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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT
(2006-2007)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2007-2008)

TWENTY- FIFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2007/Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)

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EMPOWERMENT (2006-2007)

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DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2007-2008)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 28.04.2007

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 03.05.2007



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 2007/Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(2006-2007)

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS LOK SABHA

2. Mohd. Shahid Akhlaque
3. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
4. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
5. Shri Loganathan Ganesan
6. Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain
7. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
8. Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam
9. Shri Kailash Meghwal
10. Shri Rupchand Murmu
11. Shri Jual Oram
12. Shri Ram Chandra Paswan
13. Shri Rabindar Kumar Rana
14. Shri P.A. Sangma
15. Dr. R. Senthil
16. Smt. Pratibha Singh
17. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
18. Smt. Krishna Tirath
19. Smt. Usha Verma
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma
23. Shri Silvius Condpan
24. Shri Mahmood A. Madani
25. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
26. Dr. Radhakant Nayak
27. Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee
28. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
29. Shri Veer Singh
30. Ms. Anusuiya Uikey
31. Shri Nand Kishore Yadav

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Dr. (Smt.) P.K Sandhu | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ashok Sarin | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri R.K. Saxena | - | Director |
| 4. | Shri Bhupesh Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Km. M. Tunglut | - | Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2006-2007) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-fifth Report, of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Demands for Grants, 2007-2008.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the current year i.e. 2007-2008 which were laid on the Table of the House on March 20, 2007. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on April 9, 2007. The Committee considered and finalized the Report at their sitting held on April 27, 2007.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and furnishing the information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants and tendering evidence before the Committee.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;

27 April, 2007
7 Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

REPORT

CHAPTER-I

REVIEW OF STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2006-07) OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

1.1 The Seventeenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was presented to Parliament on 16 May, 2006 and the related Action Taken Report i.e. Twenty-second Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Parliament on 18 December, 2006.

1.2 The status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) could not be assessed as the Minister of Tribal Affairs is yet to lay a statement in Parliament under direction 73A of Directions by the Speaker.

1.3 In their Seventeenth Report the Committee had made 22 recommendations. Out of these recommendations, the Government accepted 7 recommendations. In view of the replies of the Government, the Committee did not desire to pursue four recommendations; replies to five recommendations were commented upon by the Committee and replies of the Government in respect of six recommendations of the Committee were interim in nature. Few of these issues have been dealt with again in this present Report.

1.4 Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants, 2006-07 was presented to Parliament on 16 May, 2006. Although the Action Taken Notes have been received from the Ministry, the Committee regret to observe that as per Direction 73A of 'Directions by the Speaker' necessary statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the original Report has not been made. While deprecating this inordinate delay, the Committee desire that requisite action in this connection should be taken expeditiously by the Ministry.

CHAPTER - II

INTRODUCTORY

2.1 The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted in October, 1999 with the objective of providing a more focused attention on the integrated socio-economic development of the most under privileged section of the Indian society, the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in a coordinated and planned manner. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for development of Scheduled Tribes. To this end, Ministry of Tribal Affairs undertakes activities that follow from the subjects allocated under the Government of India Allocation of Business Rules, 1961. These include :

1. Social security and social insurance with respect to the Scheduled Tribes;
2. Tribal Welfare – Tribal welfare planning, project formulation, research, evaluation, statistics and training;
3. Promotion and development of voluntary efforts on tribal welfare;
4. Scheduled Tribes, including scholarship to students belonging to such tribes
5. Development of Scheduled Tribes;
6. All matters including legislation relating to the rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes on forest lands;

7. (a) Scheduled Areas;
(b) Matters relating to Autonomous districts of Assam excluding roads and bridge works and ferries thereon; and
(c) Regulations framed by the Governors of States for Scheduled Areas and for Tribal Areas specified in part 'A' of the Table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.
8. (a) Commission to report on the administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes; and
(b) Issue of directions regarding the drawing up and execution of schemes essential for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in any State.
9. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
10. Implementation of the 'Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (22 of 1955)' and the 'Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989' (33 of 1989), excluding administration of criminal justice in regard to offences in so far as they relate to Scheduled Tribes.

2.2 The Ministry have further informed the Committee that Article 366(25) of the Constitution of India refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. This Article says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered as Scheduled Tribes. The list of Scheduled Tribes is

State/UT specific and a community declared as Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State. The essential characteristics, first laid down by the Lokur Committee, for a community to be identified as Scheduled Tribes, are - (a) primitive traits (b) distinctive culture (c) shyness of contact with the community at large (d) geographical isolation and (e) backwardness-social and economic. The inclusion of a community as Scheduled Tribes is an ongoing process.

2.3 As per the information provided by the Ministry, the Tribal population of the country as per the 2001 census, is 8.43 crore constituting 8.2% of the total population. The population of tribes had grown at the growth rate of 24.45 % during the period 1991-2001. More than half of the Scheduled Tribes population is concentrated in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat.

2.4 The Ministry have also informed that tribal communities live in about 15% of the country's areas, in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. Some tribal communities have adopted the mainstream way of life. At the other end of the spectrum, there are certain scheduled tribes (75 in number) known as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), who are characterized by - (a) a pre-agriculture level of technology, (b) a stagnant or declining population, (c) extremely low literacy and (d) a subsistence level of economy.

2.5 There are over 700 Scheduled Tribes notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different States and Union Territories of the

country. The largest number of Scheduled Tribes are in the State of Orissa, i.e. 62.

2.6 The main concentration of tribal population is in Central India and in the North-Eastern States. However, tribals are present in all States and Union Territories except Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh.

2.7 According to the 2001 census, 44.70% of the ST population were cultivators, 36.9% agricultural labourers, 2.1% household industry workers and 16.3% were other occupation workers. The percentage of ST population living below the poverty line is 45.86% in the rural areas and 34.75% in the urban areas as per poverty line estimates made in the year 1999-2000.

2.8 Literacy rates among the Scheduled Tribes has increased from 29.62% to 47.10% during the period 1991 to 2001. The literacy rate among ST male increased from 40.65% to 59.20% and the ST female literacy increased from 18.20% to 34.80% during the period 1991-2001.

2.9 Social, economic and political protection for the Scheduled Tribes are also guaranteed under various Articles of the Constitution of India.

2.10 The Demands for Grants asked for by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are given under Demand No.93. The Committee have attempted to scrutinize these demands to the extent possible and the conclusions drawn by them have been highlighted in the succeeding Chapter.

CHAPTER- III

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2007- 08

A. GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

3.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure for the entire duration of the Tenth Five Year Plan showing separately Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure:

PLAN Rs. (in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2002-2003	1090.00	1012.00	1005.10
2003-2004	1087.00	900.00	893.90
2004-2005	1146.00	1069.45	1053.06
2005-2006	1498.82	1398.82	1391.95
2006-2007	1656.90	1652.68	1648.1408*
TOTAL	6478.72	6032.95	5992.15

NON-PLAN

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2002-2003	6.38	6.39	5.8511
2003-2004	10.70	11.30	7.0871
2004-2005	13.50	12.4952	9.6688
2005-2006	10.92	10.35	7.9788
2006-2007	10.56	10.42	8.2848*
TOTAL	52.06	50.95	38.87

* provisional

3.2 It has been observed from the above that out of BE Rs. 6478.72 crore allocated by the Planning Commission during the entire Tenth Five Year Plan period which was revised downward to Rs. 6032.95 crore at RE stage, expenditure amounting to Rs.5992.15 crore was incurred under Plan Schemes of the Ministry.

3.3 On being asked to state the reasons for the shortfall in expenditure, the Ministry have stated as under:

- (a) In case of the scheme, 'Investment in NSTFDC/ STDCs' (Major Head 4225), out of a total allocation of Rs. 178.99 crore for the 10th Plan, only Rs. 66.50 crore was released due to the following reasons:
 - i.) Requirement of funds from NSTFDC for equity capital was limited.
 - ii.) During 2005-06 and 2006-07, no release could be made due to non-approval of the scheme by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) pending submission of the evaluation study report of NSTFDC by the Planning Commission.
- (b) The shortfall in expenditure under the schemes of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations, Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets, Vocational Training Centres and Development of Primitive Tribal Groups was due to non-receipt of complete proposals in time and also due to non-receipt of utilisation certificates of previous grants under respective schemes.
- (c) The allocation under the scheme of Price Support to TRIFED made for the 10th Plan was Rs.33.58 crore, but an amount of Rs.30.93 crore could only be utilized. Due to changes in the business activities of TRIFED, the losses occurred in its MFP operations also came to an end. Hence, the extent of compensation for losses being extended to TRIFED also came to be pegged down to a lesser amount.
- (d) As against the 10th Plan allocation of Rs.0.05 crore under the scheme Investment in TRIFED, the expenditure was Nil. Pending finalisation of the new Road Map of TRIFED, further investment in TRIFED has been kept in abeyance. Hence the allocation made was not utilized.

- (e) The reason for shortfall in expenditure under the scheme of State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation for Minor Forest Produce was mainly due to inadequate number of proposals received from the State Governments and the proposals not fulfilling certain basic conditions of eligibility.
- (f) The reason for shortfall under the scheme of Research and Training (TRIs) was non receipt of proposals and utilization certificates from some State Governments. In the case of the scheme 'Exchange of Visits by Tribals', non receipts of proposals from some State Governments resulted in low utilization of funds. Further, due to non-receipt of utilization certificates from State Governments and non receipts of pre-stamped receipts from the State Channelising Agencies , funds could not be released during 2006-07.
- (g) Under the scheme of 'Supporting Projects of All India or Inter State Nature', against the total R.E provision, the utilisation was approximately 86%. The shortfall at R.E stage was mainly due to non-receipt of deserving proposals and requisite documents from grantees in time.
- (h) For the 'Monitoring and Evaluation' scheme, introduced during 2005-06, against the total BE provision, the percentage utilization was 42.5% and against the total RE provision, the utilisation was 56.6%. Though there was no shortfall during 2005-06, the shortfall during 2006-07 was due to non-raising of revised bills for want of revised documents required by P&AO due to shortage of time.

3.4 A statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates, Actual Expenditure and percentage of expenditure incurred under both Plan and Non-

Plan schemes of the Ministry during 2006-07 along with the BE for 2007-08,

Scheme-wise is as under:-

Rs. (in crore)

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	Name of the Sub-Scheme	2006-07					2007-08		
				Budget Estimates, excluding North East	Outlay for North East	Revised Estimates, including North East	Expenditure (Provisional)	Percentage of expenditure to RE	Budget Estimates excluding North East	Outlay for North East	
A	CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME										
	A-1 Ongoing Scheme										
1.	2225	Grant-in-Aid to NGO for STs including Coaching & Allied Scheme and award for exemplary service	Aid to Voluntary Organisations	24.50	4.00	31.27	30.9052	98.83	30.00	4.00	
			Special Incentives to NGOs performing exemplary tasks						0.50		
			Coaching & Allied scheme	0.50		0.20	0.1976	98.80	1.30		
			Total of 2225	25.00	4.00	31.47	31.1028	98.83	31.80	4.00	
			Coaching & Allied scheme	0.90		0.53	0.5018	94.68	1.00		
			Coaching & Allied scheme	0.10		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20		
	3601			Total of 2225, 3601 & 3602	26.00	4.00	32.00	31.60	98.76	33.00	4.00
	3602										
Total											
2.	2225	Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas	Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas	1.50		1.50	1.4989	99.93	2.25		
	3601			4.00	0.50	7.00	7.00	100.00	6.00	0.75	
		Total		5.50	0.50	8.50	8.4989	99.99	8.25	0.75	
3.	2225	Educational Complex in Low Literacy pockets for development of women literacy in tribal areas	Educational Complex in Low Literacy pockets for development of women literacy in tribal areas	32.00		8.00	7.9130	98.91	19.75	0.25	
4.	2225	Investment/Price Support to TRIFED (Proposed new name-Support to TRIFED (Proposed to TRIFED)	Price Support to TRIFED (Proposed new name-Market Development of Tribal Products/Produce).	8.00		8.98	8.98	100.00	29.99		
	4225			Investment in TRIFED	2.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	
		Total		10.00	0.00	8.98	8.98	100.00	30.00	0.00	

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	Name of the Sub-Scheme	2006-07					2007-08	
				Budget Estimates, excluding North East	Outlay for North East	Revised Estimates, including North East	Expenditure (Provisional)	Percentage of expenditure to RE	Budget Estimates excluding North East	Outlay for North East
5.	3601 2225	Grant-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce		16.00	2.00	18.00	17.9129	99.52	20.00	2.00
6.	2225	Development of Primitive Tribal Group		4.00		4.00	3.8879	97.20	6.00	
	3601			27.50	0.50	27.50	27.4308	99.75	34.00	
		Total		31.50	0.50	31.50	31.3187	99.42	40.00	0.00
7.	4225	Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporations	National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation	8.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	
			State Tribal Development Finance Corp.	3.00						
		Total		11.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00
8.	4225	Construction of Adivasi Bhawan	Construction of Adivasi Bhawan	0.01		0.01	0.005	50.00	0.01	
9.	2225	Promotion of Tribal Culture	Promotion of Tribal Culture	0.30		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	3601			0.70		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		Total		1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	2225	Rajiv Gandhi national Fellowship for ST Students		15.90	1.70	15.90	15.90	100.00	26.00	
		Sub Total (A-1)		149.41	9.20	122.89	122.13	99.38	212.01	7.00
		A-2 New Schemes								
11.		National Institute of Tribal Affairs (NITA)							1.00	
12.		Institute of Excellence/Top class Institute							10.00	
13.		National Overseas Scholarship							1.00	
		Sub Total (A-2)							12.00	0.00
		Total of A		149.41	9.20	122.89	122.13	99.38	224.01	7.00

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	Name of the Sub-Scheme	2006-07					2007-08	
				Budget Estimates, excluding North East	Outlay for North East	Revised Estimates, including North East	Expenditure (Provisional)	Percentage of expenditure to RE	Budget Estimates excluding North East	Outlay for North East
14.	2225	Scheme of PMS, Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit of ST students	Post Matric Scholarship for STS	0.08		0.04	0.0342	85.50	1.25	39.80
	3601		Post Matric Scholarship for STs	188.20	34.80	255.00	255.00	100.00	160.19	
			Upgradation of Merit of ST students	1.50		1.50	1.50	100.00	1.75	
			Total of 3601	189.70	34.80	256.50	256.50	100.00	161.94	
		Total	Total of 2225 and 3601	189.78	34.80	256.54	256.53	100.00	163.19	39.80
15.	2225	Scheme of Hotels for ST girls and Boys	Girls Hostels	11.00		8.41	5.41	100.00	11.00	
	3601		Boys Hostels							
			Girls Hostels	20.00	1.00	22.70	22.70	100.00	23.50	2.50
			Boys Hostels							
		Total	Total of 2225 and 3601	31.00	1.00	31.11	28.11	90.36	34.50	2.50
16.	225	Establishment of Ashram Schools		0.50		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	3601			15.50		15.50	15.50	100.00	20.00	
			Total	16.00	0.00	15.50	15.50	100.00	20.00	0.00
17.	225	Research Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and Others	National Tribal Affairs Award (new component)						0.14	
			Centre of Excellence (Component)						0.20	
			Research and Training	0.05		0.30	0.2950	98.33	0.26	
			Supporting Projects of All-India nature or Inter-State nature for	0.50		0.70	0.5387	76.96	1.00	
			Information and Mass Media	0.50		1.00	0.9777	97.77	1.00	
			Organisation of Tribal Festivals	0.30		0.23	0.2238	97.30	0.60	
			Exchange of visits by Tribals	0.50		0.30	0.00	0.00	0.30	
			Total of 2225	1.85	0.00	2.53	2.0352	80.44	3.50	
	3601		Research and Training	4.65		5.10	5.10	100.00	6.00	1.00
			Total	Total of 2225 and 3601	6.50	0.00	7.63	7.14	93.52	9.50
18.	2225	Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitoring and Evaluation	0.50		0.30	0.04	13.33	0.50	
19.	22251	Information Technology	Information Technology	2.00		2.00	1.9783	98.92	1.00	
		Total of B		245.78	35.80	313.08	309.30	98.79	228.69	43.30

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	Name of the Sub-Scheme	2006-07					2007-08	
				Budget Estimates, excluding North East	Outlay for North East	Revised Estimates, including North East	Expenditure (Provisional)	Percentage of expenditure to RE	Budget Estimates excluding North East	Outlay for North East
C	Lump sum provision for North Eastern Areas									
	2552	North Eastern Areas (Revenue Section)		44.50			*		50.30	
	4552	North Eastern Areas (Capital Section)		0.50			0.00		0.00	
		Total of C		45.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		50.30	
		Total A B C		395.19	45.00	435.97	431.4308	98.96	503.00	50.30
D	SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMMES									
20.	3601	Special Central Assistance to TSP (State Channelising Agency (SCA) TO TSP)	Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan	816.71		816.71	816.71	100.00	816.71	
21.	3601	Grants-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	Scheme Under Proviso to Art. 275(1) of the Constitution	400.00		400.00	400.00	100.00	400.00	
		Total of D		1216.71	0.00	1216.71	1216.71	100.00	1216.71	
		GRAND TOTAL (A.B.C.D)		1656.90	45.00	1652.68	1648.1408	99.73	1719.71	50.30

* Rs.44.00 crore re-appropriated to the regular scheme heads

3.5 The Committee enquired about the reasons for enhancing the BE for 2007-08 under both Plan and Non-Plan expenditure and extra projects to be implemented wherein the Ministry have stated that the Budget Estimates (Plan) for 2006-07 was Rs.1656.90 crore. For the Annual Plan 2007-08, the Ministry had projected a requirement of Rs.2468.56 crore. Higher budget allocations had been requested by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in its proposal, which was sent to the Planning Commission, as the Ministry wanted to start certain new schemes and modify certain on-going schemes.

3.6 However, the Planning Commission, while conveying the Plan Outlay of 2007-08 for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs at a scale lower than that demanded by the Ministry, did not indicate any reason as such. During 2007-08, allocation (Plan) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is Rs. 1719.71 against Rs. 1656.90 during 2006-07. Thus, the increase is only 3.79%.

3.7 Narrating the impact of reduced allocation on its scheme, the Ministry have informed the Committee that since the increase in the allocation of Ministry's Annual Plan provision for the year 2007-08 (Rs. 1719.71 crore) is a mere 3.79% over the corresponding figure of 2006-07 (Rs. 1656.90 crore), it will not enable them to undertake even the normal activities of the existing schemes, much less undertake anything new. The Ministry have further stated that in spite of this, they have strived hard to launch the following new schemes during 2007-08:-

- National Institute of Tribal Affairs (NITA)
- Institutes of Excellence/Top Class Education
- National Overseas Scholarships Scheme (from Non-Plan to Plan)

3.8 The Ministry have further informed that apart from this, they have also decided to incorporate following two new components viz, National Tribal Affairs Award and Centres of Excellence under the existing scheme of "Research and Mass Education, Tribal festivals and Others" and Habitat/Hamlet development of PTGs as a component of PTG Scheme w.e.f. 2007-08.

3.9 During the evidence, the Committee pointed out that funds allocated to the Ministry are inadequate and expressed the need to augment the Budgetary provision wherein the Secretary stated as under:

“We think the funds are very inadequate. I think there would be very few Ministries which would have spent 99.7% of their plan budget, and we must be just one of those few. But, the increase that we have been given is very low. So, we have tried our best at our level. I have met the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission; I have met Members of the Planning Commission. So we have made a lot of efforts. As of now, they have given some kind of a hope that they would increase it during the course of the year. “

3.10 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have stated in their Outcome Budget 2007-2008 that the release of fresh funds has been linked to the utilization of funds released in previous years. Efforts are made to ensure that the State Governments send the utilization certificates and physical progress reports of projects in time.

3.11 Regarding receipt of utilization certificates the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs stated during evidence:

“Until we get the utilization certificates from the States, we are unable to release the grant. Somehow they come at the end and we are able to release the money at the end because otherwise, the money lapses and we do not want to surrender any fund”.

3.12 As regards the efforts being made to ensure that utilization certificates are received in time from the States, the Ministry have indicated the steps taken by them as under:

- In respect of SCA to TSP the onus of providing utilization certificate for fund released by the Ministry for the earlier years is with the State Government. Apart from constant follow-up, this is also discussed with the State

Government representatives in the review meetings convened by the Ministry.

- During the financial year 2006-07, under Art.275 (1) of the Constitution, all the States except UP, Meghalaya and Maharashtra have furnished UCs for all the funds released prior to 1-4-2005.

3.13 Following measures were taken by the Ministry to persuade States for submission of UCs.

- i) A State-Secretary/Commissioner In-charge of Tribal Welfare Departments level meeting was organized by the Ministry on 16-9-2006 where, beside other issues, need for timely submission of UCs by the State Governments was also emphasized.
- ii) Hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs also convened a meeting of State Government's Ministers in-charge of Tribal Welfare Departments on 14-2-2007 to draw their attention to the issues of concern to the Ministry.
- iii) DO No. 14020/2/2006-SG-1 dated 15-11-06 from Secretary (TA) to Chief Secretaries of concerned States to expedite submission of UCs.
- iv) DO No. 14020/2/2006-SG-1 dated 12-02-07 from Joint Secretary (TA) to Secretaries, Tribal Welfare Departments of concerned States to expedite UCs.
- v) The Ministry will again take up the issue with the defaulting States for expediting UCs

3.14 With the continued efforts of the Ministry, all the States have furnished utilization certificates up to 2004-05 except the States of Rajasthan, Kerala, Manipur and Tamil Nadu under the scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups, and the State of Assam under the scheme of Coaching & Allied. These States are being regularly requested to furnish the pending utilization certificates. Besides, the issue of non-submission of utilization certificate is being raised regularly in the State Secretaries' meeting held bi-annually. Last meeting was held on 13.2.2007.

- i. The State Governments are pursued for expeditious submission of Utilization Certificates to enable the Ministry to release funds.
- ii. UCs in respect of the grants released during the year 2005-06 have fallen due on 1.4.2007. The matter is being pursued with the State Governments for getting the UCs.
- iii. Funds for fellowships are released to the State Governments only after receipt of utilisation certificate for the previous grants. As and when required, States are pursued for early submission of UCs.

3.15 As regards monitoring of the implementation of schemes by States, the Secretary stated during evidence:

“For the Government of India, of course, doing monitoring in great detail is very difficult. For a small Ministry like ours, which has come into being only eight years ago- in 1999 it came into being – it is next to impossible because a large part of the time we have to be in Delhi because Parliament is in Session, various meetings are held and we have to be here. We have a limited number of officers. We do not have field offices. We do not have offices in the States. So, there is no one really to do monitoring for us. We have to go all the way to do it. It becomes very difficult to go and monitor closely. At best, we can remain in touch with them, get reports and interact with them which we do. Actually, we hold regularly two Conferences in a year with the State Tribal Secretaries. It is religiously held in January-February and September-October, and in these we get a lot of information. We get their suggestions and we get other changes that are required. We do not think about the new Schemes unnecessarily. We may have some ideas but we really get a lot of ideas from the States, and that is how we do it.”

3.16 The Committee enquired about the steps proposed to be taken by the Ministry to ensure that review/ modification of Centrally Sponsored Schemes is completed at the earliest and also to ensure 100% grants for Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry by the Planning Commission wherein the Ministry have stated that the process of review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes has been undertaken and wherever necessary modifications are being carried out at the earliest so as to ensure implementation of the modified schemes from 2007-08 onwards itself. The Ministry had approached the Planning Commission for changing the funding pattern of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes pertaining to Ashram Schools in TSP Areas and Construction of Boys and Girls Hostels from 50:50 to 100% while seeking funds for the XI Five Year Plan period and this was

pressed even at the time of discussions for Gross Budgetary Support in the Planning Commission but it has not been agreed to, so far.

3.17 The Committee pointed out during evidence that the condition of the tribals is deplorable and emphasised the need to develop a more in depth indicator of Human Development Index(HDI) specially for the STs. Thereupon the Secretary responded as under:

“I am very happy that you have pointed out about the Human Development Index. HDI is specially not meant for tribals. We have taken note of this. In fact, in our draft National Tribal Policy which is available on our website, which was put on our website in August asking for comments, we have said constructing a quantifiable tribal development index for the tribal districts as well as the entire State on the basis of certain agreed indicators such as land restored to STs, policy changes by State Governments to empower Gram Sabhas in scheduled areas, control and access of STs over forest and natural resources, improvement in infant mortality rate etc. We want to put those issues into the tribal development index which are important for tribals.”

3.18 On being asked to state whether the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have given a thought to incorporate entrepreneurship training programmes for the ST youths to enable them to participate in the growing economy during the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period, it was stated that under SCA to TSP the prerogative of identifying activities including training programmes is that of the State Government. The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry, has also made provision for training programme of STs for entrepreneurship.

3.19 The Committee note that out of Rs. 6478.72 crore allocated by the Planning Commission during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the expenditure incurred was Rs. 5992.15 crore under Plan Schemes of the Ministry leading to shortfall of Rs. 486.57 crore. The expenditure incurred under Non-Plan i.e. Rs. 38.87 crore out of the BE of Rs. 52.06 crore is also not satisfactory. The Committee regret to observe that an amount of Rs. 486.57 crore, which could have been fruitfully utilized for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes could not be utilized. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should evolve an effective mechanism of implementation of schemes, minimize procedural delays and ensure optimum utilization of funds allocated by the Planning Commission during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

3.20 The Committee note with concern that Planning Commission has scaled down the budget proposal of the Ministry from Rs. 2468.56 crore to Rs. 1719.71 crore for the Annual Plan 2007-08 which is a mere 3.79% increase over the corresponding figure of 2006-07 i.e. Rs. 1656.90 crore. This implies that the amount in real terms during the current year has come down if inflation is taken into consideration. This decline is inexplicable as some new schemes like National Institute of Tribal Affairs(NITA), Institutes of Excellence/Top Class Education, National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, National Tribal Affairs Awards, Centres of Excellence and Habitat/Hamlet development of Primitive Tribal Groups have also been launched. Obviously, the funds provided in the budget are not adequate to address the gigantic stature of the backwardness of the Scheduled Tribes and the Committee,

therefore, express their serious concern as to how the Ministry will be able to implement the new schemes as well as the existing ones effectively in the absence of adequate funds. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take up the matter with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance again so that its budgetary allocation for 2007-08 is augmented at RE stage and implementation of programmes for the welfare and development of the tribal people do not suffer due to paucity of funds.

The Committee also desire that the Ministry should strengthen its monitoring mechanism to ensure that the funds released for various tribal welfare schemes are fully utilized during the year. There should not be any diversion of funds and implementation status of schemes needs to be regularly monitored by the Ministry.

3.21 The Committee note that some of the States are finding it difficult to send the utilization certificates of funds released by the Ministry in previous years. Under the scheme of 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups', States like Rajasthan, Kerala, Manipur and Tamil Nadu have not furnished the utilization certificates upto 2004-05 while Assam is yet to furnish the utilization certificates under the scheme of Coaching and Allied. The utilization certificates in respect of the grants released during the year 2005-06 are also due on 1st April, 2007. Keeping in view the fact that release of fresh funds is linked to receipt of utilization certificates in respect of funds released in previous years, the Committee urge the Ministry to strictly monitor the utilization of funds by the States and ensure timely submission of Utilisation Certificates by them. For this, the Ministry should maintain close coordination with the States at appropriate levels. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should make vigorous efforts to ensure that physical and financial quarterly progress reports of projects are received on a regular basis.

3.22 The Committee note that though the Ministry have undertaken the process of review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to ensure implementation of modified schemes from 2007-08 onwards, yet they are still in the process of carrying out modifications in the schemes for implementation. The reasons for the delay in modifying the schemes has not been conveyed by the Ministry. The Committee feel that the Ministry have made inordinate delay in finalizing the modifications to be incorporated in

the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to finalise all the modifications in the Centrally sponsored Schemes at the earliest so that they could be implemented effectively.

3.23 The Committee also note with concern that the proposal of the Ministry to change the funding pattern of Centrally Sponsored Schemes like 'Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas' and 'Construction of Boys and Girls Hostels' from 50:50 to 100% funding by Centre during the Eleventh Five Year Plan has not been agreed to by the Planning Commission. The reasons for non-approval of their proposal by the Planning Commission have not been intimated to the Committee. The Committee desire that the Ministry should pursue the matter vigorously and impress upon the Planning Commission the seriousness of the financial difficulties being faced by the States in providing their 50% matching share so that the aforesaid schemes could be funded 100% by Centre.

3.24 The Committee have been given to understand that formulating a quantifiable tribal development index specially for the tribals has found mention in the draft National Tribal Policy of the Ministry. The Ministry propose to put certain issues such as land restored to STs, policy changes by State Governments to empower Gram Sabhas in scheduled areas, control and access of STs over forest and natural resources, improvement in infant mortality rate etc. in the Tribal Development Index. The Committee hope that with such an index, it would be feasible to monitor the welfare and

development of the tribals and therefore, urge the Ministry to finalize the proposed draft National Tribal Policy at the earliest.

3.25 The Committee note the reply of the Ministry that the prerogative of identifying training activities including programmes for the ST youths is that of the State Government and that the type and manner of training programmes to be given to STs for entrepreneurship is looked after by the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, which is a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry. The training programmes being conducted for the tribals are of general nature and do not help develop entrepreneurial skills among educated and unemployed ST youths. The Committee desire that in this era of globalisation and rapid influx of information technology, the Government should create avenues for the educated and unemployed ST youths to develop their entrepreneurial skills which will enable them to get employment as well as inspire them to participate actively in the growing economy. The Committee, also recommend the Ministry to focus their attention towards entrepreneurship development programmes through revamping of existing programmes or creation of a new scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan by incorporating latest advancements made in the technology and the economy. For this, they should work in close coordination with State Governments and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

Major head: 3601
Sub Head: 02
Head No: 02.00.31

B. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (SCA) TO TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP).

3.26 The Ministry have informed that Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) is provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the State Governments as an additive to the State Plan in areas where State Plan provisions are not normally forthcoming to bring about a more rapid economic development of tribals in the States. The scheme was launched in the Fifth Five-Year Plan in the year 1974. Till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan, the SCA to TSP was meant for filling up of the critical gaps in family-based income-generating activities of the TSP.

3.27 From the Tenth Five Year Plan period the objective and scope of SCA to TSP has been expanded to cover employment-cum-income generation activities and infrastructure incidental thereto. Besides family-based activities, other activities run by the Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/community can also be taken up. The ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand-based income generation programmes and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals.

3.28 Special Central Assistance is provided to the 22 Tribal Sub-Plan States including the North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura and two Union Territories.

3.29 The Ministry provides 100% grant-in-aid to the State Governments from the funds made available for the purpose annually by the Planning Commission.

3.30 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the amount of funds released to the States/UTs under the scheme of SCA to TSP during the last three years as against the amount actually utilized till date, year-wise and State-wise:-

Rs. (in lakh) As on 31.03.2007								
Sl. No	Name of State/UT	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		
		Amount Released	ER	Amount Released	ER	Allocation	Amount Released	ER
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2459.52	2459.52	2751.14	2037.85	2912.00	3344.33	0.00
2.	Assam	2064.82	2590.13	3066.59	2753.09	3136.00	3601.59	0.00
3.	Bihar	250.45	250.45	543.57	543.57	656.00	656.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	5397.76	5654.98	4641.08	0.00	4769.	5477.04	0.00
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	110.00	110.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	3537.82	5951.97	3963.52	1227.42	4251.00	4882.13	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	750.87	803.26	825.90	825.90	890.00	1022.14	685.18
8.	Jharkhand	5283.22	7739.38	5896.10	0.00	6131.00	7041.25	0.00
9.	J & K	874.75	1248.28	901.28	489.79	1088.00	1088.00	0.00
10.	Karnataka	899.97	894.19	1029.06	1029.06	1242.00	1242.00	0.00
11.	Kerala	319.35	420.73	274.03	231.09	277.00	318.13	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9139.70	9139.70	8186.01	7049.90	8817.00	10126.02	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	3351.45	4679.59	3351.45	0.00	3888.00	3888.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	685.76	785.78	685.76	903.75	796.00	796.00	0.00
15.	Orissa	7578.63	7578.63	6516.82	5987.52	6701.00	7695.87	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	3284.60	3805.62	3490.91	1701.31	4214.00	4214.00	0.00
17.	Sikkim	126.04	126.04	109.49	97.22	118.00	135.52	0.00
18.	Tamil Nadu	377.25	353.34	323.70	15.75	327.00	375.55	0.00
19.	Tripura	1214.66	1279.28	1045.03	0.00	1080.00	1240.34	0.00
20.	Uttar Pradesh	37.45	17.61	33.63	0.00	41.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Uttarakhand	83.62	87.74	83.62	0.37	100.00	50.00	0.00
22.	West Bengal	1982.31	1982.31	1982.31	0.00	2270.00	2270.00	0.00
Grand Total		49700.00	57848.53	49701.00	24893.59	53814.00	59573.91	685.18

* ER – Expenditure Reported

3.31 The Committee enquired about the system of monitoring and implementation of the tribal sub-plan wherein the Ministry have stated that they have been proactively advocating the need for an effective Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)

component (8% for Central Ministries/ Departments and in proportion of ST population in respect of States), to be put in a separate budget head and make it non-divertible and non-lapsable to enable implementation of programmes/ schemes for tribals in a more focused and integrated manner to avoid spreading of resources too thinly in a scattered fashion.

3.32 The Planning Commission has issued orders to this effect directing the States to earmark funds for TSP (to be placed under a separate Budget Head-Code 796) out of total State Plan outlay, at least in proportion to the ST population to the total population of the State/ UT. As per guidelines issued by the Planning Commission, the Tribal Sub-Plan funds are to be non-divertible and non-lapsable. The guidelines also provide that the Tribal Welfare Departments are to be the nodal Departments for the formulation and implementation of the Tribal Sub Plan in the States.

3.33 The Ministry have, however, stated that from the responses received from the various Ministries, it is noticed that the Ministries undertake programmes relating to the sector dealt by them for the country as a whole and it has not been found feasible by them to earmark separate allocation for the STs. This issue has since been taken up by the Ministry with the Planning Commission.

3.34 In response to the queries about the number of Scheduled Tribe families still living below the poverty line and how many have been assisted to cross the poverty line under the scheme of SCA to TSP so far, the Ministry have stated that SCA to TSP is a programme designed to assist the State Governments/ UTs which

are categorized as TSP States so that the States/ UTs are able to formulate specific projects for alleviation of poverty in tribal areas. The funding of SCA to TSP is meant to augment the Plan activities of the State Government for the purpose of employment-cum-income generation and infrastructure incidental thereto, both family-based and Self Help Groups/ community based. Crossing over the poverty line is dependent on many factors and assistance under SCA to TSP is only one step of the Government towards this motive. The Ministry have further informed that they do not carry out any census of BPL ST families and also do not maintain the data of BPL ST families.

3.35 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry have collected the data of BPL families assisted so far keeping in view the fact that one of the main features of the existing guidelines of the scheme of SCA to TSP is support to the tribal population below the poverty line. The Ministry have stated that due to the lack of adequate manpower in the Ministry, intensive monitoring of schemes like of SCA to TSP is not possible and accordingly details of BPL families are also not maintained. However, information has been sought from the State Governments about number of ST families/individuals assisted under the scheme.

Development of Forest Villages:

3.36 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have stated that the programme of 'Development of Forest Villages' was introduced in 2005-06 and Rs. 450 crore has been provided in the 10th Five Year Plan as a one time measure for development of the forest villages identified in 13 States of the country.

3.37 As further stated by the Ministry, during 2005-06 and 2006-07 out of 2474 forest villages, a total of 2347 forest villages have been covered out of the total fund of Rs. 41277.95 lakh released for the purpose. The developmental activities for which funds have been released are in various stages of implementation. For 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 150 crore has been earmarked towards development of forest villages

3.38 The Ministry have also informed that the latest number of forest villages as reported by States is 2,474 in 12 States. Proposals for all except 86 forest villages have been received so far and State-wise break-up of villages for which proposals have not been received are as follows:

S. No.	State	No. of forest villages/ habitations
1.	Assam	24
2.	Chhattisgarh	3
3.	Madhya Pradesh	26
4.	Uttarakhand	20
5.	Uttar Pradesh	13
	Total	86

3.39 Regarding the efforts made to persuade the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to send their proposals for development of forest villages at the earliest, the Ministry have stated that efforts have been made continuously during the last two years for obtaining proposals from all those States having forest villages and except Uttar Pradesh, proposals have been received and thus proposals covering 2,388 forest villages falling in 11 States have been approved. Although efforts would be continued during 2007-08 also, it is expected that for the remaining 86 villages, proposals may not be received for all the villages if the State Governments do not find it feasible for reasons like migration of inhabitants from the villages, the villages falling in protected forest areas where infrastructure activity is not possible, etc.

3.40 Asked whether the Ministry of Environment and Forest will allow non-forestry activities in the forest villages under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 keeping in view the fact that the one time relaxation given by them is valid only upto 31 December, 2006, the Ministry have informed that they have requested the Ministry of Environment & Forests for extending the validity of the deadline beyond 31.12.2006. If the general approval is no more valid, the State Government could seek approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on case-to-case basis in accordance with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3.41 Though one of the features of the guidelines regarding utilization of funds under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan is support to the tribal population below the poverty line, yet the Ministry have no information about the number of ST families/individuals assisted to cross the poverty line. The Ministry have explained this by saying that due to lack of adequate manpower in the Ministry, intensive monitoring of schemes like Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan is not possible and accordingly, details of BPL families are also not maintained. Information has now been sought from the State Governments about the number of ST families/individuals assisted under the scheme. The Committee are surprised that even after working on this scheme for more than two decades, the Ministry are still ignorant about the number of ST families living below the poverty line and those who were assisted under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan so far. This clearly indicates lack of concern and commitment on the part of the Government. The Committee hope that the Ministry would now obtain the data of ST families/individuals living below poverty line as well as the number of ST families/individuals assisted so far under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan by exploring all possible avenues so that realistic action plan could be prepared to assist them during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

3.42 The Committee note that the Ministry have been proactively advocating the need for an effective Tribal Sub-plan component (8% for Central Ministries/Departments and in proportion to their ST population in respect of States) and that the Planning Commission has also issued orders to this effect. The Committee note with concern that various Ministries have not found it feasible to earmark separate allocation for the Scheduled Tribes. Though the Ministry have rightly taken up this issue with the Planning Commission, the Committee are of the view that a focused attention towards the development of STs is possible only if the States and Central Ministries earmark the TSP component separately and utilise the same in consultation with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to vigorously pursue the matter with the Planning Commission and concerned States/Central Ministries/Departments so that the TSP component i.e. 8% for Central Ministries/Departments and in proportion to ST population in respective States are put in a separate budget head, which is made non-divertible and non-lapsable for implementation of schemes for the Scheduled Tribes, in a more focused and integrated manner. If need be, the matter may be brought to the notice of Cabinet Secretariat who may be requested to pursue with the defaulting Central Ministries. The matter may also be taken up at the highest level with the States.

3.43 The Committee note that for the programme of ‘Development of Forest Villages’, introduced in 2005-06, Rs. 450 crores have been provided in the Tenth Five Year Plan as a one time measure. The total number of forest villages covered during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is 2347 and Rs. 41277.95 lakhs have been released for the same. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 150 crores have been earmarked towards the development of the forest villages. However, the Committee express concern over the fact that proposals for the development of forest villages have not been received from 86 forest villages in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee have not been intimated about the reasons for non submission of proposals by the States. The Committee desire that sincere efforts should be made to cover the remaining 86 forest villages at the earliest and urge the Ministry to pursue with those States to send their proposals early. The Committee also desire that developmental activities in the 2347 forest villages, for which funds have been released earlier, should be monitored effectively and properly.

Major head : 2225, 3601
Sub Head : 11, 06
Head No. : 11.00.31, 06.00.31

C. POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS, BOOK BANKS AND UP-GRADATION OF MERIT OF ST STUDENTS

3.44 The Scheme of “Post Matric Scholarships” has been in operation since 1944-45. The objective is to provide financial assistance and access to the latest books to Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation level to enable them to complete their education. The scheme is open to all ST students whose parents’ annual income is upto Rs. 1 lakh and the scholarships are awarded through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations where he/she domiciles. Under the scheme, the State Government and UT Administrations receive 100% assistance over and above the committed liability of the respective State Government and UT Administration. The committed liability is stated to be the actual expenditure incurred by the State under the scheme during the preceding year of the Five Year Plan period. The North Eastern States have, however, been exempted from making their own budgetary provisions towards committed liability from 1997-98.

3.45 The scheme of ‘Up-gradation of Merit of ST Students’ has been merged into the scheme of “Post Matric Scholarship” in the Tenth Five Year Plan and is functioning only as a sub-scheme since then. The objective is to provide remedial and special coaching to ST students in classes IX to XII and also to provide special coaching to prepare students for entry into professional courses.

3.46 The Ministry have stated that an amount of Rs. 255.04 crore allocated at RE stage has been fully released for 796058 beneficiaries (anticipated) under the scheme of PMS during the year 2006-07. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 225 crore was proposed at BE stage for 9.17 lakh students. However, Planning Commission has approved only Rs. 202.99 crore at BE stage.

3.47 When asked as to how the Ministry will ensure that implementation of the scheme do not suffer due to paucity of funds, the Ministry stated that during 2007-08, the committed liability of the State Governments/UT administrations will be higher than during 10th Plan period and so the Central share during 2007-08 will be less. However, if required additional funds would be asked for at the RE stage.

3.48 The Committee enquired whether there is a move to freeze the tuition fees under post matric scholarships scheme for those ST students studying in Private/Professional institutions wherein the Ministry have stated that instruction has been issued to all the State Governments and UT Administrations on 29 May, 2006 stating that PMS amount to be disbursed on account of fees for seats in private colleges filled up on merit or competitive basis will be the same as for students in Government colleges/institutions.

3.49 To a query whether such a move will not prevent the poor ST students to obtain quality education, particularly technical education, the Ministry have informed that only the amount of fees has been restricted to the level of the fee prevailing in Government Colleges/Institutions. Far from being a move to prevent

poor ST students from obtaining quality education, this is to ensure that the benefit of the scholarship can be extended to an ever increasing number of ST students. In response to the concern expressed by the Planning Commission, the rationale and justification for this decision has been conveyed to the Planning Commission.

3.50 The number of beneficiaries covered under the component of 'Up-gradation of Merit of ST students' during the last three years is as under:

S. No.	Name of the State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Target fixed (student)	Beneficiaries (student)	Target fixed (student)	Beneficiaries (student)	Target fixed (student)	Beneficiaries (student)
1.	Assam	56	0	56	60	56	0
2.	Kerala	8	0	8	0	8	23
3.	Orissa	148	272	148	0	148	0
4.	Rajasthan	116	51	116	0	116	50
5.	Tripura	20	16	20	16	20	16
6.	West Bengal	84	0	84	72	84	0
7.	Sikkim	4	10	4	15	4	19
8.	M.P.	196	0	196	0	196	516
9.	Chhattishgarh	124	140	124	140	124	0
10.	Gujarat	132	23	132	0	132	34
11.	Andhra Pd.	84	0	84	0	84	0
12.	Arunachal Pd.	12	0	12	0	12	0
13.	Bihar	12	0	12	0	12	0
14.	Himachal Pd.	8	0	8	0	8	0
15.	J&K	16	0	16	0	16	0
16.	Jharkhand	120	0	120	0	120	0
17.	Karnataka	44	0	44	0	44	0
18.	Maharashtra	156	0	156	0	156	0
19.	Manipur	16	0	16	0	16	0
20.	Meghalaya	40	0	40	0	40	0
21.	Mizoram	16	0	16	0	16	0
22.	Nagaland	28	0	28	0	28	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	12	0	12	0	12	0
24.	Uttanchal	8	0	8	0	8	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4	0	4	0	4	0
26.	A&N Islands	4	0	4	0	4	0
27.	Daman and Diu	4	0	4	0	4	0
28.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	4	0	4	0	4	0
29.	Lakshdweep	4	0	4	0	4	0
	Total	1480	512	1480	303	1480	658

3.51 On being asked to state the reasons for covering less number of beneficiaries under the scheme, the Ministry have informed that due to non receipt of proposals/complete proposals from various State Governments/UT Administrations the target fixed under the scheme could not be fully achieved.

However, the number of beneficiaries under the scheme of Up-gradation of Merit has increased during 2005-06 to 658 over 303 in 2004-05 and in 2006-07 the total allocation of Rs. 150 lakh intended to benefit 1167 students has been fully released.

3.52 The Committee note that under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarships, Planning Commission has approved Rs. 202.99 crores for the year 2007-08 at the BE stage out of Rs. 225 crores proposed by the Ministry to cover 9.17 lakh students whereas Rs. 255.04 crores were released during 2006-07 for about 7.9 lakh beneficiaries. The Committee would like to be informed as to how with the reduced allocation more students would be covered under the scholarships. Keeping in view the fact that the Ministry proposes to cover 9.17 lakh beneficiaries during the year 2007-08, the Committee express apprehension that the implementation of this important scheme of providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students would be hampered due to paucity of funds. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to review the requirement of funds under the scheme again and approach the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance for more allocations.

3.53 The Committee note that though the number of beneficiaries covered under the component of 'Up-gradation of Merit of ST Students' has increased from 303 in 2004-05 to 658 during 2005-06 and 1167 students are expected to be benefited during 2006-07, yet the target fixed yearly i.e. 1480 students has not been achieved for the last three years. The reason attributed by the Ministry is non receipt of proposals/complete proposals from various State Governments/UT administrations. The Committee desire that concrete steps should be taken to improve the performance of the scheme and urge the Ministry to vigorously pursue the States/UTs to send proposals, complete in all respects for the scheme right from the beginning of the financial year.

Major Head : 2225, 3601

Sub Head : 09, 21, 07, 13

Head No. : 09.00.31, 21.00.31, 07.00.31, 13.00.31

D. RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MASS EDUCATION, TRIBAL FESTIVALS AND OTHERS

3.54 The scheme for Research of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has three components viz:

- Grants to Tribal Research Institutes on 50-50 sharing basis between State and the Centre.
- Award of Research Fellowship on various aspects of tribal development on 100% basis.
- Supporting projects of all India or inter State nature. The grant is provided on 100% basis to institutes, organizations and universities for conducting research, evaluation studies, holding seminars/ workshops and for publication of literature relating to tribal issues.

3.55 The other components included in the schemes are:

- (i) Monitoring and evaluation studies
- (ii) Point 11(b) of Twenty point programme
- (iii) Construction of Adivasi Bhawan
- (iv) Information and Mass Media
- (v) Exchange of visits by Tribals and
- (vi) Organisation of Tribal Festivals

3.56 The Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Expenditure under the scheme of Research Information and Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and Others during the last three years are as under:

Rs. (in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Expenditure
2004-05	7.50	5.21	3.0839
2005-06	5.10	4.20	3.8682
2006-07	7.00	7.93	3.77
2007-08	12.00		

3.57 The reasons for low expenditure during 2006-07 under various components of “Research Information and Mass Media, Tribal Festivals and Others” has been explained by the Ministry as under:

Scheme of Supporting Projects of All India Nature or Inter State Nature for

Scheduled Tribes: Funds could not be utilized in full with reference to RE provision for want of revised documents to be received from grantee due to shortage of time. With reference to BE, the expenditure has been 107.74%

Construction of Adivasi Bhavan: Only a token provision was made. The land for construction of Adivasi Bhavan has not been allotted by the Ministry of Urban Development so far.

Promotion of Tribal Culture: This is an overlapping scheme and has not been operationalised.

Information & Mass Media: Bills of advertisements were not received from DAVP. Bills for telecasting the documentaries on tribals in the National Channel programme of Janjatiya Darpan were not received from the Prasar Bharti.

Exchange of visits by Tribals: State Governments did not furnish the UC in prescribed format. Due to non receipt of Pre Stamped Receipt, funds could not be released.

Organisation of Tribal Festival: Proposals have not been received from the State Governments.

Grants-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes:

3.58 The Ministry have informed that the scheme of Grants-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) is in operation since the First Five Year Plan. There are 18 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in the country under the administrative control of concerned State Governments/Union Territories. These TRIs are in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs releases 50% Central share to the State Governments in favour of Tribal Research Institutes for meeting its expenses including administrative costs (100% Central share in case of Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands). These institutes are engaged in the work of providing planning inputs to the State Governments, conducting research and evaluation studies, collection of data, imparting of training, seminars and workshops, documentation of customary laws, setting up of tribal museum for exhibiting tribal artifacts.

3.59 A statement showing the amount provided as grants-in-aid to TRIs during the last three years (year-wise and State-wise) is as under:

(Rs in lakh)

S.No	States	Year		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (as on 30 th March, 2007)
1	Andhra Pradesh	--	--	29.77
2	Assam	--	24.85	31.48
3	Chattisgarh	5.00	27.00	6.83
4	Gujarat	--	19.53	12.87
5	Himachal Pradesh			36.335
6	Jharkhand	---	--	25.08
7	Karnataka	2.00	17.30	25.00
8	Kerala	65.50	10.69	17.50
9	Madhya Pradesh	35.50		176.36
10	Maharashtra	--		32.91
11	Manipur	80.00	--	21.00
12	Orissa	--	--	30.92
13	Rajasthan	--	--	27.26
14	Tamil Nadu	--	--
15	Tripura	---	23.87	31.68
16	West Bengal	--	--
17	Uttar Pradesh
	Total	190.00	218.35	504.995
18.	A&N Island	---	...	29.50

3.60 When enquired whether there is any proposal from the remaining States/UT to set up TRIs, the Ministry have stated that proposals have been received from the States of Uttaranchal, now Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim. The details of the proposals are indicated as under:

Uttarakhand: Proposal received from State Government of Uttarakhand was incomplete. The State Government has been reminded to submit complete proposal vide Ministry's letter dated 21.06.2005 and subsequent reminders dated 23.12.2005, 30.03.2006 and 21.8.2006, but no response has been received till date. The State Government has been requested to send the proposal at the earliest.

Jammu & Kashmir: The proposal was received from the State Government for setting up TRI by Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (Regd.), which is a registered society. The Central Government provides grants-in-aid on 50:50 sharing basis between the State and the Centre to a Government institution. The proposal submitted by the Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust was not in accordance with the

norms of the Scheme. The State Government has been informed accordingly vide Ministry's letter dated 17.3.2006 and 1.8.2006.

Sikkim: The proposal received was incomplete; the State Government has been requested to submit detailed item-wise proposal and no response from the State Government has been received till date.

3.61 The Committee enquired about the Tribal Research Institute, proposed to be set up at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands during previous years wherein the Ministry have informed that funds have been released to the Andaman & Nicobar Administration during the year 2002-03 for setting up of TRI at Port Blair. However, the UT Administration had informed the Ministry saying, *"no funds required for setting up of TRI until the modalities for its setting up is finalized by this Administration"*.

3.62 On being asked to state whether the matter has ever been pursued with the A&N Administration to finalise the modalities for setting up a Tribal Research Institute at Port Blair keeping in view the fact that funds were first released during the year 2002-03, the Ministry have stated that the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration requested the Ministry during the financial year 2006-07 to revalidate the sanction issued to the A&N Administration for setting up of TRI, Port Blair during the financial year 2002-03. The amount had been revalidated by the Ministry during the financial year 2006-07, and sanction issued.

3.63 The Ministry have also informed that they are considering the recommendations of the Committee in their earlier Report regarding restructuring of TRIs and change in the funding pattern from 50% central share to 100%.

3.64 Asked whether the functioning/ performance of TRIs is evaluated/monitored regularly the Ministry have informed that it was not done so.

3.65 The Committee note that under the scheme of Research Information and Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and Others, there is always a shortfall in the expenditure during the last three years. The reasons for the shortfall are stated to be non-receipt of revised documents from grantee; non-receipt of Bills from DAVP and Prasar Bharati, non receipt of Utilisation Certificates and proposals from States etc. Besides, components of the scheme like Construction of Adivasi Bhavan and Promotion of Tribal Culture are still non-starters. The Committee take a serious view of this situation of non-performance on the part of the Government and desire that the Ministry should take urgent and concrete measures to minimize procedural delays and streamline its delivery mechanism for effective implementation of schemes for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Ministry should make serious efforts to develop their culture and language also.

3.66 The Committee note that the Ministry have been releasing grants-in-aids to 18 Tribal Research Institutes engaged in the work of providing planning inputs to the State Governments; conducting research and evaluation studies; collection of data; setting up of tribal museum for exhibiting tribal artifacts etc. Proposals for setting up new TRIs have been received from the States of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim but they were either incomplete or not in accordance with the norms of the scheme. The funds released to the Andaman & Nicobar Administration for

setting up TRI at Port Blair during 2002-03 have been revalidated during the financial year 2006-07 as TRI could not be set up there. The Committee express concern that undue delay has occurred in setting up TRIs in the States/UT of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and urge the Ministry to take up the matter with the concerned State Governments/UT Administration at the highest level, assist and guide the State Government in rectifying the shortcomings in the proposals etc so that the proposed TRIs are set up at the earliest in those States.

3.67 The Committee note with satisfaction that the Ministry are considering their earlier recommendation to restructure the TRIs and change the funding pattern from 50% Central share to 100%. However, the Committee are constrained to find that the functioning /performance of the TRIs are not monitored or evaluated regularly by the Ministry. The Committee desire that the performance of TRIs should be monitored and evaluated regularly and hope that the Ministry would strengthen the TRIs in terms of manpower and financial resources through a provision of 100% Central funding at the earliest.

Major head : 2225, 3601, 3602
Sub Head : 10, 19, 04
Head No. : 10.00.31, 19.00.31, 04.00.3

E. GRANTS-IN-AID TO NGOs FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES INCLUDING COACHING AND ALLIED AND AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE.

3.68 The scheme was launched in 1953-54 and is continuing. In the Tenth Five Year Plan this scheme has been merged with the Coaching and Allied Scheme and Special Incentive to NGOs under the umbrella scheme of "Grants-in-Aid to NGOs, Coaching and Allied and Special Incentive to NGOs". This scheme is not gender specific. It applies equally to ST males and females.

3.69 The prime objective of the scheme is to provide for an overall improvement and development of the scheduled tribes through voluntary efforts in the field of education, health, sanitation, environment, socio-economic upliftment and other relevant activities deemed appropriate and of direct benefit to the target group. The scheme is 100% Centrally funded.

3.70 The Tenth Plan allocation under the scheme was Rs. 178.98 crore. The allocation during the last three years in respect of BE, RE and Expenditure incurred is given below:

Year	BE	RE	Rs. (in crore)
			Expenditure (upto 31.3.2007)
2004-2005	32.00	30.40	29.89
2005-2006	23.40	23.40	26.90
2006-2007	26.00	28.00	31.61
2007-2008	37.00		

3.71 The Committee pointed out that under the component of Coaching and Allied Scheme, no expenditure has been incurred during 2006-07 and enquired about the reasons for the same. The Ministry have informed that the proposals of the State Government/Universities/private institutions to run pre-examination training centers were examined by a Committee of this Ministry which met on 29.11.2006 and proposals worth Rs.0.72 crore were approved. The sanction orders were issued in January-February 2007. Therefore, till 31.12.2006 there was no expenditure.

3.72 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have informed that they have been making all efforts in assessing the performance of NGOs through spot inspections of the projects run by the Ministry.

3.73 Asked to furnish details of spot inspections carried out by the Ministry during 2006-07 and the outcome of such spot inspections, the Ministry have stated that the projects are considered by the Ministry only after regular inspection by the concerned District authorities/District Collectors. State Governments are required to submit inspection report along with the proposal of the NGO for consideration of the Ministry every year.

3.74 The Ministry have stated that since the year 2005-06, they have adopted a decentralized procedure for receipt, identification, scrutiny and sanction of proposals from NGOs under the scheme of the Ministry. In the new decentralized procedure, the project proposals having their activities in such service deficient

tribal areas should be recommended by multidisciplinary “State Committee for Supporting Voluntary Efforts” of each State/UT and duly prioritized to accommodate within the funds allocated to the States/UTs.

3.75 All the States/UTs except UP and Bihar have constituted the State level Committee since 2005-06.

3.76 Asked whether the Ministry propose to put up the details of the sanctions made to NGOs on the website of the Ministry, it was stated that the Ministry has already taken action to place the sanction orders and the up-to-date status of the project proposals of NGOs recommended by State Committee on the Ministry’s official website in consultation with NIC. The Ministry is making efforts to operationalise this during the current financial year i.e. 2007-08.

3.77 The Committee note that efforts are made by the Ministry to assess the performance of NGOs through spot inspections of the projects run by them. However, the Ministry are unable to provide the details of spot inspections carried out during 2006-07 and are relying on the State Governments to submit the inspection report along with the proposal of the NGOs for their consideration every year. The Committee desire that the Ministry should strengthen its monitoring mechanism in coordination with State Governments and the performance of NGOs should be strictly monitored and regular inspections carried out by the officials of the Ministry as well as concerned State Government authorities to the maximum extent possible.

3.78 The Committee find that the Ministry have adopted a decentralised procedure for receipt, identification, scrutiny and sanction of proposals from NGOs. The project proposals for service deficient tribal areas need to be recommended by multidisciplinary 'State Committee for Voluntary Efforts' for each State. However, the Committee note with concern that the State Level Committee has not been constituted in U.P. and Bihar so far. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the States of U.P. and Bihar to constitute the State level Committee at the earliest.

Major Head : 2225, 3601
Sub Head : 12, 05
Head No. : 12.00.31, 05.00.31

F. CONSTRUCTION OF HOSTELS FOR ST BOYS AND GIRLS

3.79 The scheme for construction of Girls Hostels was started during the Third Plan period. A separate scheme for construction of Hostels for Scheduled Tribe Boys was launched in 1989-90. Both the schemes were merged into one scheme during the 10th Five Year Plan. The main objective of the scheme is to promote literacy among tribal students by providing hostel accommodation to those tribal students who are not in a position to continue their education either because of the remote location of their villages or because of their poor economic condition.

3.80 The Ministry have stated that this is a centrally sponsored scheme on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States in a ratio of 50:50. In the case of Union Territories, the Central support is 100%.

3.81 A statement showing the year-wise allocation (BE and RE) and amount utilized (releases) during 10th Five Year Plan under the scheme of Hostels for ST Boys and Girls is as under:-

(Rs. In lakh)				
Sl. No.	Year	B.E.	R.E.	Utilization (Release)
1.	2002-03	2400.00	1400.00	1350.00
2.	2003-04	2400.00	1938.00	1814.55
3.	2004-05	2400.00	1300.00	1300.00
4.	2005-06	0.00	1565.00	1565.00
5.	2006-07	3200.00	2941.00	2810.91
	Total	10400.00	9144.00	8840.46

3.82 A statement showing the number of hostels sanctioned and completed for ST Boys and Girls during the last three years (year-wise and State-wise) along with the date of sanction is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Date of sanction	Number of hostels	Date of sanction	Number of hostels	Date of sanction	Number of hostels
1.	J.N.U. Delhi	22.08.03 5.03.04	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous years.	-	-	-	-
2.	Nagaland	5.02.04	2	18.02.05	2	24.03.06	2
3.	West Bengal	12.02.04	3			6.12.05	1
4.	Jharkhand	25.02.04 19.03.04	4	23.03.05	18	-	-
5.	Manipur	23.03.04	2	-	-	02.01.06	6
6.	Andhra Pradesh	01.03.04	23	-	-	-	-
7.	Tripura	03.03.04	2	-	-	-	-
8.	Karnataka	4.03.04	12	16.03.05	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous years.	05.01.06	5
9.	Orissa	16.03.04	1	-	-	-	-
10.	Punjab, University, Chandigarh	-	-	2.08.04	2	29.03.06	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous years.
11.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	25.10.04	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous years.	27.09.05 27.02.06	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous years.
12.	Gujarat	-	-	30.11.04	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous years.	-	-
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	18.02.05	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous	02.02.06	1
14.	I.I.T., Delhi	-	-	14.03.05	Arrear grant for	29.03.06	Arrear grant for the hostels

Sl.No.	Name of State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Date of sanction	Number of hostels	Date of sanction	Number of hostels	Date of sanction	Number of hostels
					the hostels sanctioned during previous years.		sanctioned during previous years.
15	Maharashtra	-	-	23.03.05	11	03.01.06	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous years.
16.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	06.03.06	Arrear grant for the hostels sanctioned during previous years.

3.83 On being asked whether all the hostels sanctioned have been completed, the Ministry have stated that the scheme of financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for Boys and Girls Hostels is a Centrally sponsored Scheme meant only for construction of hostel buildings and is funded by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. In order to complete construction, the State Governments/UT Administrations are required to release their matching share of the cost.

3.84 As regards time limit for completion of the hostels, the Ministry have informed that there is no specifically stipulated time period for completion of the construction of hostels under the scheme as the Ministry's share in the grant is only 50% and the remaining is the responsibility of the State Government. Under the scheme, escalation cost, if any, are also to be borne by the States/UT concerned. Responsibility for maintenance rests with the concerned State/UT Government.

3.85 When enquired whether it would be feasible for the Ministry to provide funds for maintenance of the hostels keeping in view the fact that State Government are facing difficulty in maintaining the hostels and that the condition of hostels is dilapidated, the Ministry stated that there is no provision under the Centrally sponsored scheme of “Construction of Boys/Girls hostel for STs” to provide funds for maintenance of the hostels. If necessary, the States may consider utilizing some funds towards maintenance from the grant under Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution.

3.86 The Committee note that the Ministry have sanctioned a number of Hostels for ST Boys and Girls but no specific time period has been stipulated for completion of the hostels. The Ministry seems to be satisfied with releasing its 50% share without keeping a track on the progress and achievement regarding construction of the hostels. The Committee would like to draw the attention of the Ministry to the fact that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which is also implementing the same scheme for SC Boys and Girls, have specified a time frame of five years for completion of the hostels sanctioned by them which is now proposed to be reduced to two years. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should also fix a time limit, preferably two years from the date of release of Central assistance for completion of the Boys and Girls Hostels so that State Governments/UT Administrations would act expeditiously and in right earnest and ensure that the sanctioned hostels are completed in time. Steps taken in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

3.87 The Committee note that under the Scheme of 'Construction of Hostels for ST Boys and Girls', expenditure is shared on a 50:50 matching basis by the Centre and the State Governments while the responsibility for maintenance of the hostels lies with concerned States/UTs. The Committee have been informed that State Governments are finding it difficult to provide funds for maintaining the hostels and thus maintenance of hostels remains neglected. The Committee desire that the Ministry should persuade the concerned State Governments to bear the maintenance costs of hostels.

Major Head : 2225
Sub Head : 10, 02
Head No. : 10.00.31, 02.00.31

G. EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX IN LOW LITERACY POCKETS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN LITERACY IN TRIBAL AREAS

3.88 The scheme was introduced in 1993-94, for ST females in low literacy pockets. It is implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations, Government autonomous bodies and Registered Co-operative Societies.

3.89 The primary objective of the scheme is promotion of education among tribal girls in the identified low literacy districts of the country. The scheme also aims to improve the socio-economic status of the poor and illiterate tribal population through the education of women.

3.90 The programme is implemented as a central sector scheme and the Ministry provides 100% funding.

3.91 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished the following statement showing the BE, RE and Expenditure incurred under the scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of Women Literacy in Tribal Areas during the last three years as under:

Rs. (in crore)			
Year	BE	RE	Expenditure
2004-05	8.50	8.00	7.6793
2005-06	6.00	6.00	6.00
2006-07	32.00	8.00	7.91*
2007-08	19.75		

*provisional

3.92 In reply to a query, the Ministry have stated that the scheme is being revised in order to intervene in a focused manner to improve literacy among tribal girls, in districts where there is a significant tribal population but the literacy levels are below the national average for tribal women and tribal female literacy below the national average of 35%. The objective to bridge the gap between tribal female literacy and general female literacy levels and tribal female & tribal male literacy levels, is proposed to be achieved by:

- i. Providing hostel facilities for tribal girls at the Block level to enable them to attend middle/secondary school and at the panchayat level to enable them to attend primary school.
- ii. Reducing drop-outs at the primary and middle school levels.
- iii. Ensuring through a lumpsum cash grant, the financial security of ST girls who complete the higher levels of schooling.
- iv. Providing cash incentives to ST girl students staying in these hostels and their parents.
- v. Recognising the importance of completing high levels of schooling through a system of awards.
- vi. Establishment of District Education Support Agency in each identified low literacy district to
 - Ensure 100% enrolment of ST girls in the identified district, block or pocket (for PTGs)
 - Reduce dropouts at the primary and middle school levels
 - Monitor the running of the hostels
 - Make the payments, grant of awards, etc.

- Promoting awareness among the parents
- vi Providing other miscellaneous facilities in the hostels such as health care, etc.

3.93 When enquired about the number of States/Districts with less than 10% female literacy identified for coverage under the scheme, the Ministry have stated that 134 districts have been identified out of which 53 districts are covered at present. The details are as under:

SL. No.	Name of the State	No. of identified Districts	No. of Districts covered during Tenth Five Year Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0
3.	Bihar	24	0
4.	Gujarat	2	4
5.	Karnataka	2	4
6.	Madhya Pradesh	30	10
7.	Orissa	10	10
8.	Rajasthan	21	3
9.	Tamil Nadu	2	1
10.	Uttar Pradesh	18	2
11.	West Bengal	6	2
Total		134	53

3.94 The Ministry have informed that they reviewed the impact of the scheme and observed that in the existing scheme, there are many identified low literacy districts, which either do not have any or have very small tribal population e.g. the districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, etc. As the incidence of tribal population in these districts was low, the actual impact of the scheme is not assessable. To overcome this situation, the Ministry found it appropriate to have a fresh look at the identified low literacy districts, and decided to use two parameters i.e. the percentage of

tribal population and the ST female literacy rate simultaneously, to increase the incidence of tribal population and to ensure that the benefit of the scheme reaches a substantial tribal population. It is proposed to implement the revised scheme during 11th Plan as per the revised list of identified districts.

3.95 The Committee note that the scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets is being revised in order to have a more focused approach to improve literacy among tribal girls in districts where there is significant tribal population and female tribal literacy is below the national level of 35%. The Committee further note that the Ministry have revised the list of identified low literacy districts using two parameters viz, percentage of tribal population and ST female literacy rate and propose to implement the revised scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan as per the revised list of identified districts. The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Ministry to make the scheme more effective and focused towards improvement of literacy among tribal girls and urge them to finalise the revised scheme at the earliest and implement the same right from the beginning of the financial year 2007-08.

Major Head: 2225, 4225
Sub Head: 20, 02
Head No: 20.00.31, 02.00.54

H. THE TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA LIMITED

3.96 The Ministry have informed that the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) is a multi-State cooperative society, registered under the *Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1964* (replaced by the *Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002*). TRIFED came into existence on 6.8.1987 under the administrative control of the then Ministry of Welfare, Govt. of India (presently under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs).

3.97 Since its inception TRIFED focused its activities on procurement of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) with the idea of providing a remunerative price to the tribals and to help Member Societies in disposing their stocks. As the MFP operations by TRIFED was not a commercial activity but was more in the nature of development activity, TRIFED suffered losses in these operations. The Government of India was compensating these losses incurred by TRIFED by extending grants to it under the scheme of '*Price Support to TRIFED*'.

3.98 The authorized equity share capital of TRIFED is Rs. 300 crores. Its paid-up share capital stood at Rs. 100.47 crores as on 31.3.2006. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has invested Rs. 99.75 crores in TRIFED till 31.3.2007.

3.99 The Central Government provides no budgetary support for meeting the administrative/running expenses of TRIFED. As a result, the current financial position of TRIFED is stated to be as under:

(Rs. in Crore)	
Total amount received from the Ministry as share capital	99.75
Total procurement by TRIFED upto 31.3.2006	880.21
Total losses upto 31.3.2006	139.21
Reimbursement of losses by Ministry under the scheme of ' <i>Price Support to TRIFED</i> ' upto 31.3.2006	53.01
Net loss	95.18
Main Heads of expenditure	
Administrative expenses	102.19
Net interest liability for borrowed funds	34.44
TOTAL	136.63

Course correction:

3.100 Even though TRIFED has been performing some commercial activities like marketing of tribal goods, as stated earlier, TRIFED is not essentially a commercial organization. However there was a basic dichotomy in the role expected to be played by TRIFED. On the one hand TRIFED was expected to promote the welfare of tribals by providing remunerative prices to them. On the other hand, TRIFED was also expected to earn profit in competition with unscrupulous private traders, that too after payment of higher prices to tribals. It is not always possible to reconcile the welfare and commercial objectives.

3.101 In 2002, TRIFED engaged some consultants ('Insight Management Consultants') and asked them to do diagnostic study about TRIFED's activities.

The Consultants recommended the following:

- a) Change in role direction
- b) Change in character/constitution of the organization and starting a subsidiary institution.
- c) Downsizing of the existing staff
- d) Financial reengineering under which it was suggested that finances should be provided to TRIFED for revival.

3.102 As a follow up of the diagnostic study a National level Consultation was held in September, 2004. After detailed deliberations, it was decided to focus on marketing development of tribal produce and products dealing with the following:

- Retail Marketing
- Minor Forest Produce
- Training and capacity building; and
- Research and Development

3.103 TRIFED reoriented its activities in the year 2002-03 and shifted the focus from direct trading activities related to procurement and sales of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) to marketing development of tribal products/produce.

Present status:

3.104 The present state of activities of TRIFED are confined mainly to marketing of tribal handicrafts, handlooms, and other natural products and undertaking developmental projects connected with their skill up-gradation and income generation.

3.105 Though TRIFED has made substantial headway in retail marketing operations by achieving sales of Rs. 363 lakh in 2006-07 as compared to Rs. 52 Lakh in 2004-05 and Rs. 162 Lakh in 2005-06, it has still not reached a stage where such operations are able to sustain the administrative and running costs of TRIFED.

3.106 In respect of projects, the Ministry have agreed that the funds received from other sources are just sufficient to meet the expenses on activities stipulated in their project guidelines but are not sufficient to meet even the expenses incurred in the interregnum between the completion of one stage of the project and commencing of the next stage. Under the new role direction, TRIFED has somehow managed to continue its operations on a modest scale from the funds received from the Ministry under the price support scheme for losses incurred by TRIFED in the earlier operations. The recent initiatives undertaken by TRIFED are as follows:

1. Expansion of TRIBES outlet.
2. Increase in product range.
3. Organising AADISHILP.
4. Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs).
5. Participation in National and International Exhibitions.
6. Handicraft Development
7. E-Commerce

3.107 Under the MFP sector, the following projects are taken up by TRIFED:

1. Training for tribal honey hunters.
2. Skill up-gradation training to tribal gum pickers
3. Cultivation of Stevia – demonstration project

Proposed Roadmap:

3.108 The Ministry have informed that a detailed Roadmap for each Sector has been prepared and is awaiting approval. The detailed sector-wise plan of activities for the next five years covers retail marketing of tribal products, MFP marketing development, vocational training, skill upgradation and capacity building of MFP gatherers and research, development and IPR activities.

3.109 The Committee appreciate the steps taken by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited to reorient its activities and shift the focus from direct trading activities to marketing development of tribal products/produce with the purpose of curtailing the losses incurred by it earlier. Under the detailed roadmap, awaiting the approval of the competent authority, important sectors like retail marketing of tribal products, MFP marketing development, vocational training, skill upgradation and capacity building of MFP gatherers etc. have been covered. Keeping in view the fact that TRIFED has been suffering heavy losses when its focus was on procurement of Minor Forest Produce and Surplus Agricultural Produce rather than on marketing development, the Committee are of the opinion that TRIFED has taken a step in the right direction by confining itself mainly to marketing of tribal handicrafts, handlooms and other natural products and undertaking developmental projects connected with their skill upgradation and income generation. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to get the proposed roadmap prepared by TRIFED, approved by the competent authority expeditiously and ensure that it is properly implemented at the earliest.

NEW DELHI;

**27 April, 2007
7 Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)**

**SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on 7
Social Justice and
Empowerment**

ANNEXURE – I

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON MONDAY, 9th APRIL, 2007.

The Committee met from 1430 hrs. to 1620 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS LOK SABHA

2. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
3. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
4. Dr Babu Rao Mediyam
5. Shri Kailash Meghwal
6. Shri Rupchand Murmu
7. Shri Ram Chandra Paswan
8. Shri Rabindar Kumar Rana
9. Shri P.A. Sangma
10. Smt. Usha Verma

RAJYA SABHA

11. Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma
12. Shri Silvius Condpan
13. Shri Mahmod A. Madani
14. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
15. Dr. Radhakant Nayak
16. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
17. Ms. Anusuiya Uikey

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Ashok Sarin | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.K. Saxena | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Bhupesh Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

Representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.	Ms. Meena Gupta	-	Secretary
2.	Shri Mrutunjay Sahoo	-	Joint Secretary & FA
3.	Dr. Bachittar Singh	-	Joint Secretary
4.	Smt. Ruchira Pant	-	Joint Secretary
5.	Shri A.K. Mathur	-	Dy. Director General (Statistics)
6.	Shri B.C. Munda	-	Adviser (Economic)
7.	Shri W. Lakra	-	Managing Director TRIFED
8.	Smt. J. Bhavani	-	Chairperson-cum-MD NSTFDC

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the sitting of the Committee. The Chairperson then stated that the meeting had been convened to discuss the Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. At the instance of the Chairperson, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs briefly narrated the details of various schemes/programmes undertaken by the Ministry and intimated the physical and financial targets achieved in that connection. The representatives of the Ministry then explained to the various queries put forth by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson directed them to furnish expeditiously the replies to those points which could not be replied in the meeting.

The verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 27TH APRIL, 2007.**

The Committee met from 15.00 hrs. to 1550 hrs. in Committee Room 'B',
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

1. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
2. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
3. Shri Kailash Meghwal
4. Shri Rabindar Kumar Rana
5. Dr. R. Senthil
6. Smt. Pratibha Singh

RAJYA SABHA

7. Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma
8. Shri Silvius Condpan
9. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
10. Dr. Radhakant Nayak
11. Ms. Anusuiya Uikey

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.K. Saxena - Director
2. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to consider and adopt the following Draft Reports of the Committee:

- (i) Twenty- third Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report on Demands For Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (ii) Twenty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (iii) Twenty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (iv) Twenty sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the aforesaid Reports of the Committee with minor modifications/amendments.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalise these draft Reports and present the same to Parliament on their behalf.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No	Para No.	Observations/Recommendation
1	2	3
1	1.4	Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants, 2006-07 was presented to Parliament on 16 May, 2006. Although the Action Taken Notes have been received from the Ministry, the Committee regret to observe that as per Direction 73A of 'Directions by the Speaker' necessary statement contained in the original Report has in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the original Report has not been made. While deprecating this inordinate delay, the Committee desire that requisite action in this connection should be taken expeditiously by the Ministry.
2	3.19	The Committee note that out of Rs. 6478.72 crore allocated by the Planning Commission during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the expenditure incurred was Rs. 5992.15 crore under Plan Schemes of the Ministry leading to shortfall of Rs. 486.57 crore. The expenditure incurred under Non-Plan i.e. Rs. 38.87 crore out of the BE of Rs. 52.06 crore is also not satisfactory. The Committee regret to observe that an amount of Rs. 486.57 crore, which could have been fruitfully utilized for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes could not be utilized. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should evolve an effective mechanism of implementation of schemes, minimize procedural delays and ensure optimum utilization of funds allocated by the Planning Commission during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

3 3.20 The Committee note with concern that Planning Commission has scaled down the budget proposal of the Ministry from Rs. 2468.56 crore to Rs. 1719.71 crore for the Annual Plan 2007-08 which is a mere 3.79% increase over the corresponding figure of 2006-07 i.e. Rs. 1656.90 crore. This implies that the amount in real terms during the current year has come down if inflation is taken into consideration. This decline is inexplicable as some new schemes like National Institute of Tribal Affairs(NITA), Institutes of Excellence/Top Class Education, National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, National Tribal Affairs Awards, Centres of Excellence and Habitat/Hamlet development of Primitive Tribal Groups have also been launched. Obviously, the funds provided in the budget are not adequate to address the gigantic stature of the backwardness of the Scheduled Tribes and the Committee, therefore, express their serious concern as to how the Ministry will be able to implement the new schemes as well as the existing ones effectively in the absence of adequate funds. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take up the matter with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance again so that its budgetary allocation for 2007-08 is augmented at RE stage and implementation of programmes for the welfare and development of the tribal people do not suffer due to paucity of funds.

The Committee also desire that the Ministry should strengthen its monitoring mechanism to ensure that the funds released for various tribal welfare schemes are fully utilized during the year. There should not be any diversion of funds and implementation status of schemes needs to be regularly monitored by the Ministry.

4 3.21 The Committee note that some of the States are finding it difficult to send the utilization certificates of funds released by the Ministry in previous years. Under the scheme of 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups', States like Rajasthan, Kerala, Manipur and Tamil Nadu have not furnished the utilization certificates upto 2004-05 while Assam is yet to furnish the utilization certificates under the scheme of Coaching and Allied. The utilization certificates in respect of the grants released during the year 2005-06 are also due on 1st April, 2007. Keeping in view the fact that release of fresh funds is linked to receipt of utilization certificates in respect of funds released in previous years, the Committee urge the Ministry to strictly monitor the utilization of funds by the States and ensure timely submission of Utilisation Certificates by them. For this, the Ministry should maintain close coordination with the States at appropriate levels. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should make vigorous efforts to ensure that

physical and financial quarterly progress reports of projects are received on a regular basis.

- 5 3.22 The Committee note that though the Ministry have undertaken the process of review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to ensure implementation of modified schemes from 2007-08 onwards, yet they are still in the process of carrying out modifications in the schemes for implementation. The reasons for the delay in modifying the schemes has not been conveyed by the Ministry. The Committee feel that the Ministry have made inordinate delay in finalizing the modifications to be incorporated in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to finalise all the modifications in the Centrally sponsored Schemes at the earliest so that they could be implemented effectively.
- 6 3.23 The Committee also note with concern that the proposal of the Ministry to change the funding pattern of Centrally Sponsored Schemes like 'Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas' and 'Construction of Boys and Girls Hostels' from 50:50 to 100% funding by Centre during the Eleventh Five Year Plan has not been agreed to by the Planning Commission. The reasons for non-approval of their proposal by the Planning Commission have not been intimated to the Committee. The Committee desire that the Ministry should pursue the matter vigorously and impress upon the Planning Commission the seriousness of the financial difficulties being faced by the States in providing their 50% matching share so that the aforesaid schemes could be funded 100% by Centre.
- 7 3.24 The Committee have been given to understand that formulating a quantifiable tribal development index specially for the tribals has found mention in the draft National Tribal Policy of the Ministry. The Ministry propose to put certain issues such as land restored to STs, policy changes by State Governments to empower Gram Sabhas in scheduled areas, control and access of STs over forest and natural resources, improvement in infant mortality rate etc. in the Tribal Development Index. The Committee hope that with such an index, it would be feasible to monitor the welfare and development of the tribals and therefore, urge the Ministry to finalize the proposed draft National Tribal Policy at the earliest
- 8 3.25 The Committee note the reply of the Ministry that the prerogative of identifying training activities including programmes for the ST youths is that of the State Government and that the type and manner of training programmes to be given to STs for entrepreneurship is looked after by the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, which is a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry. The training programmes

being conducted for the tribals are of general nature and do not help develop entrepreneurial skills among educated and unemployed ST youths. The Committee desire that in this era of globalisation and rapid influx of information technology, the Government should create avenues for the educated and unemployed ST youths to develop their entrepreneurial skills which will enable them to get employment as well as inspire them to participate actively in the growing economy. The Committee, also recommend the Ministry to focus their attention towards entrepreneurship development programmes through revamping of existing programmes or creation of a new scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan by incorporating latest advancements made in the technology and the economy. For this, they should work in close coordination with State Governments and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

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| 9 | 3.41 | <p>Though one of the features of the guidelines regarding utilization of funds under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan is support to the tribal population below the poverty line, yet the Ministry have no information about the number of ST families/individuals assisted to cross the poverty line. The Ministry have explained this by saying that due to lack of adequate manpower in the Ministry, intensive monitoring of schemes like Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan is not possible and accordingly, details of BPL families are also not maintained. Information has now been sought from the State Governments about the number of ST families/individuals assisted under the scheme. The Committee are surprised that even after working on this scheme for more than two decades, the Ministry are still ignorant about the number of ST families living below the poverty line and those who were assisted under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan so far. This clearly indicates lack of concern and commitment on the part of the Government. The Committee hope that the Ministry would now obtain the data of ST families/individuals living below poverty line as well as the number of ST families/individuals assisted so far under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan by exploring all possible avenues so that realistic action plan could be prepared to assist them during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.</p> |
| 10 | 3.42 | <p>The Committee note that the Ministry have been proactively advocating the need for an effective Tribal Sub-plan component (8% for Central Ministries/Departments and in proportion to their ST population in respect of States) and that the Planning Commission has also issued orders to this effect. The</p> |

Committee note with concern that various Ministries have not found it feasible to earmark separate allocation for the Scheduled Tribes. Though the Ministry have rightly taken up this issue with the Planning Commission, the Committee are of the view that a focused attention towards the development of STs is possible only if the States and Central Ministries earmark the TSP component separately and utilise the same in consultation with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to vigorously pursue the matter with the Planning Commission and concerned States/Central Ministries/Departments so that the TSP component i.e. 8% for Central Ministries/Departments and in proportion to ST population in respective States are put in a separate budget head, which is made non-divertible and non-lapsable for implementation of schemes for the Scheduled Tribes, in a more focused and integrated manner. If need be, the matter may be brought to the notice of Cabinet Secretariat who may be requested to pursue with the defaulting Central Ministries. The matter may also be taken up at the highest level with the States.

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| 11 | 3.43 | <p>The Committee note that for the programme of 'Development of Forest Villages', introduced in 2005-06, Rs. 450 crores have been provided in the Tenth Five Year Plan as a one time measure. The total number of forest villages covered during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is 2347 and Rs. 41277.95 lakhs have been released for the same. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 150 crores have been earmarked towards the development of the forest villages. However, the Committee express concern over the fact that proposals for the development of forest villages have not been received from 86 forest villages in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee have not been intimated about the reasons for non submission of proposals by the States. The Committee desire that sincere efforts should be made to cover the remaining 86 forest villages at the earliest and urge the Ministry to pursue with those States to send their proposals early. The Committee also desire that developmental activities in the 2347 forest villages, for which funds have been released earlier, should be monitored effectively and properly.</p> |
| 12 | 3.52 | <p>The Committee note that under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarships, Planning Commission has approved Rs. 202.99 crores for the year 2007-08 at the BE stage out of Rs. 225 crores proposed by the Ministry to cover 9.17 lakh students whereas Rs. 255.04 crores</p> |

were released during 2006-07 for about 7.9 lakh beneficiaries. The Committee would like to be informed as to how with the reduced allocation more students would be covered under the scholarships. Keeping in view the fact that the Ministry proposes to cover 9.17 lakh beneficiaries during the year 2007-08, the Committee express apprehension that the implementation of this important scheme of providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students would be hampered due to paucity of funds. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to review the requirement of funds under the scheme again and approach the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance for more allocations.

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| 13 | 3.53 | <p>The Committee note that though the number of beneficiaries covered under the component of 'Up-gradation of Merit of ST Students' has increased from 303 in 2004-05 to 658 during 2005-06 and 1167 students are expected to be benefited during 2006-07, yet the target fixed yearly i.e. 1480 students has not been achieved for the last three years. The reason attributed by the Ministry is non receipt of proposals/complete proposals from various State Governments/UT administrations. The Committee desire that concrete steps should be taken to improve the performance of the scheme and urge the Ministry to vigorously pursue the States/UTs to send proposals, complete in all respects for the scheme right from the beginning of the financial year.</p> |
| 14 | 3.65 | <p>The Committee note that under the scheme of Research Information and Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and Others, there is always a shortfall in the expenditure during the last three years. The reasons for the shortfall are stated to be non-receipt of revised documents from grantee; non-receipt of Bills from DAVP and Prasar Bharati, non receipt of Utilisation Certificates and proposals from States etc. Besides, components of the scheme like Construction of Adivasi Bhavan and Promotion of Tribal Culture are still non-starters. The Committee take a serious view of this situation of non-performance on the part of the Government and desire that the Ministry should take urgent and concrete measures to minimize procedural delays and streamline its delivery mechanism for effective implementation of schemes for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Ministry should make serious efforts to develop their culture and language also.</p> |
| 15 | 3.66 | <p>The Committee note that the Ministry have been releasing grants-in-aids to 18 Tribal Research Institutes engaged in the work of providing planning inputs to the State Governments; conducting research and evaluation</p> |

studies; collection of data; setting up of tribal museum for exhibiting tribal artifacts etc. Proposals for setting up new TRIs have been received from the States of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim but they were either incomplete or not in accordance with the norms of the scheme. The funds released to the Andaman & Nicobar Administration for setting up TRI at Port Blair during 2002-03 have been revalidated during the financial year 2006-07 as TRI could not be set up there. The Committee express concern that undue delay has occurred in setting up TRIs in the States/UT of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and urge the Ministry to take up the matter with the concerned State Governments/UT Administration at the highest level, assist and guide the State Government in rectifying the shortcomings in the proposals etc so that the proposed TRIs are set up at the earliest in those States.

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| 16 | 3.67 | The Committee note with satisfaction that the Ministry are considering their earlier recommendation to restructure the TRIs and change the funding pattern from 50% Central share to 100%. However, the Committee are constrained to find that the functioning /performance of the TRIs are not monitored or evaluated regularly by the Ministry. The Committee desire that the performance of TRIs should be monitored and evaluated regularly and hope that the Ministry would strengthen the TRIs in terms of manpower and financial resources through a provision of 100% Central funding at the earliest. |
| 17 | 3.77 | The Committee note that efforts are made by the Ministry to assess the performance of NGOs through spot inspections of the projects run by them. However, the Ministry are unable to provide the details of spot inspections carried out during 2006-07 and are relying on the State Governments to submit the inspection report along with the proposal of the NGOs for their consideration every year. The Committee desire that the Ministry should strengthen its monitoring mechanism in coordination with State Governments and the performance of NGOs should be strictly monitored and regular inspections carried out by the officials of the Ministry as well as concerned State Government authorities to the maximum extent possible. |
| 18 | 3.78 | The Committee find that the Ministry have adopted a decentralised procedure for receipt, identification, scrutiny and sanction of proposals from NGOs. The project proposals for service deficient tribal areas need to be recommended by multidisciplinary 'State Committee for Voluntary Efforts' for each State. However, the Committee note with concern that the |

State Level Committee has not been constituted in U.P. and Bihar so far. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the States of U.P. and Bihar to constitute the State level Committee at the earliest.

- 19 3.86 The Committee note that the Ministry have sanctioned a number of Hostels for ST Boys and Girls but no specific time period has been stipulated for completion of the hostels. The Ministry seems to be satisfied with releasing its 50% share without keeping a track on the progress and achievement regarding construction of the hostels. The Committee would like to draw the attention of the Ministry to the fact that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which is also implementing the same scheme for SC Boys and Girls, have specified a time frame of five years for completion of the hostels sanctioned by them which is now proposed to be reduced to two years. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should also fix a time limit, preferably two years from the date of release of Central assistance for completion of the Boys and Girls Hostels so that State Governments/UT Administrations would act expeditiously and in right earnest and ensure that the sanctioned hostels are completed in time. Steps taken in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.
- 20 3.87 The Committee note that under the Scheme of 'Construction of Hostels for ST Boys and Girls', expenditure is shared on a 50:50 matching basis by the Centre and the State Governments while the responsibility for maintenance of the hostels lies with concerned States/UTs. The Committee have been informed that State Governments are finding it difficult to provide funds for maintaining the hostels and thus maintenance of hostels remains neglected. The Committee desire that the Ministry should persuade the concerned State Governments to bear the maintenance costs of hostels.
- 21 3.95 The Committee note that the scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets is being revised in order to have a more focused approach to improve literacy among tribal girls in districts where there is significant tribal population and female tribal literacy is below the national level of 35%. The Committee further note that the Ministry have revised the list of identified low literacy districts using two parameters viz, percentage of tribal population and ST female literacy rate and propose to implement the revised scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan as per the revised list of identified districts. The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Ministry to make the scheme more effective and focused towards improvement of

literacy among tribal girls and urge them to finalise the revised scheme at the earliest and implement the same right from the beginning of the financial year 2007-08.

- 22 3.109 The Committee appreciate the steps taken by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited to reorient its activities and shift the focus from direct trading activities to marketing development of tribal products/produce with the purpose of curtailing the losses incurred by it earlier. Under the detailed roadmap, awaiting the approval of the competent authority, important sectors like retail marketing of tribal products, MFP marketing development, vocational training, skill upgradation and capacity building of MFP gatherers etc. have been covered. Keeping in view the fact that TRIFED has been suffering heavy losses when its focus was on procurement of Minor Forest Produce and Surplus Agricultural Produce rather than on marketing development, the Committee are of the opinion that TRIFED has taken a step in the right direction by confining itself mainly to marketing of tribal handicrafts, handlooms and other natural products and undertaking developmental projects connected with their skill upgradation and income generation. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to get the proposed roadmap prepared by TRIFED, approved by the competent authority expeditiously and ensure that it is properly implemented at the earliest.