Research Institute	2014
4.	Chhattisgarh	Tribal Research & Training Institute	2004
5.	Goa	Tribal Research Institute	2020
6..	Gujarat	Tribal Research & Training Institute	1962

7.	Himachal Pradesh	Institute of Tribals Studies	2008
8.	Jharkhand	Tribal research Institute	1953 (undivided Bihar)
9.	Jammu&Kashmir	Tribal Research Institute	2016
10.	Kerala	Kerala Institute for Research Training & Development studies	1971
11.	Karnataka	Tribal Research Institute	2005
12.	Manipur	Tribal Research Institute	1988
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Tribal Research & Development Institute	1954
14.	Maharashtra	Tribal Research & Training Institute	1962
15.	Orissa	SC/ST Research & Training Institute	1952
16.	Rajasthan	Tribal Research & Training Institute	1964
17.	Tamil Nadu	Tribal Research Center	1983
18.	Tripura	Tribal Research & Cultural Institute	1993
19.	Uttar Pradesh	SC/ST Research & Training Institute	1972
20.	WestBengal	Cultural Research Institute	1955
21.	Sikkim	Tribal research Institute	2016
22.	Telangana	Tribal Culture Research & Training Institute	1963
23.	Uttarakhand	Tribal Research Institute	2016
24.	Nagaland	Tribal Research Institute	2018
25.	Mizoram	Tribal Research Institute	2018
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tribal Research Institute	2018
27.	Meghalaya	Tribal Research Institute	2018
28	Ladakh	Tribal Research Institute	2023

3.4 A statement showing details of plan outlays and expenditure during the last three years and Budgetary Estimate for 2025-26 is as follows:-

(₹. In Crore)

2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26
B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	BE
121.00	58.50	15.08	118.64	50.00	43.53	111.00	90.00	45.44	111.00

3.5 On being asked about the reasons due to which Budgetary allocation had to be revised downward, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *inter-alia* submitted vide written reply that:-

“Support to Tribal Research Institute(s)” scheme is demand driven. On the basis of Annual Action Plan received from the state TRIs, activities are approved and funds are sanctioned by the Apex Committee and Release of funds are made as per the eligibility on the basis of status of their Utilization Certificate (UC) and SNA balance. However, on some occasions in the past, timely release of sanctioned funds to States/ UTs could not be made on account of non-receipt of UC (s) and issues arising out of SNA. However, for the year 2024-25, the proposals from TRI have been prudently reviewed and without reducing the outlay they have been approved and TRIs are on track to utilize the funds sanctioned.”

3.6 On being enquired whether the Budgetary Allocation made for TRIs is adequate to meet the requirement of the Institute, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *inter-alia* submitted vide written reply that:-

“Under the Scheme, proposals relating to infrastructural needs, research & documentation activities and training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals, yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and tourism and organization of exchange visits for tribals etc are organized so that their cultural practices, languages and ritual are preserved and disseminated. Ministry has approved various projects to the Tribal Research Institutes of the States/UTs towards activities for the socio-cultural, educational, and economic development of the tribal communities.”

3.7 On being enquired about the steps taken to ensure that the budgetary allocation of 2024-25 is optimally utilized, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* their written reply that:-

“Revised Estimate for the “Support to Tribal Research Institute(s)” for FY 2024-25 is Rs. 90.00 Crore. Actual Expenditure for the year 2024-25 as on 18.02.2025 under the “Support to Tribal Research Institute(s)” scheme is Rs. 47.94 Crore. Further release to States/UTs Government is under process as per their approved Annual Action Plan and subject to status of their Utilizations Certificate (UC) and SNA balance. Review meetings are being held regularly with the State/UT Governments, to assess the progress of the sanctioned projects and to ensure full utilization of funds. It is expected that the revised estimate for the current Financial Year 2024-25 will be fully released”

3.8 With regard to the mechanism adopted to popularize the tribal legends, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:-

“To acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal people and to exhibit rich tribal cultural heritage of the region, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has supported 11 Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums in 10 States. Further, during the year 2021, the Central Government has declared 15th November, birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas dedicated to the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters so that coming generations could know about their sacrifices about the country. The declaration acknowledges the glorious history and cultural heritage of tribal communities. The day is celebrated every year across the country to recognize the efforts of the tribals for preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valour, hospitality and national pride. The commemorative year (15th November 2024 – 15th November 2025) of 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda has been declared as Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and the commeration activities are being led by Ministry of Culture.”

3.9 On being enquired about the Museums established in the country and financial assistance provided to each Museum, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:

“Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) provides financial assistance for setting up Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum to acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal people who struggled against the colonial rule and dedicated their life to the nation. The state is required to provide land, prepare detailed project report and implement the project through a construction and curation agency. As of now, the Ministry has approved 11 projects for the construction of museums for tribal freedom fighters in 10 States.”

3.10 With regard to the museums sanctioned, the location of the museum, funds released the Ministry submitted following details:

(₹. In Crore)

S. No.	State	Location & Year of sanction		Project Cost (Rs. in crore)	Approved Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants (Rs. in crore)	Completion status of the Project
1	Jharkhand	Ranchi	2017-18	34.22	25.00	Inaugurated on 15.11.2021
2	Gujarat	Rajpipla	2017-18	137.01	50.00	To be completed by May, 2026
3	Andhra Pradesh	Lambasingi	2017-18	45.00	25.00	To be completed by November,2025
4	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	2017-18	45.66	35.00	To be completed by November, 2025
5	Kerala	Wayanad	2017-18	16.16	15.00	In DPR stage
6	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara	2017-18	38.26	25.69	Inaugurated on 15.11.2024
7	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	2019-20	14.39	14.39	Inaugurated on 15.11.2024
8	Telangana	Hyderabad	2018-19	34.00	25.00	To be completed by November, 2025
9	Manipur	Tamenglong	2018-19	51.38	15.00	In DPR stage
10	Mizoram	Kelsih	2019-20	18.00	18.00	To be completed by November, 2025
11	Goa	Ponda	2020-21	30.00	15.00	In DPR stage

3.11 On being enquired about the guidelines to avoid delay in establishing the Museums, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted vide written reply that:-

“The State Government is responsible for finalizing DPRs. The state is required to provide land, prepare detailed project reports, and implement the project through a construction and curation agency. TFFMs of Kerala, Goa and Manipur are at the initial stage for the commencing of civil construction. They have undergone changed timelines. The progress has been marred by issues such as delay in the appointment of implementing agencies/project management consultancies (PMC), finalization & allotment of land/shift in project site etc. Concerned States have been asked to expedite the progress of these museums. There are no guidelines set up by the Ministry for the preparation of DPRs for Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum.”

3.12 As regards to the evaluation of TRIs in the country, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs inter-alia submitted vide written reply that:-

“Evaluation of scheme was done by NITI Aayog in 2019 in which it was stated that the scheme ‘Support to TRI’ has definitely played a significant role in bringing about a change in the life of tribal communities. TRIs have certainly undertaken initiatives to preserve the art, craft and culture of tribal communities through preservation of heritage artifacts by setting-up of tribal museums as well as freedom fighter museums across states. It is worth noting that the Tribal

Repository set-up by the Ministry under the scheme is a well-designed online knowledge hub and repository of information related to STs. Also, the Ministry has taken an important step towards integrating the activities of TRIs across states through setting up a National Tribal Research Institute which will operate as the lead research centre as well as the unifying body for research guidance and directions.”

3.13 The Committee are happy to note that 28 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) set up in various States in the country are administrated by the State Governments and supported by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their infrastructural needs, research and documentation activities, training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals/ yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and in promotion of tourism and organization of exchange visits by tribals so that the tribal cultural practices, languages and rituals are preserved and disseminated. The Committee find that budgeted estimates for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 were revised downward at RE stage from ₹121.00 crore to ₹58.50 crore, ₹118.64 crore to ₹50.00 crore and ₹111.00 crore to ₹90.00 crore respectively. However, the revised estimate could not be spent fully during these years. The Committee believe that mere allocations of funds would not ensure effective implementation of TRI Scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should pursue with the State/UT Governments and other Implementing Agencies so that annual Action Plan from State/UT Governments are timely received to achieve the purpose for which the Scheme came into existence. They would also like the Ministry to immediately resolve other issues such as delay in submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs), clearance of SNA balances, submission of progress report and DPR etc by the State Authorities. Thus, the Committee, recommend that the Ministry should take requisite measures to remove technical and procedural bottlenecks, administrative delays , capacity building issues, etc. The Committee also desire that regular review meetings with State Governments at periodic intervals are held with the objective of augmenting the usage of funds. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard.

3.14 The Committee appreciate the initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs for establishing of ‘Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums’ as they acknowledge the heroic

and patriotic deeds of tribal idols who are otherwise often under-represented in the mainstream history. The Committee note that the Ministry have so far supported 11 Tribal Freedom Fighters' museums in 10 States to celebrate the lives and deeds of tribal heroes and inculcate a spirit of pride in the minds of tribal communities. However, the Committee note that out of 11 sanctioned Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums by the Ministry, only 3, namely, 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Freedom Fighter Museum' at Ranchi, Jharkhand, 'Badal Bhoi State Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum, Chhindwara and 'Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah Freedom Fighter Museum', Jabalpur, have been inaugurated. The Committee would like to underline the slow progress in construction of remaining 8 museums, as they were sanctioned far back in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, such as, Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telengana, Gujarat and Mizoram which are yet to be completed. The Committee are also concerned for the Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums sanctioned for Kerala, Manipur and Goa in 2017-2018, 2018-19 and 2020-21 respectively as they are still at DPR stage even after the lapse of several years. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs may evolve a strategy for timely completion of these Museums. The Committee would like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to ensure that the four Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums scheduled to be completed by November, 2025 and one by May, 2026, are completed by the stipulated date.

CHAPTER-IV

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (EMRS)

Ministry is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) to provide quality education to the tribal children (from class VI to XII) in their own environment from the year 2018-19 in remote areas to enable them access to the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population. Earlier EMRS was a component under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Under the new scheme, Government decided to establish one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011).

4.2 Ministry has set the target to set up 728 EMRSs. As on date, 720 EMRSs have been approved across the country, out of which 477 schools are functional as on 14 February, 2025. The details are as follows:

S.No.	Name of State	No. of EMRS Approved	No. of EMRS Functional	Other Govt Building	Own	Rented
1	Andhra Pradesh	28	28	9	19	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10	5		5	
3	Assam	17	1		1	
4	Bihar	3	2		2	
5	Chhattisgarh	75	75	46	29	
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1	1	1		
7	Gujarat	47	38	12	25	1
8	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	2	1	1
9	Jammu & Kashmir	6	6		4	2
10	Jharkhand	90	51	12	39	
11	Karnataka	12	12		12	
12	Kerala	4	4	1	2	1
13	Ladakh	3				
14	Madhya Pradesh	71	63	7	56	
15	Maharashtra	39	37	21	14	2
16	Manipur	21	3		3	
17	Meghalaya	37				
18	Mizoram	17	11		11	

19	Nagaland	22	3		3	
20	Odisha	110	47	6	41	
21	Rajasthan	31	30	2	28	
22	Sikkim	4	4		4	
23	Tamil Nadu	8	8	1	7	
24	Telangana	23	23	3	18	2
25	Tripura	21	6	1	5	
26	Uttar Pradesh	4	3		3	
27	Uttarakhand	4	4	1	2	1
28	West Bengal	8	8		7	1
	Grand Total	720	477	125	341	11

4.3 On being enquired about the target period fixed to make all the sanctioned schools functional in their own buildings and the steps taken in this regard, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted vide written reply that:

“Out of total 720 schools approved, as on, 477 schools are functional (341 in own building, 125 in other govt. building and 11 in rented building) and construction in 347 schools has been completed. Efforts are being made to complete construction of remaining schools in next 2-3 years. The Government has undertaken several steps to make non-functional EMRS functional in own premises, which include the following:

- 1. Infrastructure Development: Accelerated construction of EMRS buildings and related facilities through close monitoring and support to implementing agencies.*
- 2. Recruitment of Staff: Recruitment drives are conducted to fill vacancies for teaching and non-teaching staff, ensuring adequate personnel to run the schools effectively.*
- 3. Collaboration with State Governments: Coordination with State Tribal Welfare Departments for resolving issues related to land allocation, infrastructure, and recruitment.*
- 4. Capacity Building: Regular training programs and workshops for teachers and administrative staff to enhance their capabilities.*
- 5. Funding Support: Adequate financial allocations and timely disbursement of funds under the EMRS scheme to address resource-related delays.*
- 6. Monitoring and Review: Establishing a robust system of periodic reviews and inspections to address challenges and ensure smooth functioning.*
- 7. Digital Learning Facilities: Provision of ICT tools and digital classrooms to ensure learning continuity, even when full infrastructure is unavailable.”*

4.4 With regard to the steps taken to ensure that construction of EMRS is completed within the stipulated time period, Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted vide written reply that:

1. *“Regular review meeting with construction agency is being done by NESTS.*
2. *For resolving the land and other issues, Meetings are conducted on regular basis with State and District officials.*
3. *Approval process for Administrative approval Expenditure sanction and DPR have been streamlined and the time taken in such approvals has been reduced by half.*
4. *Withdrawal of 74 nos. of work from PSUs and reallocated to CPWD and State Govt.*
5. *Opening of escrow account to release payment to respective agencies and ensure sufficient fund flow to them.”*

4.5 With regard to the sanctioning of EMRs, representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs stated during the course of evidence that:

“ईएमआरएस में पहले आर्टिकल के तहत फंड दिए जाते हैं, लेकिन वर्ष 2018-19 में गवर्नमेंट ने नई कीम लॉन्च की थी, जिसमें हमें 440 नए ईएमआरएस सैंक्शन किए गए हैं। हम 728 की बात करते हैं और 288 पहले के हैं।

4.6 On being enquired about the infrastructure/ maintenance of EMRS functioned under old Scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs deposed before the Committee during deliberation that:

“For the new EMRS, we have no problem. Sir may take up a look any time. They will be fully furnished and very good condition, one of the excellent places. The old article EMRS, they were built with just Rs. 5 crore. We are giving Rs. 40 crore plus these days. So, there is a huge difference in the capacity capability. If the scheme could be allowed for refurbishing, building extra toilets, classrooms, mess etc. for the old article, that would be a big thing. We tried and we were rejected. So, if the Committee could recommend, that is good thing.”

4.7 On being asked whether the funds allocated during preceding years were adequate to meet the requirement, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted vide written reply that the funds allocated during the preceding years were adequate to meet the

requirement. Detail of BE-RE and the expenditure incurred from 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 is as follows:-

(₹. In Crore)

S. No.	Financial Year	Approved (BE)	Approved (RE)	Expenditure
1	2022-23	2000	2000	1999.32
2	2023-24	5,943.00	2,471.81	2,447.06
3	2024-25 (Till 17.02.2025)	6,399.00	4,748.92	4,213.97
4	2025-26	7088.60	---	----

Revised estimates were utilized approximately 100% during 2022-23 to 2023-24 and it is anticipated that 100% of RE 2024-25 will be utilised.

4.8 On being enquired about the proposal to enhance the recurring cost, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs inter-alia submitted vide written reply that:

“Recurring expenditure in EMRS Schools and EMDBS of Rs. 1,09,000/- per student per annum was decided vide para 12.2 of EMRS guidelines 2020. This expenditure comprising of Salary to Staff, Direct Expenditures on students, Operational Expenditures, Administrative Expenditures, Capital Expenditures etc. It is also submitted that as per discussion with Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, there is no such ceiling fixed per students per year in NVS. Expenditure on salaries and operational expenditures in NVS is done as per the actual basis and demands from the Schools as well as Regional offices are compiled to arrive at a consolidated position of the Samiti.

Recurring expenditures in NVS on Mess, uniform and other direct expenditures on students are being revised from time to time considering various elements viz. cost escalation due to price indexation in commodities, need for additional requirements from time to time etc. The recent revision on direct expenditures on students is effective from 1 April, 2024 and total average expenditure on the students as on 1st April worked out to Rs. 1,56,000/- approx. per student per year for 9 months of functioning of NVS.

Further, it is stated that the aforesaid ceiling fixed by the EMRS guidelines 2020 is applicable from 2019 to till date which is not feasible. Since, revision in dearness allowance, implementation of pay revision, revision in labour cost, inflation in food and other commodities has been increased significantly and could not be met in the amount fixed in the guidelines. This constraint of funds due to non-revision or fixed for a certain period would affect quality of food and nutritional requirement in the EMRS schools and other important activities of the schools.

As, almost all schools are situated in remote/hard areas of the country, therefore, expenditures on recurring components in EMRS schools require lot of efforts and additional cost on transportations and availability of manpower. Therefore, costing element in the recurring expenditure in the EMRS would be higher in comparison to the Navodaya Vidyalaya Schools.

Revision of recurring cost was discussed in various review meetings with MoTA and an agenda for the same was also submitted before the Standing Finance Committee of NESTS in 3rd Meeting of SFC held on 02.06.2022 Based on SFC Minutes and review meetings in MoTA and considering all these aspects, proposal for increase in recurring cost was sent to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 18th August 2022 for revision in the recurring expenditures within the existing ceiling decided by the EMRS guidelines with suitable re-appropriation of the funds. Accordingly, detailed guidelines of recurring expenditures were issued on 15.11.2022 with the approval of commissioner NESTS.

Further, proposal for revision in per student recurring cost was sent to the EFC under EMRS 3.0. The EFC in its minutes dated 20.01.2025 has revised the per student cost to Rs. 1,40,059/- w.e.f. 01.04.2024 and Rs. 1,47,062/- from 01.04.2025.”

4.9 In this context, the representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs deposed during the deliberation of the Committee that:

“Our Eklavya Model School, as per the Cabinet approval, has to be modelled on the basis of Navodaya Vidyalaya. So, we have approached the Finance Ministry that we should be given the amount equal to Navodaya Vidyalaya. For Navodaya, at present, it is close to Rs.1.80 lakh.”

4.10 He further added that:

“Till January of this year, we were at Rs.1.09 lakh. After increase also, we are still at Rs.1.40 lakh. Even Rs.1.09 lakh or Rs.1.40 lakh was not okay but still manageable when we did not have national level teachers. So, the pay scale was local. Contracts were at very little pay. Now there are national level teachers where the central pay scale has gone up. So, 60 to 70 per cent is going to salary. So, the challenge is going to become much more severe.”

4.11 On being enquired about the sanctioned teaching/non-teaching staff, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“DoE approved the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff @ 52 per EMRS for 740 schools in a phased manner from 2022-23 to 2026-2027. As on date 476 EMRSs are functioning at various levels. All the 52 posts are not filled in one go. Posts are considered as per the number of functional EMRSs and the level of each EMRS (Highest functional class).

A total of 10391 posts (teaching and non-teaching) were advertised and NESTS conducted recruitment test through CBSE for all the posts in the month of December 2023. A total of 9075 appointment cum posting orders were issued to provisionally selected candidates after document verification (including waitlist for the post of Principal). Against non-joining of candidates, guest teachers are engaged to ensure that academic activities of the students are not affected.

Assessment of vacancies is done by considering the upgradation of EMRSs and opening of new EMRSs for the session 2025-2026. Draft recruitment notification for the assessed vacancies is already prepared which will be published upon approval by GBM”

4.12 On being asked about the role of NESTS (National Education Society for Tribal Students) in managing EMRSs and the mechanism followed to monitor EMRS, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“EMRS scheme under the Ministry of tribal affairs, is being managed at various levels. National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), as an autonomous Society under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to plan, construct, establish, endow and administer the Schools and to do all acts and things necessary for or conducive to tribal education.

At the State/UT level, EMRS Societies have been set up to maintain, control and manage the Schools as per the guidelines and norms formulated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and undertake other responsibilities as delegated by the MoTA/ NESTS.

Further, as per EMRS Guidelines, a District Level Committee (DLC) is to be formed at the District Level to supervise the functioning of the Schools in the District. The DLC will be headed by the District Collector with local educationists, tribal representatives and officers from the District as members to supervise the functioning of the Schools, provide necessary assistance in effective functioning of the school.”

4.13 The Committee have further informed vide written reply that:

“Therefore, a multi-tier mechanism has been put in place for managing and monitoring the EMRSs across India. However, certain constraints are faced on regular basis by NESTS, due to unavailability of Regional Offices, which are applicable in other similar schemes such as Navodaya Vidyalaya. A comparison of EMRS and NVS is as under:

	EMRS			NVS		
	No.	Sanctioned	Filled	No.	Sanctioned	Filled
HQ Staff	-	28	18	-	179	147
ROs	NIL	NIL	NIL	14	291	216

NESTS has a sanctioned strength of 28 posts, of which only 18 are currently filled. In this context, NESTS submitted a proposal for the sanction of 126 additional posts for the NESTS HQ and 261 new posts for the proposed 9 Regional Offices (ROs). However, this proposal has not been approved till date by the Department of Expenditure.

In comparison, the NVS Headquarters has a sanctioned strength of 179 posts, with 147 of these positions currently filled. Additionally, In terms of regional operations NVS have 14 Regional Offices, with a combined staff strength of 291. Despite this, NVS is responsible for managing 661 Navodaya Vidyalaya's (NVS), while NESTS oversees a larger number, with the responsibility of monitoring 728 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS). This disparity highlights the increased workload of NESTS relative to its current staffing levels.

Additionally, NVS manages schools through 14 regional offices with a combined staff strength of 291, whereas NESTS is constrained to manage EMRS through the State societies. These societies suffer from a severe lack of manpower and are not under the administrative control of NESTS. The State societies are mostly an extension of the tribal welfare/ social welfare departments of the State Governments, without dedicated manpower for management of EMRSs.

In the year 2023-24, NESTS initiated the recruitment of regular staff for EMRS. The entire process of recruitment, except the written exam, was completed by NESTS with in-house staff. Appointment cum posting orders were issued for nearly 9000 posts. However, it is increasingly difficult to cope with the HR issues of staff with the limited manpower at NESTS and the State societies. The State societies have been delegated with powers to manage the staff matters; however, this arrangement has not been successful. Routine matters which can be resolved at the State level are often referred to NESTS by the State societies. Moreover, it is observed that some states are not willing to delegate any financial powers to the Principal, which creates obstacles in the smooth functioning of the schools. NESTS do not have its own office space and functions from a rented office space, unlike NVS which has its own office and training centre for staff.

The Ministry urgently requires the completion of monthly inspections for all schools, focusing on quality assessments. However, due to manpower constraints at NESTS and its reliance on the State Society, these inspections are not being conducted as frequently as those in NVS. The District School Management Committee, led by the District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner (DM/DC) as the chairperson, is responsible for conducting supervision visits at the district level for the EMRS schools.”

4.14 As regards the direction of Dept. of Expenditure, M/o Finance, to explore the possibility of managing EMRSs through Regional Offices of Navadoya Vidyalaya Schools in association with Dept of School Education and Literacy, the Committee was informed that:-

“As per the directions of Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance, feasibility of managing EMRSs through Regional Offices (ROs) was discussed but the same couldn't be materialized. As on date, 477 EMRSs are functional out of 728 schools with the students' strength of 1.37 lakhs, whereas, in NVS 13 regional offices have been sanctioned including five additional ROs for the management of 653 functional JNVs. ROs of NVS are looking after only JNVs with their enrolment of around 3 lakhs students. The proposal of sanctioning ROs with staff for NESTS is submitted to DoE for consideration and approval.”

4.15 As regards to monitoring mechanism and the system of obtaining feedback, the Committee were inter-alia informed vide written reply that:

“NESTS under DPIIT, Government of India has been engaged to carry out study of all schools to check infrastructure gaps as well as capturing the performance parameters.

NESTS keeps open communication for dissemination of information and for collecting feedback, grievance, representation etc., including in person meetings. Based on these feedbacks corrective measures are taken. As a result of which since 01.04.2024 NESTS has introduced a robust mechanism of laying down guidelines concerning all aspects of functioning of schools. As on date, during 2024-25, a total 91 guidelines have been issued which has also been properly displayed on the website under 'circulars'.”

4.16 Since 1997-98, 288 EMRSs were sanctioned under Grants under Article 275(1) on a constrained budget. Many schools have been running without basic facilities and required infrastructure such as compound wall, labs, sports facility, additional classrooms, staff quarter, hostel blocks, furniture etc. To provide minimum required infrastructural facilities, a need was felt to upgrade the operational schools within the approved fund of Rs. 5 crores per school. Therefore, a detailed survey of such schools

was carried out based on the checklist and 211 EMRSs were identified for upgradation. Upgradation proposals for 167 EMRSs have been approved till date.

4.17 The Committee note that 720 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) have been sanctioned out of 728 targeted to be set up in the country to provide quality education to the tribal children from class VI to XII in their own environment in remote areas to enable them access to the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population. The Committee also find that an allocation of ₹7,088.60 crore has been made for the year 2025-26 for EMRS Scheme which is 47 percent of the total budget of the Ministry. The Committee find that under the Scheme, out of budgetary allocation of ₹5,943.00 crore and ₹6,399.00 crore in the years 2023-24 and 2024-25 ₹2,471.81 crore and ₹4,748.92 crore (till 17.02.2025) were utilized respectively. The Ministry attributed the factors for low utilization of funds during the past two years to non-availability of land for construction of schools, recruitment of staff, capacity building, digital learning facilities, etc. The Committee urge that concerted efforts are required to be made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to overcome these hurdles so that the funds allocated for the Scheme are utilized fully and objective of the Scheme to provide quality education to Tribal students is achieved.

4.18 Taking the fact that out of 477 EMRS, 341 are functional in their own Buildings, the Committee desire that all the EMRS are made functional from their own buildings and not from rented or other Government buildings as these buildings may be lacking required infrastructure for a school. Since the Ministry have sufficient funds to set up their own infrastructure, the Committee also desire that a comprehensive action plan should be chalked out to make them functional from their own buildings and the construction work of each EMRS is completed in a stipulated period of 2-3 years. The Committee expect that the steps taken by the Ministry to make all Schools functional would yield the desired results only if the timelines are fixed to sort out the bottlenecks and their timelines are not compromised.

4.19 The Committee note that an expenditure of ₹1,09,000/- per student per annum was specified in the EMRS guidelines,2020. The Committee were informed that this amount was not sufficient since revision in dearness allowance, implementation of pay revision, revision in labour cost, inflation in food and other commodities have increased significantly and could not be met in the amount fixed in the guidelines. The Committee were informed that the amount has been revised by EFC to ₹ 1,47,062/- per student per annum w.e.f. 01.04.2025. The Committee are happy to find that EMRS were to be modeled on the basis of Navodaya Vidyalayas as per the approval of Cabinet. The Committee, however, note that the revision of recurring expenditure in NVS on mess, uniform and other direct expenditure on students is done from time to time and total average expenditure for a student in NVS is ₹1,56,000/- for 9 months of functioning of NVS. The Committee feel that since the modeling of EMRS is based on NVS, hence, the expenditure of EMRS should also be in comparison with the NVS. The Committee are also not convinced with the idea of including expenditure on salary head while calculating the expenditure per student per annum. They desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should examine and calculate average expenditure for each student in EMRS by excluding salary head expenditure as the average recurring expenditure would be adversely affected as the salary expenditure would keep on increasing annually due to increase in dearness allowance and annual Increment. The Committee would like the Ministry to consider the above suggestions while calculating average expenditure for EMRS student and ensure that at least the average expenditure is not in any case less than provided under NVS.

4.20 The Committee note that National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) is responsible to plan, construct, establish, endow and administer the Eklavya Model Residential Schools and to do all acts and things necessary for or conducive to tribal population. Further, EMRS Societies have been set up at State/UT level to maintain, control and manage the Schools and undertake other responsibilities as delegated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs/NESTS. The Committee find that NESTS has a sanctioned strength of 28 posts, however, 10 are vacant. NESTS had submitted a proposal for the sanction of 126 additional posts for the NESTS headquarters and 261 new posts for the proposed 9

Regional Offices but the proposal has not been approved by the Department of Expenditure. The Committee find that 179 posts have been sanctioned for NVS headquarters and a combined strength of 291 for 14 Regional Offices established for NVS to manage 661 Schools. Since NESTS is managing 728 targeted EMRS across the country and most of the schools are established in far flung tribal areas, the Department of Expenditure need to consider the proposal of NESTS and give due importance to the responsibility entrusted over them is comparison with NVS. The Committee strongly feel that there is urgent need to review this proposal of setting up of Regional Offices to manage schools as the EMRS societies are managed by the State/UT administration and it may not be possible to make them accountable. The Committee like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to vigorously pursue with Department of Expenditure to get the proposal of NESTS expedited/ approved. The Committee may like to be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in this regard.

4.21 The Committee find that out of 728 approved EMRS, 288 schools are sanctioned/established under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution at the cost of ₹5.00 crore each. The Committee may like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to their visit of an EMRS in Karnataka, perhaps established under old Scheme. The Committee found that the facilities such as food, mattress, utensils including maintenance of the building were not up to the mark. The Committee find that many EMRS have been running without basic facilities and required infrastructure such as compound wall, labs, sports facility, additional classrooms, staff quarter, hostel blocks, furniture etc. To provide these facilities, a survey of such schools was done and 211 EMRS were identified for upgradation out of which 167 EMRSs have been approved till date. The Committee feel that the EMRS set up under old scheme needs to be revamped in a stipulated time period and sufficient funds are sanctioned to them in tune with the funds being sanctioned for each new EMRS. Further, the day- to- day hindrances faced by Schools should be managed by the schools themselves and the management should be suitably decentralized so that day- to- day issues are not brought to them and NESTS is able to concentrate on the larger responsibilities.

CHAPTER-V

PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATI ADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN (PM-JANMAN) [ERSTWHILE DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS]

PM JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) is a government initiative aimed at the socio-economic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by providing them with basic amenities, improved access to education, health, and sustainable livelihoods. Development of PVTGs scheme was converted into PMK-JANMAN mission and it was decided to discontinue Development of PVTGs scheme from 2024-25. The vision of PM-JANMAN is aimed to improve the socio-economic status of PVTGs by bridging gaps in health, education, livelihoods; by improving basic infrastructure in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) communities, habitations, and families aligning with existing schemes of Nine Ministries/Departments with a financial outlay of Rs. 24,000 crore. Based on data captured, State/ UT wise, PVTG population as on 31.01.2025 is as follows:

S.No	Name of State	PVTG Population
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	191
2	Andhra Pradesh	493932
3	Bihar	8839
4	Chhattisgarh	229743
5	Gujarat	153516
6	Jharkhand	398260
7	Karnataka	57067
8	Kerala	29511
9	Madhya Pradesh	1228606
10	Maharashtra	621046
11	Manipur	44694
12	Odisha	298441
13	Rajasthan	128456
14	Tamil Nadu	364846
15	Telangana	63194
16	Tripura	273240
17	Uttar Pradesh	3527

18	Uttarakhand	92233
19	West Bengal	67431
Grand Total		4556773

5.2 The Budgetary Estimates, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure for 2023-24, 2024-25 and Budgetary Estimate for 2025-26 are as follows:

(₹. In Crore)

Name of the scheme/ project/ programme	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			BE 2025-26
	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Exp.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Exp.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Exp. (As on 11.02.2025)	
Development of PVTGs	252.00	137.179	137.179	256.14	0.00	0.00	20.00	74.55	0.00	-
PM JANMAN (MPCs)	-	-	-	0.00	100.00	99.99	240.00	150.00	19.25	300.00

5.3 On being enquired about the roadmap for implementation of the Mission, the Committee were *inter-alia* informed vide written reply that:

“The operational guidelines for PM JANMAN has been issued in January, 2024. The gap in respect of each intervention covered under the mission has been ascertained through mobile app survey of each PVTG habitation, conducted by State Tribal Departments with data updated on PM Gati-shakti Portal. The same are cross-verified by the concerned Ministries and State line Departments in terms of their scheme guidelines / norms. Line Ministries / Departments may also carry out gap identification and sanction projects for PVTGs. The mission targets, Ministry-wise, are as tabulated below:

Name of Ministry	Activity	Mission Target (2023-2026)
M/o Rural Development	Provision of pucca houses	4.90 lakh houses
	Connecting roads	8000 km road
M/o Health and Family Welfare	Mobile Medical Units	1000 MMU (725 MMUs sufficient to cover all as per MoHFW)
M/o Jal Shakti	Piped Water Supply	18810 Villages
M/o Women and Child Development	Construction and running of Anganwadi Centres	2500
M/o Education	Construction and running of hostels	500
M/o Power	Energization of unelectrified HHs	142133 HHs
M/o New and Renewable Energy	Households sanctioned under New Solar Power Scheme	Beneficiaries eligible for Off grid
M/o Communications	Installation of mobile towers	Coverage of 4543 habitations
M/o Tribal Affairs	Multipurpose Centers	1000
	Setting up of VDKs	500

5.4 As regards to the difference between the old and new scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *inter-alia* submitted by written reply that:

“Under the erstwhile scheme of Development of PVTGs, Ministry was providing financial assistance to State Governments as a gap funding measure in diverse sectors. However, under PM JANMAN, a more focused approach has been adopted. The inter-Ministerial convergence is uniqueness of the Mission looking at the special needs of these communities, the existing norms of the concerned schemes of the respective Ministries have been suitably modified e.g. under PMAY-G, unit cost has been enhanced to Rs.2.39 lakhs, under PMGSY population norms relaxed to 100 population; under NHM, provision of 10 MMUs / district in PVTG areas has been done etc. Under PM JANMAN a common portal has been developed on PM Gati shakti portal, which is integrated with the portals of respective schemes of 9 Ministries. A monitoring dashboard will monitor the physical and financial progress of each intervention. Each Ministry has to populate the Centralized portal with their progress through APIs.”

5.5 In respect of the utilization of funds under the Scheme, the Committee were informed that it is maintained by respective Ministries. Actual Expenditure (2023-24)/Revised Estimate (2024-25) under the said mission, as per Expenditure Profile-2025-26 (10BB statement) of Government of India is as follows:

(₹. In Crore)

S. No.	Ministry/Department	Actual Expenditure (2023-24)	Revised Estimate (2024-25)
1	Department of Telecommunications	53.85	11.89
2	Department of School Education and Literacy	57.60	489.17
3	Department of Health and Family Welfare	10.08	189.62
4	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation	105.95	344.35
5	Ministry of Power	49.30	150.00
6	Department of Rural Development	862.83	3434.86
7	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	109.97	160.00
8	Ministry of Women and Child Development	117.72	120.00
	Total	1367.30	4903.91

5.6 On being enquired about the details of funds released/ spent and proposed to be released to the States during 2024-25, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted the details vide written reply that:

“Funds has been released to Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Uttarakhand and Funds are proposed to be released to Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana & Tripura”

5.7 On being enquired about the steps taken to achieve the targets of saturating 29,000 villages along with the initiatives taken to expedite the process, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted vide written reply that :

“As on January, 2025, 4288 villages have been saturated Ministry has been regularly reviewing the progress of interventions with line Ministries/ Departments/States/DMs for expeditious implementation of the interventions under the abhiyan. The construction and setting up of MPCs will correspondingly speed up the utilization of funds and smooth releases during the next FY 2025-26. The focus is on saturation of villages/habitations and Ministry has been regularly impressing upon the line Ministries to saturate their respective interventions. The matter was taken up with Ministries / States / DMs during the recently organized National Conference of DMs on PM JANMAN on 21.01.2025. The specific issues have also been highlighted to the Chief Secretaries. Ministry has been proactively trying to resolve issues/bottlenecks, wherever feasible.”

5.8 The Committee note that Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) was launched by discontinuing erstwhile Scheme of Development of PVTGs from 2024-25 for the socio-economic development of 4556773 people belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across 18 States and one UT with a financial outlay of ₹24,000 crore. The Scheme proposed to improve socio-economic status of PVTGs by bridging the gaps in health, education, livelihoods by improving basic infrastructure, habitations and families by aligning with existing Schemes of Nine Ministries/ Departments. The Committee also note that 29000 villages were proposed to be saturated by 2025-26 but only 4288 villages have been saturated as per the norms. The Committee find that the Ministry was able to spend ₹ 19.25 crore out of the Revised Estimate of ₹150.00 crore for 2024-25 (till February 2025). Since

the launch of the Abhiyan, 8 aligning Ministries/ Department spent ₹ 1367.30 crore in 2023-24 and the Revised Estimate for 2024-25 is ₹ 4903.91 crore. The Committee also find that during the year 2024-25 funds, have been released to Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Uttarakhand and funds are proposed to be released to Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Tripura. On the glance of expenditure incurred and the number of villages saturated out of the targeted 29,000 villages, the Committee opine that the progress of work is slow and requires to be expedited to complete the given task within the stipulated period. The Committee appreciate the involvement of various Ministries/ Department as it would enhance the speed of the Abhiyan but are also apprehensive about the coordination between the Ministries/Departments. The Committee would, therefore, like to recommend that the necessary mechanism may be established to ensure proper coordination between the Ministries/Departments and there is no dispute in the execution of work so that the work envisaged is executed cordially without any delay. The Committee would also like the Ministry to develop a monitoring mechanism to keep a check on the progress of work so that the work is completed as envisaged.

CHAPTER-VI

PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATIYA VIKAS MISSION (PMJVM)

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) has been formulated with the merger of the two earlier schemes for promotion of tribal livelihood, i.e., “Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through “Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP” and “Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce”. PMJVM has the vision to strengthen tribal entrepreneurship initiatives and seeks to support the theme of “Vocal for Local by Tribal” by promoting more efficient, equitable, self-managed, optimum use of natural resources, MFPs/non-MFPs, tribal product-based enterprises. A budget provision of Rs.1612.27 Crore has been kept for implementing PMJVM from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The details of funds released under PMJVM scheme by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs since its inception in 2021-22 are as under:

S. No.	Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
1	2021-22	219.90
2	2022-23	135.27
3	2023-24	151.28

6.2 Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is the central implementing agency of this scheme. The major activities supported under the scheme are as under:

- (i) MSP Fixation and Procurement of non-nationalized, non-timber MFPs
- (ii) Infrastructure development / creation viz. Haat Bazars, Storage Godowns and other facilities including special projects
- (iii) Value addition to various MFPs, non-MFPs and other produce / products
- (iv) Setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) and Van Dhan Producer Enterprises (VDPE)
- (v) Sale & purchase of products made by VDVks/VDPEs and other tribal products (ex. handloom, handicrafts etc.)
- (vi) Advertisement, Branding and Promotion of various tribal produces / products in the market through Organizing/Participation in various festivals / exhibitions / tribal artisan melas / Mahotsavas etc.

6.3 The scheme aims to provide fair prices to the tribal gatherers for their efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, transportation etc. of MFPs while ensuring sustainability of the resource base through provision of revolving funds for MFP procurement at MSP notified by the Ministry. The scheme currently covers a total 87 items and applicable to all States and UTs. The scheme also provides financial support for creation of infrastructure facilities such as Haat bazaars and storage godowns in the states. The Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 89.15 crore to various State Governments for creation of infrastructure facilities.

6.4 The State-wise details of revolving funds released and MFPs procured till 2023-24 are as follows:

State	Revolving Funds released (INR in lakhs)	MFP Procurement (INR in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	828.75	1033.19
Assam	66.94	34.79
Chhattisgarh	15,366.00	46305.95
Gujarat	622.00	1295.02
Jharkhand	4,672.00	1432.20
Karnataka	124.60	184.25
Kerala	59.74	160.63
Madhya Pradesh	3,489.00	1423.32
Maharashtra	500.00	312.50
Manipur	10.50	12.70
Mizoram	91.50	0.00
Nagaland	252.16	133.37
Odisha	4,991.00	13945.98
Rajasthan	20.00	48.34
Tamil Nadu	228.97	0.00
Tripura	200.66	74.68
Uttar Pradesh	240.00	1.67
West Bengal	201.72	98.96
TOTAL	31,965.54	66,497.55

6.5 The scheme provides funds for setting up Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) which are primarily clusters of tribal SHGs formed to reap economies of scale through value addition and marketing of MFPs / non-MFPs. Each VDVK consists of around 15 Van Dhan SHGs and have up to 300 members. A maximum amount of Rs 15.00 lakhs is provided to State Governments on receipt of proposals from them to set up a VDVK for incurring the expenditure on raw material, training and capacity building, tool kits and machinery, mentoring charges etc. Since the introduction of VDVKs in August, 2019, TRIFED has sanctioned 3958 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras amounting to Rs. 587.36 Crore associated with 11.83 Lakhs beneficiaries in 25 States and 3 UTs.

6.6 The State-wise details of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are as follows:

	State	No. of VDVKS Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (In Rs. Lakhs)	No. of Van Dhan beneficiaries
	Andhra Pradesh	415	6,162.90	123578
	Arunachal Pradesh	106	1,590.00	32897
	Assam	471	7,065.00	143309
	Chhattisgarh	139	2,085.00	41700
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1	15.00	302
	Goa	10	150.00	3000
	Gujarat	200	2,895.65	57968
	Himachal Pradesh	4	55.50	1110
	Jammu & Kashmir	100	1,457.00	29791
	Ladakh	10	150.00	3000
	Jharkhand	146	2,174.70	43701
	Karnataka	140	2,087.40	41748
	Kerala	44	597.25	12038

	Madhya Pradesh	126	1,890.00	37860
	Maharashtra	264	3,960.00	79350
	Manipur	200	2,996.80	60403
	Meghalaya	169	2,534.10	50835
	Mizoram	259	3,806.55	76168
	Nagaland	284	4,259.90	85198
	Odisha	170	2,479.25	50094
	Rajasthan	479	7,135.60	144803
	Sikkim	80	1,169.05	23381
	Tamil Nadu	8	120.00	2400
	Telangana	17	255.00	5100
	Tripura	57	776.00	16116
	Uttar Pradesh	25	359.55	7238
	Uttarakhand	12	179.95	3605
	West Bengal	22	329.35	6719
	TOTAL	3958	58,736.50	1183412

6.7 On being enquired about the reasons for merger of two existing Schemes, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“The two existing schemes were merged into PMJVM during 2021-22 i.e much earlier. The reasons for merger of two existing Schemes into PMJVM are given as under:

(i) There was no dedicated holistic scheme catering to tribal livelihood before PMJVM. In order to shoulder PM’s vision of “Atma Nirbhar Bharat”, ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas’ and related SDG Goals, it was desirable to have a comprehensive livelihood scheme for tribal population.

(ii) The Working Group of Ministers’ Report on Skill and Employment generation had recommended promotion of entrepreneurship among tribal

artisans and forest producers by promoting tribal handicrafts and setting up of tribal producer companies with a focus on processing high-value medicinal and aromatic plants under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission, thus ensuring that the tribal development gets top priority.

(iii) The Cabinet Observation OBS/2039 recommended that to ensure that forests produce is covered under the scheme for setting up new FPOs and the benefits of quality input, technology, credit and better marketing access etc reach the tribal community.”

6.8 On being asked, whether the Ministry proposes to add more items to the current list of 87 MFP items, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) are recommended by the MFP Pricing Cell (MFPC) constituted in TRIFED. The meetings of the Pricing Cell are conducted after receipt of proposals from the stakeholders including State implementing Agencies for inclusion / deletion / review of MSPs for MFPs. On the basis of recommendations of the Pricing Cell, the MSPs are notified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. As part of this process, the State Implementing Agencies (SIAs) have been requested in March, 2024 to provide:

- (i) Market price data of the 87 MFPs currently covered under the scheme, along with revised price proposals and justifications.*
- (ii) Recommendations for the inclusion of new MFPs, with detailed information on their availability, estimated potential, uses, tentative price proposals, prevailing market rates, and the estimated number of tribal gatherers dependent on these MFPs.*

TRIFED is actively reviewing the inputs received from SIAs, and any decision regarding the modifying of the current list of 87 MFPs will be taken based on the deliberations and recommendations of the MFPC in its meetings, followed by the approval of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. For MFPs not currently included in the MSP list, support is extended through value addition, market linkage facilitation, and enterprise development initiatives under the PMJVM framework.
“

6.9 On being asked about the number of proposals for establishing VDVKS received by TRIFED during the period of last 3 years and number of proposals pending for approval as on 31.01.2025, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“As on 31 Jan 2025, 119 proposals received in last week of Jan 2025 are under scrutiny with VDVK Division. To expedite the sanctioning of VDVKS and enhance their monitoring, the Van Dhan Integrated System (VDIS) can be effectively utilized. The entire process of sanctioning can be digitalized by

integrating it with VDIS, enabling the seamless sanctioning of VDVVs and the disbursement of funds through a streamlined digital framework.

Furthermore, the same system can also be leveraged to monitor the establishment, operational status, and other key parameters of VDVVs, ensuring efficient oversight and real-time tracking of their progress. In the last three years (2022-23 to 2024-25), TRIFED has received a total of 853 proposals for the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVVs). During that period, 734 VDVVs have been sanctioned, while for balance proposals need of details have been sought from SNDs/ SIAs or are under scrutiny."

6.10 As regards to the procurement/sales of tribal products by TRIFED during the FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 (till date) including pre-existing stock, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

"The procurements undertaken by TRIFED for the FYs 2023-24 and 2024-25(till 31.1.2025) is given below:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Procurement undertaken (Rs/Lakhs)</i>	<i>Sales made (Rs/Lakhs)</i>
<i>2023-24</i>	<i>1804.16</i>	<i>3607.22</i>
<i>2024-25</i>	<i>1414.25</i>	<i>2688.69</i>

As per discount policy, TRIFED disposes of old stock more than 3-year-old by offering 40% discount of the MRPs. Besides, TRIFED also offers various discount schemes during festival season throughout the year."

6.11 On being enquired about support provided by TRIFED to VDSHGs, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

"A. TRIFED's Support to VDSHGs in Branding, Packaging, and Marketing

Over the past three years, TRIFED has played a pivotal role in enhancing the visibility and marketability of products developed by Van Dhan Self-Help Groups (VDSHGs). Key initiatives include:

(i) Branding & Packaging: TRIFED has provided assistance in improving product presentation by introducing modern branding techniques, better packaging designs, and compliance with quality standards to enhance market appeal. In addition VANMOL Brand has been created for VDVVs under PVTG.

(ii) *Marketing & Market Linkages: TRIFED has facilitated market access through its Tribes India outlets, ONDC, other e-commerce platforms, exhibitions, and Melas, ensuring a wider reach for VDSHG products both domestically and internationally.*

B. Skill Development and Entrepreneurial Support

To empower VDSHGs in value addition to forest produce, TRIFED has undertaken various capacity-building initiatives, including:

- (i) *Skill Development Training and Entrepreneurial Development: TRIFED has conducted training programs on product processing, quality enhancement, and sustainable harvesting practices to strengthen the value chain of forest produce. Under PM JANMAN, 461 VDVks, in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), are providing training to their members through capacity-building initiatives such as the Entrepreneurship Awareness Program (EAP), Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP), and skill and value addition training facilitated by NIESBUD and IIE. Furthermore, under PM DAJGUA, a total of 1,000 VDVks are planned to receive training over the next five years in convergence with MoSDE, ensuring comprehensive skill development and value addition for tribal enterprises.*
- (ii) *Technology & Infrastructure Support: TRIFED has facilitated access to processing units, toolkits, and machinery to enhance the value-addition process, ensuring better returns for tribal producers.”*

6.10 As regards to the measures taken by Ministry/TRIFED to increase the presence of TRIFED all over the country including in e-commerce platforms, the Committee were *inter-alia* informed vide written reply that:

“TRIFED is working towards developing an in-house e-commerce platform featuring an advanced user interface (UI) and user experience (UX). This new platform will allow seamless purchase of exquisite tribal products for domestic as well as international consumers. In addition, TRIFED is in the process of formalizing a strategic partnership with HCL foundation for their My E-Haat initiative. TRIFED aims to mark its presence on this e-commerce platform by on-boarding technologically savvy tribal suppliers and its own brand ‘Tribes India’ to expand customer base.”

6.11 On being asked about the steps being taken to involve corporate entities in marketing and tertiary processing of the intermediate products made in the 'Van Dhan Vikas Kendras', the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted vide written reply that:

“TRIFED empanels operational VDVks as suppliers of TRIFED and procure their products for sale through its Tribes India Outlets. TRIFED also invites these VDVks to participate in exhibitions like Aadi Mahotsav and Aadi Bazar, where the VDVk members directly market and sell their products to the customers. Besides, TRIFED endeavours to invite B2B partners for collaborations, which will endorse technology infusion/training leading enhanced sales of these VDVks. TRIFED has already signed MoUs with ITC, Tea Trunk and is in the process of signing MoUs with corporate entities like Reliance Retail, Meesho, HCL Foundation, etc to enhance marketing of various products being produced by tribal artisans and VDVks. For value-addition and capacity building of VDVk members, TRIFED is in process of signing MoUs with Mahtama Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization. In addition, TRIFED has partnered with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) for capacity building of 500 VDVks under PM JANMAN and 1000 VDVks under PM DAJGUA.”

6.12 The Committee note that a Budget provision of ₹1612.27 crore has been made for implementing Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) from 2021- 22 to 2025-26 to promote livelihood of tribal communities through the introduction of Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) which seeks to support the theme ‘Vocal for Local by Tribal’ of the Government. The Committee find that as per the Scheme, revolving funds of ₹31,965.54 lakhs have been provided to States/UTs for the procurement of Minor Forest Produce and ₹58,736.50 lakhs for setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVks). Additionally, ₹89.15 crore have been released to various State Governments for creation of infrastructure facilities such as Haat Bazaars, storage godowns, etc. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Ministry in enhancing the infrastructure for providing a platform to tribals to promote Minor Forest Produce and get Minimum support price on their produce. However, the pace of expenditure incurred under the Scheme is slow. The Committee find that VDVks set up in that Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, etc. are very less in comparison to other States and needs to be reviewed. The Committee also feel that there is a scope of increase in expenditure on account of Revolving Funds provided to States/UTS. The Committee desire that the MSP and the

products to be included under MFP should be reviewed periodically so that the tribals are encouraged to contribute to the theme of 'Vocal for local by Tribal'. The Committee expect that the TRIFED entrusted with the responsibility to implement the Scheme will take appropriate measures for enhancing the infrastructure for promoting MFPs and ensure that the budgetary provisions made under the Scheme will be prudently utilized. The Committee also desire that the proposals for VDVks received by the Ministry will be sanctioned without any delay and the State/UT Governments will be pursued to send more proposals for VDVks and inclusion of more MFPs. The Committee may like to be informed of the action taken in this regard.

6.13 The Committee note that the procurement and sales by TRIFED of tribal products have demonstrated a fall in recent years as procurement and sales in 2024-25 (till 31.01.25) has gone down by 389.91 lakhs and 918.53 lakhs compared to the year 2023-24 . The Committee desire that the TRIFED should step into newer markets, expand their customer base, utilize favorably e-commerce platforms and advertise tribal products through on-line and off-line advertising strategies to increase the sale. The Committee find that TRIFED is working towards developing an in-house e-commerce platform featuring an advanced user inter-face and user-experience and they are in the process of formalizing a strategic partnership with HCL foundation for e-Haat initiative. The Committee consider these initiatives already long overdue and far too little in view of ongoing surge in e-commerce trade in our country. Therefore, the Committee, strongly, recommend that the Ministry and TRIFED should immediately enhance their efforts to build a robust e-commerce ecosystem for their products and scale up advertising through both conventional and online channels to expand their customer base within and outside the country to provide better marketing scope and remunerative pricing to tribal communities.

CHAPTER-VII

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGHER STUDIES AND NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP FOR ST STUDENTS

National Fellowship is awarded to Scheduled Tribe Students for pursuing higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D, since 2005-2006. Earlier the scheme was implemented by UGC, but Ministry of Tribal Affairs is now directly implementing this scheme from 2017-18 onwards. National Overseas Scheme provides financial assistance to students selected for pursuing studies abroad for Post-Graduation, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral research programmes. The selected candidates are given cost of tuition, and other educational fees charged by the foreign University etc., maintenance and other grants along with one time air fare to and from the place of study. Currently, National Fellowship Scheme has 750 slots with scholarship ₹31,000 per month for the first two years and ₹35,000 per month for the next three years. National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme has 20 slots with an annual maintenance allowance of USD 15,400. Additionally, under the scheme, tuition fees, visa fees, cost of air passage, and medical insurance premiums are reimbursed on an actual basis under NOS Scheme. While National scholarship (Top class) remains open ended to cover maximum number of ST students. These provisions have received financial approval from the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) until March 2026.

7.2 The Budget allocation during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 under these scholarship schemes is given below:

Scheme Name	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26
	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE
National Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students	150.00	120.00	120.00	145.00	140.00	145.00	145.00	230.00	230.00	165.00	240.00	—	0.02
National Overseas Scholarship for ST students	3.00	4.95	4.95	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	7.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.01

7.3 On being enquired about the reasons due to which allocation for both National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Studies and National Overseas Scholarship has been drastically slashed for the financial year 2025-26, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Total expenditure incurred by Ministry is ₹681.93 crore (₹659.98 crore for NFSS and ₹21.95 crore for NOS), and additional ₹75.00 crore has also been provided in this scheme in RE stage for the F.Y. 2024-25 which will be utilised. Notably, the Ministry has spent five-year budget within four years due to increase in number of scholars (TOP Class) and enhancement of fellowship amount by UGC. This has resulted in budget provision of less amount. However, the Ministry has already initiated the process of obtaining revised EFC amounting to ₹ 230 Crore.

Fellowship & Scholarship Scheme (NFSS) and the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme (NOS) were sanctioned for a tenure of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26) as per the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) approval dated 9th June 2021. The total budgetary outlay for this period was ₹755.00 crore, with ₹735 crore allocated for NFSS and ₹20 crore for NOS. To address the funding shortfall and sustain the schemes in FY 2025-26, the Ministry has already initiated the process of obtaining revised EFC approval. The Ministry has proposed an additional allocation as follows:

National Fellowship & Scholarship Scheme (NFSS) – An additional provision of ₹220 crore, increasing the total budget outlay to ₹955.00 crore for the five-year period.

National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) – An additional provision of ₹9.95 crore, increasing the total budget outlay to ₹29.95 crore for the five-year period”.

7.4 On being enquired, whether the Ministry have received requests from ST students to enhance scholarships both in terms of number of students and amount sanctioned for these schemes, the Committee were apprised by the Ministry vide written reply that:

“They have received requests from ST students to enhance scholarships both in terms of the number of beneficiaries and the sanctioned amount and any modifications to the existing scheme’s norms (no. of slots and amount of scholarship) require further approval of EFC. The Ministry is in the process of preparing an EFC note for the next Finance Commission cycle (2026-27 to 2030-31) and has proposed increasing the number of slots from 20 to 50 for NOS and 750 to 1000 for NFST to expand opportunities for ST students based on average number of eligible candidates.”

7.5 When asked about the hindrance/impediment faced by the students in availing schemes reported in the last five years and action taken thereon by the Ministry, the Committee were informed vide written replies that:

“Ministry is receiving various grievances related to hindrances/impediments in availing of the benefits of these schemes mostly due to payment related issue, DBT Failed Transactions, Aadhaar Seeding/Linking, delaying of payment, freezing of bank accounts, mismatched bank details, and experience rejections from PFMS etc. To address above issues, the Ministry properly guides students to resolve the above issues by coordinating with designated Stake holders like Canara Bank for National Fellowship, NSP for National Scholarship and Indian Embassy for National Overseas. The Ministry has grievance modules in scholarship portals for each scholarship schemes to submit their issues. In addition to this, beneficiaries are also reached out through emails and phone calls by the Ministry. The Ministry proactively resolves scheme-specific issues”

7.6 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs awards 750 National Fellowship & Scholarship Scheme for pursuing higher studies and 20 National Overseas Scholarship for pursuing studies abroad to tribal students. The Committee, however, find that during the year 2024-25, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were not able to spend single rupee under National Fellowship Scheme and a token amount has been allocated under National Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme and National Overseas Scholarship during 2025-26. The Committee find that the Ministry has proposed an additional allocation of ₹220 crore for National fellowship for 2025-26. The Committee also find that on the requests from ST students, the Ministry is proposing EFC for the next Finance Commission cycle

(2026-27 to 2030-31) to increase the number of slots from 20 to 50 under National Overseas Scholarship Scheme and 750 to 1000 slots under National Fellowship & Scholarship Scheme. The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for getting additional provision of ₹220 crore and ₹ 9.25 crore for 2025-26 under both the Schemes and also appreciate for considering the requests for Tribal students to enhance the number of slots under both the Schemes. The Committee would like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to also consider the request of Tribal students to increase the sanctioned amount and incorporate in the proposal to EFC as the amount has not been increased for many years. The Committee recommend that the sanctioned amount should have inbuilt mechanism to absorb the inflation and also desire that the Ministry should pursue with EFC in getting proposed additional provision for both the Schemes for 2025-26 and also ensure that the slots are enhanced for next Finance Commission cycle. The Committee would like to be apprised on the status of proposal made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to EFC.

CHAPTER-VIII

THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) ACT, 2006

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 was enacted 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. Act also provides a statutory framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land. The Act also empowers the forest rights holders, Gram Sabha and village level institutions to protect the wildlife, forest and biodiversity.

Status of Implementation of the Act

8.2 The implementation of the Act has been carried out since its inception as an ongoing process by various State Governments / UT Administrations. Progress in implementation of FRA in different States/UTs is furnished by the States/UTs on a monthly basis indicating the claims received, titles distributed and the extent of forest land for which titles have been distributed. Reports received from the States/UTs are compiled and put in public domain. As per the latest information reported by States and collated under MPR- FRA is being implemented in States - 20 states 1 UT covering 386 districts.

8.3 On being asked about the details of latest status of implementation of the Act with regard to different States/UTs and the number of habitat rights given to tribal communities in different States/UTs, the Committee was informed as under.

“FRA is being implemented in States -20 states 1 UT covering 386 districts. As per the information received from States/ UTs upto 31.01.2025, a total of 51,03,764 claims (49,02,427 individual and 2,01,337 community) have been filed and 24,98,185 titles (23,80,502 individual and 1,17,683 community) have been distributed to the extent of 1,91,91,086.66 acres (50,89,284.80 acres for individual and 1,41,01,801.87 acres for community) of forest land. For recognition of habitat rights for PVTGs, State Governments have started the process of vesting rights under Section 3 (1)

(e) of FRA. So far, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have initiated and vested Habitat Rights for 10 PVTGs in 14 districts.”

8.4 On being enquired about effectiveness of the Act in empowering and strengthening Tribals including PVTGs, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *inter-alia* submitted vide their written reply that:-

“Recently the Government has approved 'Dharti Aaba Janajatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' (DA-JGUA) with the aim of improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities by adopting saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal majority villages and Aspirational Districts covering about 63000 villages. Under DA-JGUA, MoTA is taking various initiatives like the Development of State and National FRA Portal and Digitisation of record and claim process, Mapping of Potential Forest Rights, Setting up of FRA Cells in States, and Support to States for CFR Management. DA-JGUA adopts a holistic approach aimed at providing sustainable livelihood to Forest-dwelling tribal families who have been vested with Individual and Community Forest Rights. Under DA-JGUA, there is a multi-sectoral livelihood support component for FRA patta holders in convergence with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Department of Fisheries, Department of Animal Husbandry. Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) have collaborated to conduct a special capacity-building campaign for the effective implementation of FRA and strengthening PESA Gram Sabha under 'Dharti Aaba Janajatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan’.

8.5 On being asked about the complaints received in implementing the Scheme along with the actions taken, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted vide written reply that:

“the Ministry receive the complaints / grievances through online Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal wherein a complainant can lodge grievance. Since, January 2020 to 14 February, 2025, 629 grievances were received by States/UTs out of which 120 have been disposed of.”

8.6 With regard to the role of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the implementation of Forest Rights Act, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, deposed before the Committee during oral evidence that:

“we have done three interventions off late. The first major intervention is to try and digitize the process. Once a person has given a petition, it should be visible to all. Where it is lying and for how many days? What is the disposal? So, that process is on. I am happy to say that three States have finished the process. We are giving the money and the technology to help

them do it. We have also helped the States to have a GIS digitization of potential area. What is happening is this. Normally there is a conflict between the Forest Department and the Tribal Welfare Department. The Forest Department will say, no they do not deserve any patta out of this area, etc. So, we said that we will create FRA atlases. We have paid money and hired technical expertise and NGOs. So, all the forest area near these villages is being mapped. In fact, that process is mostly over and many States have published the atlas also. So, that becomes the potential FRA area eligible for tribal community. So, at least, the Forest Department in this area will not harass. We are formally getting these digital FRA atlases published by a State Government. Fortunately, we have a good cooperation. In another three months' time, we will finish the entire FRA in 17 States."

8.7 The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 was enacted to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land on forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The Committee find that out of the 51,03,764 claims filed by Tribals, 24,98,185 titles have been distributed by 31 January, 2025. The Committee also find from January, 2020 to February, 2025, out of total number of 629 grievances related to FRS received by the States/UTs, only 120 have been disposed off. The Committee strongly feel that there is an urgent need to set up an effective grievance redressal mechanism so that the claims filed by Tribals are settled within a time frame as State/UT Governments are taking time in resolving grievances filed by Tribals. The Committee also feel that vesting of habitual rights to PVTGs is also getting delayed as only three States/UT viz. Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh have initiated the process till date. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are required to take suitable measures and direct all the State Governments/UT Administrations to vigorously implement the various provisions of the Act.

8.8 The Committee find that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently launched 'Dharti Aaba Janajatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' (DA-JGUA). Under the Abhiyan various steps are being taken as regards to implementation of FRA Act such as Development of State and National FRA Portal, digitization of record and claim process, mapping of Potential Forest Rights, setting up of FRA Cells in States, and support to States for CFR Management. The Committee also find that under DA-JGUA, there is a multi-sectoral livelihood support component for

FRA patta holders in convergence with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Department of Fisheries, Department of Animal Husbandry. Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj have collaborated to conduct a special capacity-building campaign for the effective implementation of FRA provisions. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry and expect that various initiatives taken under DA-JUGA should be implemented in a time bound manner so that livelihood support with the coordination of various Ministries/Departments are provided to FRA patta holders.

**New Delhi
18 March, 2025
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)**

**SHRI P.C MOHAN
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Justice
and Empowerment**

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS HELD ON FRIDAY, 21st February, 2025

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1400 hrs. in Committee Room No. '2', Parliament House Annexe- Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
3. Smt. Vijaylakshmi Devi
4. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
5. Smt. Bag Mitali
6. Shri Matheswaran V.S
7. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
8. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki

Rajya Sabha

9. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
10. Shri Narayan Koragappa
11. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. | Shri Vibhu Nayar | Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ashish Chatterjee | MD, TRIFED |
| 3. | Shri Brij Nandan Prasad | Joint Secretary |
| 4. | Shri T. Roumuan Paite | Joint Secretary & CMD National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) |
| 5. | Smt. Yatinder Prasad | Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser |
| 6. | Smt. Ajeet Kumar Srivastava | Commissioner, NESTS |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Secretary and other officials representing Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the Committee meeting convened to discuss the 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)'. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson, *inter-alia*, drew the attention of Ministry officials and Members present towards the unutilized funds in succeeding financial years in the past and expressed his apprehension about the utilization of enhanced budget by the Ministry for the next financial year. Hon'ble Chairperson also articulated his doubt about appropriate implementation of various schemes of the Ministry, below-par performances of Eklavya Model Residential Schools, economic upliftment of tribal people vis-à-vis TRIFED & PMJVM, etc.

3. Thereupon, the Chairperson drew the attention of the representatives of the Ministry to the 'Directions by the speaker of Lok Sabha' regarding maintaining confidentiality of Committee proceedings till the report is presented to the House. Before initiating the discussion on the Demand for Grants, the Chairperson asked the representatives of the Ministry to introduce them. Thereafter, the Officials introduced themselves.

4. The Secretary and the Joint Secretaries of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs gave a power point presentation. The following issues were *inter-alia* taken up for discussion at the sitting of the Ministry:

- (i) Budgetary allocations;
- (ii) Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs);

- (iii) Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS);
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) [erstwhile Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups];
- (v) Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM);
- (vi) National fellowship and scholarship for higher studies and national overseas scholarship for st students; and
- (vii) The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) ACT, 2006

6. Before concluding the meeting, the Chairperson directed the Secretary to furnish written replies at the earliest on the issues that could not be replied in the meeting for early finalization of Report. The Secretary assured to comply.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) HELD ON TUESDAY, 18TH
MARCH, 2025.**

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, E-PHA, Block 'B', Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
5. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
6. Shri Murari Lal Meena
7. Shri Bhojraj Nag
8. Shri Godam Nagesh
9. Shri Rajkumar Roat
10. Shri Matheswaran V. S.
11. Adv. Priya Saroj
12. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
13. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki

Rajya Sabha

14. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
15. Shri Narayana Koragappa
16. Shri Rameswar Teli
17. Smt. P. T. Usha
18. Shri Abdul Wahab
19. Shri Niranjana Bishi

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt the following draft Reports:

(i) Draft Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2025-26' pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

(ii) XX XX XX XX

3. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any modifications.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses during the ensuing session.

The Committee then adjourned.

XX Does not pertain to this Report

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl.No	Para No.	Observations/ Recommendations
1.	2.10	<p>The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been allocated ₹14,925.81 crore by the Ministry of Finance against the proposed allocation of ₹13,424.24 crore for the financial year 2025-26. Since Budgetary allocation for 2025-26 is higher as compared to previous year, the Ministry owes a greater responsibility for overall development and welfare of the tribal population through various Schemes and expect that the Ministry will utilize the funds fully towards all the schemes and programmes that are under the purview of the Ministry. The Committee hope that the trend of previous years will not be continued as ₹7,287.77 crore could only be spent out of the budgetary allocation of ₹8,451.92 crore and ₹7,545.23 crore out of budgetary allocation of ₹12,461.88 crore during 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. The Committee further note that the Ministry have spent ₹8,119.51 crore by 6th February, 2025 out of budgetary allocation of ₹13,000 crore for the year 2024-25. The Committee understand that the reasons for low utilization of funds in previous years and downwards allocation at RE stage are due to various reasons such as SNA balances, non-submission of utilization certificates, technical issues with PFMS etc. The Committee strongly believe that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs need to strictly implement the measures to overcome the difficulties so that the funds earmarked for each scheme are spent by States/UTs in implementation of the various schemes and are not parked unutilised. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the</p>

		Ministry should ensure that the funds allocated to the Ministry for 2024-25 are fully utilized and the enhanced allocation made for 2025-26 is not revised downward at RE stage but fruitfully utilized in achieving the objectives of all the Schemes.
2.	3.13	<p>The Committee are happy to note that 28 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) set up in various States in the country are administrated by the State Governments and supported by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their infrastructural needs, research and documentation activities, training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals/ yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and in promotion of tourism and organization of exchange visits by tribals so that the tribal cultural practices, languages and rituals are preserved and disseminated. The Committee find that budgeted estimates for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 were revised downward at RE stage from ₹121.00 crore to ₹58.50 crore, ₹118.64 crore to ₹50.00 crore and ₹111.00 crore to ₹90.00 crore respectively. However, the revised estimate could not be spent fully during these years. The Committee believe that mere allocations of funds would not ensure effective implementation of TRI Scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should pursue with the State/UT Governments and other Implementing Agencies so that annual Action Plan from State/UT Governments are timely received to achieve the purpose for which the Scheme came into existence. They would also like the Ministry to immediately resolve other issues such as delay in submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs), clearance of SNA balances, submission of progress report and DPR etc by the State Authorities. Thus, the Committee, recommend that the Ministry should take requisite measures to remove technical and procedural bottlenecks, administrative delays, capacity building issues, etc. The</p>

		<p>Committee also desire that regular review meetings with State Governments at periodic intervals are held with the objective of augmenting the usage of funds. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard.</p>
3.	3.14	<p>The Committee appreciate the initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs for establishing of ‘Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums’ as they acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal idols who are otherwise often under-represented in the mainstream history. The Committee note that the Ministry have so far supported 11 Tribal Freedom Fighters’ museums in 10 States to celebrate the lives and deeds of tribal heroes and inculcate a spirit of pride in the minds of tribal communities. However, the Committee note that out of 11 sanctioned Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums by the Ministry, only 3, namely, ‘Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Freedom Fighter Museum’ at Ranchi, Jharkhand, ‘Badal Bhoi State Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum, Chhindwara and ‘Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah Freedom Fighter Museum’, Jabalpur, have been inaugurated. The Committee would like to underline the slow progress in construction of remaining 8 museums, as they were sanctioned far back in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, such as, Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telengana, Gujarat and Mizoram which are yet to be completed. The Committee are also concerned for the Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums sanctioned for Kerala, Manipur and Goa in 2017-2018, 2018-19 and 2020-21 respectively as they are still at DPR stage even after the lapse of several years. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs may evolve a strategy for timely completion of these</p>

		Museums. The Committee would like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to ensure that the four Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums scheduled to be completed by November, 2025 and one by May, 2026, are completed by the stipulated date.
4.	4.17	The Committee note that 720 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) have been sanctioned out of 728 targeted to be set up in the country to provide quality education to the tribal children from class VI to XII in their own environment in remote areas to enable them access to the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population. The Committee also find that an allocation of ₹7,088.60 crore has been made for the year 2025-26 for EMRS Scheme which is 47 percent of the total budget of the Ministry. The Committee find that under the Scheme, out of budgetary allocation of ₹5,943.00 crore and ₹6,399.00 crore in the years 2023-24 and 2024-25 ₹2,471.81 crore and ₹4,748.92 crore (till 17.02.2025) were utilized respectively. The Ministry attributed the factors for low utilization of funds during the past two years to non-availability of land for construction of schools, recruitment of staff, capacity building, digital learning facilities, etc. The Committee urge that concerted efforts are required to be made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to overcome these hurdles so that the funds allocated for the Scheme are utilized fully and objective of the Scheme to provide quality education to Tribal students is achieved.
5.	4.18	Taking the fact that out of 477 EMRS, 341 are functional in their own Buildings, the Committee desire that all the EMRS are made functional from their own buildings and not from rented or other Government buildings as these buildings may be lacking required infrastructure for a school. Since the Ministry have sufficient funds to set up their own

		<p>infrastructure, the Committee also desire that a comprehensive action plan should be chalked out to make them functional from their own buildings and the construction work of each EMRS is completed in a stipulated period of 2-3 years. The Committee expect that the steps taken by the Ministry to make all Schools functional would yield the desired results only if the timelines are fixed to sort out the bottlenecks and their timelines are not compromised.</p>
6.	4.19	<p>The Committee note that an expenditure of ₹1,09,000/- per student per annum was specified in the EMRS guidelines,2020. The Committee were informed that this amount was not sufficient since revision in dearness allowance, implementation of pay revision, revision in labour cost, inflation in food and other commodities have increased significantly and could not be met in the amount fixed in the guidelines. The Committee were informed that the amount has been revised by EFC to ₹ 1,47,062/- per student per annum w.e.f. 01.04.2025. The Committee are happy to find that EMRS were to be modeled on the basis of Navodaya Vidyalayas as per the approval of Cabinet. The Committee, however, note that the revision of recurring expenditure in NVS on mess, uniform and other direct expenditure on students is done from time to time and total average expenditure for a student in NVS is ₹1,56,000/- for 9 months of functioning of NVS. The Committee feel that since the modeling of EMRS is based on NVS, hence, the expenditure of EMRS should also be in comparison with the NVS. The Committee are also not convinced with the idea of including expenditure on salary head while calculating the expenditure per student per annum. They desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should examine and calculate average expenditure for each student in EMRS by excluding salary head expenditure</p>

		<p>as the average recurring expenditure would be adversely affected as the salary expenditure would keep on increasing annually due to increase in dearness allowance and annual Increment. The Committee would like the Ministry to consider the above suggestions while calculating average expenditure for EMRS student and ensure that at least the average expenditure is not in any case less than provided under NVS.</p>
7.	4.20	<p>The Committee note that National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) is responsible to plan, construct, establish, endow and administer the Eklavya Model Residential Schools and to do all acts and things necessary for or conducive to tribal population. Further, EMRS Societies have been set up at State/UT level to maintain, control and manage the Schools and undertake other responsibilities as delegated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs/NESTS. The Committee find that NESTS has a sanctioned strength of 28 posts, however, 10 are vacant. NESTS had submitted a proposal for the sanction of 126 additional posts for the NESTS headquarters and 261 new posts for the proposed 9 Regional Offices but the proposal has not been approved by the Department of Expenditure. The Committee find that 179 posts have been sanctioned for NVS headquarters and a combined strength of 291 for 14 Regional Offices established for NVS to manage 661 Schools. Since NESTS is managing 728 targeted EMRS across the country and most of the schools are established in far flung tribal areas, the Department of Expenditure need to consider the proposal of NESTS and give due importance to the responsibility entrusted over them is comparison with NVS. The Committee strongly feel that there is urgent need to review this proposal of setting up of Regional Offices to manage schools as the EMRS societies are managed by the State/UT administration and it may not be possible to make</p>

		<p>them accountable. The Committee like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to vigorously pursue with Department of Expenditure to get the proposal of NESTS expedited/ approved. The Committee may like to be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in this regard.</p>
8.	4.21	<p>The Committee find that out of 728 approved EMRS, 288 schools are sanctioned/established under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution at the cost of ₹5.00 crore each. The Committee may like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to their visit of an EMRS in Karnataka, perhaps established under old Scheme. The Committee found that the facilities such as food, mattress, utensils including maintenance of the building were not up to the mark. The Committee find that many EMRS have been running without basic facilities and required infrastructure such as compound wall, labs, sports facility, additional classrooms, staff quarter, hostel blocks, furniture etc. To provide these facilities, a survey of such schools was done and 211 EMRS were identified for upgradation out of which 167 EMRSs have been approved till date. The Committee feel that the EMRS set up under old scheme needs to be revamped in a stipulated time period and sufficient funds are sanctioned to them in tune with the funds being sanctioned for each new EMRS. Further, the day- to- day hindrances faced by Schools should be managed by the schools themselves and the management should be suitably decentralized so that day- to- day issues are not brought to them and NESTS is able to concentrate on the larger responsibilities.</p>
9.	5.8	<p>The Committee note that Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) was launched by discontinuing erstwhile Scheme of Development of PVTGs</p>

		<p>from 2024-25 for the socio-economic development of 4556773 people belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across 18 States and one UT with a financial outlay of ₹24,000 crore. The Scheme proposed to improve socio-economic status of PVTGs by bridging the gaps in health, education, livelihoods by improving basic infrastructure, habitations and families by aligning with existing Schemes of Nine Ministries/ Departments. The Committee also note that 29000 villages were proposed to be saturated by 2025-26 but only 4288 villages have been saturated as per the norms. The Committee find that the Ministry was able to spend ₹ 19.25 crore out of the Revised Estimate of ₹150.00 crore for 2024-25 (till February 2025). Since the launch of the Abhiyan, 8 aligning Ministries/ Department spent ₹ 1367.30 crore in 2023-24 and the Revised Estimate for 2024-25 is ₹ 4903.91 crore. The Committee also find that during the year 2024-25 funds, have been released to Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Uttarakhand and funds are proposed to be released to Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Tripura. On the glance of expenditure incurred and the number of villages saturated out of the targeted 29,000 villages, the Committee opine that the progress of work is slow and requires to be expedited to complete the given task within the stipulated period. The Committee appreciate the involvement of various Ministries/ Department as it would enhance the speed of the Abhiyan but are also apprehensive about the coordination between the Ministries/Departments. The Committee would, therefore, like to recommend that the necessary mechanism may be established to ensure proper coordination between the Ministries/Departments and there is no dispute in the execution of work so that the work envisaged is executed cordially without any delay. The Committee would also like</p>
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		the Ministry to develop a monitoring mechanism to keep a check on the progress of work so that the work is completed as envisaged.
10.	6.12	<p>The Committee note that a Budget provision of ₹1612.27 crore has been made for implementing Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) from 2021- 22 to 2025-26 to promote livelihood of tribal communities through the introduction of Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) which seeks to support the theme 'Vocal for Local by Tribal' of the Government. The Committee find that as per the Scheme, revolving funds of ₹31,965.54 lakhs have been provided to States/UTs for the procurement of Minor Forest Produce and ₹58,736.50 lakhs for setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs). Additionally, ₹89.15 crore have been released to various State Governments for creation of infrastructure facilities such as Haat Bazaars, storage godowns, etc. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Ministry in enhancing the infrastructure for providing a platform to tribals to promote Minor Forest Produce and get Minimum support price on their produce. However, the pace of expenditure incurred under the Scheme is slow. The Committee find that VDVks set up in that Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, etc. are very less in comparison to other States and needs to be reviewed. The Committee also feel that there is a scope of increase in expenditure on account of Revolving Funds provided to States/UTS. The Committee desire that the MSP and the products to be included under MFP should be reviewed periodically so that the tribals are encouraged to contribute to the theme of 'Vocal for local by Tribal'. The Committee expect that the TRIFED entrusted with the responsibility to implement the Scheme will take appropriate</p>

		<p>measures for enhancing the infrastructure for promoting MFPs and ensure that the budgetary provisions made under the Scheme will be prudently utilized. The Committee also desire that the proposals for VDVks received by the Ministry will be sanctioned without any delay and the State/UT Governments will be pursued to send more proposals for VDVks and inclusion of more MFPs. The Committee may like to be informed of the action taken in this regard.</p>
11.	6.13	<p>The Committee note that the procurement and sales by TRIFED of tribal products have demonstrated a fall in recent years as procurement and sales in 2024-25 (till 31.01.25) has gone down by 389.91 lakhs and 918.53 lakhs compared to the year 2023-24 . The Committee desire that the TRIFED should step into newer markets, expand their customer base, utilize favorably e-commerce platforms and advertise tribal products through on-line and off-line advertising strategies to increase the sale. The Committee find that TRIFED is working towards developing an in-house e-commerce platform featuring an advanced user inter-face and user-experience and they are in the process of formalizing a strategic partnership with HCL foundation for e-Haat initiative. The Committee consider these initiatives already long overdue and far too little in view of ongoing surge in e-commerce trade in our country. Therefore, the Committee, strongly, recommend that the Ministry and TRIFED should immediately enhance their efforts to build a robust e-commerce ecosystem for their products and scale up advertising through both conventional and online channels to expand their customer base within and outside the country to provide better marketing scope and remunerative pricing to tribal communities.</p>

12.	7.6	<p>The Ministry of Tribal Affairs awards 750 National Fellowship & Scholarship Scheme for pursuing higher studies and 20 National Overseas Scholarship for pursuing studies abroad to tribal students. The Committee, however, find that during the year 2024-25, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were not able to spend single rupee under National Fellowship Scheme and a token amount has been allocated under National Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme and National Overseas Scholarship during 2025-26. The Committee find that the Ministry has proposed an additional allocation of ₹220 crore for National fellowship for 2025-26. The Committee also find that on the requests from ST students, the Ministry is proposing EFC for the next Finance Commission cycle (2026-27 to 2030-31) to increase the number of slots from 20 to 50 under National Overseas Scholarship Scheme and 750 to 1000 slots under National Fellowship & Scholarship Scheme. The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for getting additional provision of ₹220 crore and ₹ 9.25 crore for 2025-26 under both the Schemes and also appreciate for considering the requests for Tribal students to enhance the number of slots under both the Schemes. The Committee would like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to also consider the request of Tribal students to increase the sanctioned amount and incorporate in the proposal to EFC as the amount has not been increased for many years. The Committee recommend that the sanctioned amount should have inbuilt mechanism to absorb the inflation and also desire that the Ministry should pursue with EFC in getting proposed additional provision for both the Schemes for 2025-26 and also ensure that the slots are enhanced for next Finance Commission cycle. The Committee would like to be apprised on the status of proposal made by the Ministry of</p>
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		Tribal Affairs to EFC.
13.	8.7	<p>The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 was enacted to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land on forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The Committee find that out of the 51,03,764 claims filed by Tribals, 24,98,185 titles have been distributed by 31 January, 2025. The Committee also find from January, 2020 to February, 2025, out of total number of 629 grievances related to FRS received by the States/UTs, only 120 have been disposed off. The Committee strongly feel that there is an urgent need to set up an effective grievance redressal mechanism so that the claims filed by Tribals are settled within a time frame as State/UT Governments are taking time in resolving grievances filed by Tribals. The Committee also feel that vesting of habitual rights to PVTGs is also getting delayed as only three States/UT viz. Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh have initiated the process till date. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are required to take suitable measures and direct all the State Governments/UT Administrations to vigorously implement the various provisions of the Act.</p>
14.	8.8	<p>The Committee find that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently launched 'Dharti Aaba Janajatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' (DA-JGUA). Under the Abhiyan various steps are being taken as regards to implementation of FRA Act such as Development of State and National FRA Portal, digitization of record and claim process, mapping of Potential Forest Rights, setting up of FRA Cells in States, and support to States for CFR Management. The Committee also find that under DA-JGUA, there is a multi-sectoral livelihood support component for FRA patta holders in convergence with Ministry of</p>

		<p>Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Department of Fisheries, Department of Animal Husbandry. Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj have collaborated to conduct a special capacity-building campaign for the effective implementation of FRA provisions. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry and expect that various initiatives taken under DA-JUGA should be implemented in a time bound manner so that livelihood support with the coordination of various Ministries/Departments are provided to FRA patta holders.</p>
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