

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR
AND WELFARE(2002)**

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMITIVE TRIBAL GROUPS

TWENTY - EIGHTH REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND
WELFARE (2002)**

Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora-CHAIRMAN

**LOK SABHA
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3. Shri Denzil B. Atkinson
4. Smt. Sandhya Bauri
5. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel
6. Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhuri
7. Shri Bhim Prasad Dahal
8. Shri Khagen Das
9. Shri Kishan Lal Diler
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12. Shri Virendra Kumar
13. Shri Parsuram Majhi
14. Shri Brahma Nand Mandal
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- 39. Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra
- 40. Dr. (Mrs.) Kum Kum Rai
- 41. Shri Kanshi Ram
- 42. Shri Jibon Roy

SECRETARIAT

- 1. Shri John Joseph - Additional Secretary
- 2. Shri Ram Autar Ram - Joint Secretary
- 3. Shri J.P. Sharma - Deputy Secretary
- 4. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Under Secretary
- 5. Km. M. Tunlut - Sr. Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (2002) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-Eighth Report on the subject “Development of Primitive Tribal Groups” pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 12th September, 2001, 12th August 2002 and 11th September, 2002. 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 for furnishing whatever information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

3. The Committee also wish to express their thanks to the officials of the Ministries of Rural Development, Environment & Forests and Health & Family Welfare for tendering evidence before the Committee. These Ministries alongwith the Ministry of Agriculture have furnished valuable information which helped the Committee in their examination of the subject.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 18th December, 2002.

(DENZIL B. ATKINSON),
Acting Chairman,
**Standing Committee on Labour
and Welfare.**

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA,
Chairman,
**Standing Committee on Labour
and Welfare.**

NEW DELHI;
December, 2002
Agrahayana, 1924 (Saka)

CHAPTER-I INTRODUCTORY

The Committee have been informed that certain communities in the country are listed as Scheduled Tribes in exercise of powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 342 of the Constitution of India. The Notification of Scheduled Tribes communities are State specific.

1.2 The identification of Scheduled Tribes is done on the basis of following characteristics:-

- (i) primitive traits;
- (ii) distinctive culture;
- (iii) geographical isolation;
- (iv) shyness of contact with the community at large; and
- (v) backwardness.

1.3 However, it was observed that not all these communities were at the same level of development. In fact, there are certain communities which are at a much lower level of development even as compared to the other Scheduled Tribe communities. It was also observed that in the matter of devolution of funds for the development of STs, the major share was taken by those communities who are more assertive and in a better position in demanding such benefits. As a consequence, the marginalized STs were left out of the process of development.

1.4 In order to ensure the development of these communities, certain groups were identified for the first time in 1975-76 and thereafter in 1993, who are regarded as the poorest of poor amongst the STs and were called Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). The criteria fixed for identification of such PTGs are:-

- (i) pre-agricultural level of technology;
- (ii) very low level of literacy; and
- (iii) declining or stagnant population.

1.5 Based on the above-mentioned criteria, 75 tribal communities were identified as PTGs spread over what are now 17 States and one UT. The list of such identified communities along with their population according to different Census figures are placed at **Annexure-I**. Although the Tribal Sub Plan concept and the Special Central Assistance to the State Governments have been in operation since the Fifth Five Year Plan, it was felt that these funds were not reaching the Primitive Tribal Group (PTGs) in proportion to their requirements and as such not much development had taken place in respect of these communities.

1.6 The Ministry have further stated that although there was progress as per Human Development Indices in the conditions of the STs, yet the benefits were not percolating to the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), who lived in not only far flung regions but in remote and inaccessible areas and in small numbers. Therefore, in 1998-99, a Special Central Sector Scheme was introduced with the approval of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance with the objective to cover those items/activities which, though very crucial for the survival, protection and development of PTGs, are not specifically catered to by any existing schemes, State or Central or by guidelines governing the utilization of funds under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan and Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Such items/activities cannot be exhaustively identified at the Central level as they may differ from State to State and even within a state, and from project to project. However, funds under the scheme could be used for helping the beneficiaries of the project to cope with extremely adverse pressures which threaten their survival and protect them from various forms of exploitation thereby bringing them to a stage when they can demand and receive specific assets and services.

1.7 The Committee note that although the Tribal Sub Plan concept and Special Central Assistance to State Governments for the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes have been in operation since the Fifth Five Year Plan, the benefits of these schemes are not percolating to the Primitive Tribal Groups to the desired extent. The Committee further note that a special Central Sector Scheme was introduced in 1998-99 with the approval of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance with the objective to cover those items/activities not already covered specifically by any existing schemes. The Committee, therefore, desire that this scheme should be implemented in the right earnest so as to give a boost to the development of PTGs and bring them to the stage from where they can demand and receive the services.

CHAPTER II

SURVEY/IDENTIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF PRIMITIVE TRIBAL GROUPS

2.1 The State Governments submit proposals for identification of PTGs in accordance with the prescribed criteria as stated in para 1.4. The proposals of the State Governments/UT Administration are examined in the Ministry in consultation with Planning Commission. If a community, on examination fulfils the prescribed criteria, then that community is identified as PTG.

2.2 According to the 1981 Census, the population of PTGs are 20.43 lakh and as per the 1991 Census it is 24.13 lakh. The Ministry have yet to obtain the figures of 2001 Census from Registrar General of India.

2.3 On being asked whether any new PTG has been identified in the 1991 Census, it has been stated that the PTGs have been identified since 1975-76. The last PTG was identified in the year 1993-94. No PTG has been identified based on figures of 1991 census.

2.4 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry is taking any steps to conduct special survey to have an authentic data of PTG population. In response, the Ministry have informed that they have already requested the States and UT Administration with PTG population to undertake a baseline survey. Accordingly, a set of questionnaires and schedules have been circulated to the concerned States to collect information on population, literacy etc. along with other required information. This exercise is meant to collect data on the socio-economic status of each Group so that plans and programmes could be formulated for their overall development during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

2.5 While replying to the query of the Members during the course of evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs stated that no PTG already identified has been excluded from the list of the primitive groups so far. The Committee further enquired why no PTG could be raised to the stage where they can be removed from the list of PTGs and brought at par with other tribals inspite of the efforts made by the Ministry since the Fifth Plan. The Ministry have replied that the Primitive Tribal Groups identified are in different stages of development including the pre-agricultural level, stagnation of population and low literacy. However, efforts are being made to develop these groups so that they would lose some of their primitive traits by the end of the Tenth Plan. While retaining their cultural identity some PTG groups have attained a reasonably high standard of living but no State Government has proposed their deletion from the PTG list.

2.6 The Committee also enquired about the number of PTGs who have actually been benefited under the schemes and whether any target has been fixed in this regard. The Ministry have replied that no separate target has been fixed for PTGs. However, all the PTGs residing in different habitations get the benefit of the schemes.

2.7 On being asked to state the number of PTGs brought at par with other tribal communities during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan as well as the efforts being made to bring all the PTGs at par with other tribal communities in all respect by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry have stated that no basic statistics is available to ascertain the number of PTGs who have been brought at par with other tribal communities. However, State Governments have been instructed to have a benchmark survey in this year and make efforts for development of these groups so that by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan, some of these groups come to the level of other tribal groups.

2.8 In response to a query on whether any action plan has been formulated in the Ministry for rehabilitation of PTGs in their own habitat without destroying their traditional lifestyle and culture, the Ministry have stated that though no specific action plan has been formulated in the Ministry for the rehabilitation of PTGs in their own habitations, State Governments have been requested to prepare an action plan on the basis of the baseline survey for the overall development of these groups. Under this action plan construction of houses for the PTGs, reclamation and development of land are to be included for the rehabilitation of PTGs in their own habitation. The Ministry of Rural Development have drawn up a rehabilitation policy for displaced persons. The draft of the policy is yet to be finalized/adopted.

2.9 On being asked whether the Government have made adequate assessment of the specific needs of the PTGs, the Ministry have informed that the programmes for the development of PTGs are implemented by the State Governments/UT Administration and NGOs. They have been advised to prepare schemes for development of PTGs taking into consideration their felt needs identified on the basis of surveys and evaluation studies. The basic needs are education, health care and training in income generating activities.

2.10 The Committee note with concern that the progress made so far in the development of PTGs is negligible. The Committee further note that the Ministry had already requested the States and UT Administration to undertake a baseline survey for identification of the Primitive Tribal Groups. A set of questionnaires and Schedules have been circulated to the concerned State Governments to collect

information on the socio-economic status of each Primitive Group. However, the Committee express their concern that no time frame has been fixed to complete the survey. Keeping in view the fact that the Ministry have no authentic data of PTG population so far, the Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should persuade the State Governments/UT Administration to undertake a tribe-wise benchmark survey of these primitive groups within a specified time frame so that plans and programmes could be formulated for their overall development during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

2.11 The Committee are surprised to note that despite Government's continued efforts for the development of PTGs right from Fifth Five Year Plan, no State Governments have ever proposed to delete any group from the list of PTGs. The Committee further note that basic statistics is not available in the Ministry to ascertain the number of PTGs brought at par with other tribal communities during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans. The Committee note with dismay that no specific action plan has been formulated by the Ministry for rehabilitation of PTGs in their own habitation. This reflects the lackadaisical attitude of the Ministry and lack of commitment to fulfill its objective of bringing the PTGs into the mainstream of the tribal society. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should make concerted efforts to bring maximum number of PTGs at par with other tribal communities during the Tenth Five Year Plan by formulating specific Action Plan with the help of Tribal Research Institutes and other expert bodies by pooling the resources from SCA to TSP, Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and funds from Centrally Sponsored, Central Sector and State Plan Schemes.

CHAPTER III ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

3.1 The Committee have been informed that funds for development of Primitive Tribal Groups have been provided to the States/UT since 5th Five Year Plan out of SCA to TSP. However, these funds are not separately released to States/UTs for PTGs out of SCA. As per the guidelines of the Ministry, funds could be utilized in the Integrated Tribal Development Projects(ITDPs)/Modified Area Development Approach(MADA) Pockets/Clusters, Dispersed Tribal Groups and for development of Primitive Tribes. The Ministry does not maintain separate figures for each of these programmes since the beginning of the 5th Five Year Plan. However, State Governments utilize the funds on the basis of their requirements. The funds so far released by the Ministry out of SCA to TSP to the States/UTs during different plan period are as under:-

Rupees in Lakhs		
Sl.No.	Five Year Plan period	Amount released.
1.	Vth Five Year Plan	11930.50
2.	VIth Five Year Plan	48611.34
3.	VIIth Five Year Plan	84695.00
4.	Annual Plan 1990-91	22546.12
5.	Annual Plan 1991-92	24982.85
6.	VIIIth Five Year Plan	148411.90
7.	IXth Five Year Plan	200991.00
8.	Annual Plan 2002-2003	50000.00 (Allocation)

3.2 In addition to the above grants, States also utilised funds out of their State plan resources for the development of PTGs. During the year 1998-99, a separate Central Sector Scheme was initiated with 100% fundings to the State Governments and NGOs for the welfare and development of PTGs.

3.3 In reply to a query, as to how the Ministry would ensure that the allocation/amount released actually reaches the PTGs, the Ministry have stated that the schemes for PTG now provide funds only for the PTG, and not other STs. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs reviews the programmes for the development of PTGs with the State Secretaries and concerned NGOs annually through meetings. In addition, State Governments/UT Administration have been asked to give the reports on utilization of funds through prescribed formats. Senior officers of the Ministry also make on the spot visits to monitor implementation of programmes for the development of primitive tribes.

3.4 As regards non-submission of utilisation certificates/misutilisation of the funds, it has been stated that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had requested the States/UT/NGOs to furnish the information on the utilisation of funds for the development of PTGs in the prescribed format in addition to the format prescribed in General Financial Rules. State Governments are regularly requested to monitor the implementation of programmes in order to check the misutilisation of funds in the field.

3.5 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry of Tribal Affairs proposed to take up with the State Governments/UT to show separately the allocation of funds made by them for the development of PTGs. The Ministry informed that they have taken note of the suggestion as this will help proper implementation of various programmes in the field for the development of PTGs. Further, it is mentioned that according to the existing Central Sector Schemes, States/UT have to allocate requisite funds from the Central and Centrally Sponsored and State Plan Schemes for their socio-economic development. The funds provided under the Central Sector Scheme would be utilised only for those items and activities which, though very crucial for the survival, protection and development of PTGs, are not specifically covered under the existing schemes, for the development of PTGs. Excepting the Central Sector Scheme for development of PTGs, the States and UT have not been indicating the separate allocation from the Central and Centrally Sponsored and State Plan Schemes allocated for the development of PTGs.

3.6 The Ministry have furnished the following Statement showing details of financial assistance released to States/NGOs under the new Central Sector Scheme for Development of PTGs (state-wise and year-wise) during the last three years as under:-

Sl. No.	Names of the State	Name of Implementing Agency/ States/NGOs	Amount Released During 1999-2000	Exp. Reported during 1999-2000	Amount Released During 2000-2001	Exp. Reported during 2000-2001	Amount Released During 2001-2002	Exp. Reported during 2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, 2) Sewa Bharati, Khamam, A.P 3) Sri Saraswatividhyapeetham, Hyderabad	217.33 0.00 0.00	217.33	100.00 13.37 16.00	100.00	262.27 6.18 --	
2.	Bihar	1) Govt. of Bihar	0.00		0.00		--	
3.	Chattisgarh	1) Govt. of Chattisgarh 2) Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Jashpur Nagar 3) Eternal Care, Bhopal 4) Gandhi Seva Ashram, Naringhpur, Distt. Bilaspur 5) VISHWAS, Narayanpur, Distt. Bastar 6) Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Naryanpur, Distt. Bastar	0.00 0.00 -- -- -- --		32.00 4.81 -- -- -- --	32.00 NR	-- -- 6.244 11.98 10.79 25.00	
4.	Gujarat	1) Govt. of Gujarat 2) INRECA, Dedia Pada, Distt. Narmada 3) Shakti Pratishthan, Ahmedabad	-- -- 2.75		-- -- 2.75		300.00 25.00 --	

		4) Dharampur Utthan Vahini, Distt. Valsad	14.05	14.05	--	--	
5.	Jharkhand	1) Govt. of Jharkhand	0.00		100.00	NR	--
		2) Swami Vivekananda Sewa Trust, Jamshedpur	0.00		13.59	10.20	--
		3) Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangha, Sonari, Jamshedpur	0.00		37.77	NR	70.13
		4) Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangha, Ghatsila, E. Singhbhum Distt.	--		--		48.86
		5) Rama Krishna Mission Ashram, Morabadi, Ranchi	--		--		3.30
		6) Vikas Bharti, Gumla, E. Singhbhum	--		--		24.748
6.	Karnataka	1) Govt. of Karnataka	0.00		27.00	27.00	96.94
		2) Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Mysore Distt.	4.02	4.02	0.00		16.89
		3) Vivekananda Girijana Kalyan Kendra, Mysore Distt.	0.00		0.00		--
		4) Vivekananda Foundation, Mysore	--		--		8.85 8.85
7.	Kerala	1) Govt. of Kerala	0.00		23.94	NR	--
		2) RASTA, Wayanand Distt.	0.00		0.00		--
		3) Nehru Yuvak Kendra Mallapuram	25.63	20.00	0.00		--
		4) Nehru Yuvak Kendra, Kozhikode	0.00		12.40	6.66	--
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1) Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	132.00	NR	108.00	NR	--
		2) Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha Bhopal	3.88	3.88	0.00		4.266
		3) Sewa Bharathi, Bhopal	0.00		80.61	NR	--
9.	Maharashtra	1) Govt. of Maharashtra	15.00	14.82	57.50		31.356

		2) Vidharbha Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Nagpur	0.00		26.21	--		
		3) Maharashtra State Tribal Empowerment Society, Pune	--		--	35.12	6.50	
10	Manipur	1) Govt. of Manipur	0.00		26.00	--		
		2) Integrated Rural Development Welfare Association, Imphal	9.74	9.74	9.74	9.74	--	
11	Orissa	1) Govt. of Orissa	25.72	20.00	200.00	--		
		2) Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar	19.03	19.00	0.00	23.00		
		3) OSCARD, Bhubaneswar	0.00		0.00	4.59		
		4) PRAKALPA, Kenojhar Distt.	6.51	6.51	0.00	10.34	10.34	
		5) Society for Welfare of Weaker Sections, Parlakhemundi	3.28	3.28	0.00	4.41		
		6) Vanvasi Sewa Prakaipa, Distt. Kalahandi	0.00		18.31	--		
		7) Vanvasi Sewa Prakaipa, Distt. Keonjhar	0.00		18.31	18.31	--	
		8) Research & Analysis Consultant (RAC), Bhubaneswar	--		--	28.24	6	
		9) Chuktia Bhunjia Development Agency, Sunabeda, Distt. Nupada	--		--	23.54		
		10) Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency, Khutagaon, Distt. Sundergarh	--		--	26.82	4	
12	Rajastha n	Govt. of Rajasthan	0.00		0.00	--		

13	Tamil Nadu	1) Govt. of Tamil Nadu	--		--		49.54
14	Tripura	1) Govt. of Tripura	100.00	100.00	17.00	17.00	86.314
		2) ARK Science and Social Organisation, Agartala	8.87	8.87	0.00		--
		3) Ramakrishna Mission, Agartala	0.00		9.40	4.41	--
15	West Bengal	1) Govt. of West Bengal	0.00		100.00		50.00
		2) Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangha, Dokra, Distt. Midnapore	0.00		19.50		--
16	Uttaranchal/Uttar Pradesh	1) Govt. of Uttar Pradesh /Uttaranchal	74.80		0.00		23.48
		2) Govt. of Uttaranchal	--		--		100.00
GRAND TOTAL			662.608	444.25	1,071.451	241.32	1,418.21 25.69

3.7 It may be observed from the above statement that the total expenditure incurred by States/NGOs have been decreasing though higher amount has been released to them each year.

3.8 When asked to explain the reasons and why expenditure is reported from only three implementing agencies/States/NGOs during 2001-2002, the Ministry have stated that the expenditure reported by the State Governments/NGOs during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were satisfactory as against the amount released during these two years. During 2000-01 and 2001-02, funds were released to the States and NGOs towards the end of the financial year as States/NGOs could not furnish the required information in time to process the proposals for financial releases. However, the reported expenditure have now improved. It is also experienced that at times State Governments were facing difficulties getting the information from the field in time, as a result of which they are not able to submit the report on the utilisation of funds to the Ministry in time.

3.9 The Committee note that as per the guidelines of the Ministry, funds out of SCA to TSP could be utilised for the development of primitive tribes through ITDPs, MADA pockets/clusters, Dispersed Tribal Groups but the Ministry does not maintain separate figures for each of these programmes since the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Committee further note with concern that the States have not shown any details of separate allocations in their State Plan schemes for the development of PTGs except under the Central Sector Scheme of 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups'. The Committee fail to understand as to how the Ministry would be able to ensure that a part of the SCA to TSP and State Plan funds are actually utilised for the PTGs without getting any feedback from them. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with the State Governments/UT Administration, to indicate separately the allocation of funds for PTGs both under Centrally Sponsored and State Plan Schemes for proper and effective implementation of the schemes meant for the development of the primitive tribes.

3.10 The Committee note with concern that the State Governments are not able to submit the report on the utilisation of funds to the Ministry in time due to difficulties faced by them in getting timely information from their field offices. The Committee observe that the total expenditure incurred by State/NGOs under the new Central Sector Scheme of 'Development of PTGs' during the last three years has not been satisfactory. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should impress upon the State Governments/UT Administration, to keep constant vigil over the pace of expenditure and the progress made in the implementation of the scheme should be monitored effectively. Also, the State Governments should be made to realize their obligation for the PTGs and persuaded to make sincere efforts to utilise the funds released to them fully within the same financial year.

CHAPTER IV

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

4.1 The Ministry have stated that no specific legal and administrative support exists at the national level for the protection and development of the PTGs. However, certain States like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have established special agencies at micro level for their development.

4.2 When asked whether the Ministry have taken any steps to pursue the remaining States for setting up special cells for the development of PTGs, the Committee were informed that though the Ministry have not instructed the States for setting up a Special Cell for the development of PTGs, they are insistent through guidelines that the most important input for the programmes of Primitive Group is a sensitive group of personnel who are dedicated to the job. The designating of a Project Administrator of the ITDP to look after the programme in addition to his normal duties will not do. For each PTG, an officer of suitable rank may be appointed who should be selected with great care and the main criteria should be the sensitivity of the person, his ability to identify himself with the tribals and their problems and a sense of commitment for the development of poor tribals.

4.3 The Committee also enquired whether the PTGs living in inaccessible hilly and forest area are aware of Central protective measures such as SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and whether there should be a separate law to protect the PTGs exclusively from exploitation by non-tribals. The Ministry have informed that there is no need for a separate law, though most of the PTGs are unaware of the above mentioned Acts, State Governments are making efforts through awareness generation programmes to acquaint them with the provisions of these Acts.

4.4 As regards the manner in which the Government will be able to preserve the cultural heritage of the PTGs and to protect their traditional livelihood sources, the Ministry informed that their efforts are to ensure that they retain their cultural heritage and also get education, health and income generating facilities. Their objective is to ensure that Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is implemented where traditional livelihood is affected. The effort of the Government is to provide alternative source of income through vocational training.

4.5 When asked whether Tribal Research Institutes of States will be able to preserve the cultural heritage of the PTGs and whether the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have a role in this regard, the Ministry have informed that

in addition to Tribal Research Institutes of States, the Union Ministry of Tourism and Culture also implement a scheme to disseminate the awareness of rich tribal culture.

4.6 In response to a query, whether it is ensured that the cultural heritage of PTGs is not eroded in the name of development, the Committee have been informed that it is not true that cultural heritage of PTGs is eroded in the name of development. However, the PTGs have changed their life style due to the influence of modern civilization, developmental activities like education, economic development and various training programmes. They have been persuaded to join the mainstream.

4.7 The Committee note with concern that no specific legal and administrative machinery exists at the national level for the development of Primitive Tribal Groups, some of whom are still at the stage of gatherers, hunters and shifting cultivators etc. The Committee further note that only four States *viz.* Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have established special agencies at micro level for the development of the PTGs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the remaining States/UT should also be impressed upon to set up special agencies at micro-level to take care of the PTGs. The Committee further desire that Special Officer of suitable rank having adequate knowledge and experience about the conditions and needs of PTGs and having commitment for them, should be posted in the areas of their concentration to protect their interests effectively.

4.8 The Committee note with regret that the PTGs living in inaccessible hilly and forest areas are unaware of Central protective measures such as SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and there is no separate law to protect the PTGs exclusively from exploitation. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should pursue the State Governments/UT Administration to make special efforts to educate and generate awareness among the PTGs about the provisions of these Acts. The Committee also desire that States/UT should effectively implement the various laws/rules to check exploitation of PTGs in the field of money-lending, liquor vending, collection and disposal of minor forest produce etc.

4.9 The Committee note that as a result of developmental activities like education, economic development and various training programmes, the lifestyle of PTGs have changed considerably and helped them to join the mainstream. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry to bring the PTGs into the mainstream

but at the same time desire that in the name of modernization, the rich cultural heritage of the PTGs including their traditional livelihood resources should not be adversely affected. The Committee, therefore, recommend that State Tribal Research Institutes, whose activities include preservation of the cultural heritage of the tribal population should be strengthened and equipped to perform their job effectively. Moreover, these Institutes should be persuaded to work in close tandem with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Culture for disseminating the rich tribal culture.

CHAPTER V

LAND ALIENATION

5.1 The Committee have been informed that due to impact of industrialization and displacement of tribals due to major projects, the traditional rights of the tribals which consist of access to forest and community property resources for hunting, fodder for cattles, gathering non-timber minor forest produce such as honey, gum, medicinal plants etc. from which Adivasis derive food and cash income etc. are eroded. Under Land Acquisition Acts of States, tribal lands are acquired for public purpose, which affects the rights of tribal people in their original habitation.

5.2 The Committee enquired about the tribal people who are facing displacement due to developmental projects like dams, industries and mines. The Ministry have stated that according to the information received from Planning Commission, 85.40 lakh tribal persons including PTGs have been displaced from 1951 to 1990.

5.3 As regards rehabilitation of displaced tribals including PTGs, the Ministry have informed that according to the Report of the Steering Groups on Empowerment of STs for the Tenth Five Year Plan, as many as 213 lakh people including tribals have been displaced due to various development projects since 1951 - 1990. About 21.20 lakh ST persons have been rehabilitated from 1951-1990 according to the Planning Commission.

Interventions and efforts being made by the Ministry of Rural Development for the rehabilitation of tribals/PTGs affected by developmental projects:

5.4 When asked whether States have a rehabilitation policy or a law, the Ministry have stated that the Rehabilitation Policy for the displaced persons including the STs is being finalised by the Ministry of Rural Development. The Ministry of Rural Development (Deptt. of Land Resources) is the nodal Ministry for preparing the project affected persons (resettlement and rehabilitation) package including tribals. The matter is being finalized by the Group of Ministers and the GOM in its meeting held on 22.11.2001 had directed that Deptt. to prepare a draft bill on the subject and circulate it to all concerned Ministries/Departments for their comments and bring up the proposal before the GOM thereafter. In pursuance of the directions of the GOM, a draft on "The Project Affected Persons (resettlement and rehabilitation) Bill, 2002" has been drafted by that Department and circulated to all concerned Ministries including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The draft bill inter-alia deals with the Relief and Rehabilitation Package for tribals as well. However,

respective State Governments are adopting various measures for the displaced STs including the PTGs by providing proper rehabilitation packages like housing, land for agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, electrification, education and various other developmental activities under beneficiary oriented programmes etc.

5.5 The Committee enquired whether the rights of the tribals in forests and forest produces is adequately protected. In reply the Ministry informed that the rights of the tribal people in Forest and on Forest produce are not adequately protected. Government of India is insistent to implement the provisions contained in Panchayats(Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996. According to this Act, Gram Sabha has adequate power to regulate the MFPs in tribal areas and Scheduled Areas.

5.6 During the course of evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs explained the difficulties faced by the tribals living in forests due to the enactment of “The Forest Conservation Act, 1980” as under:-

“In 1980, the Forest Conservation Act was passed which clearly provides that no forest should be diverted for non-forest use. This is a very powerful Act which has also overriding jurisdiction. The crucial wording of the Forest Conservation Act is, “Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force in a State, no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, ceasing to reserve a forest, and that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purpose.” This is a very strong law, as also is the Wildlife Preservation Act of 1972, which is also currently under revision.”

5.7 Adding further, the Inspector General of Forests in the Ministry of Environment & Forests stated:

“Certain issues have been raised regarding the rehabilitation of the tribal people in the forest areas, particularly the reserved forest areas or the protected forest areas. A case is pending in the Supreme Court and it has been the view that without the leave of the Supreme Court, no encroachments should be regularised and the Ministry is expecting the judgement sometime around October”.

5.8 To a query whether the Ministry have taken up the issue of how far the various policies of the Central Government like New Economic

Policy, decreased Social Sector investment, eco-development project, plantation forestry etc. have been responsible for eroding the traditional rights of the PTGs with other Ministries/Departments, the Committee have been informed that the Ministry is constantly interacting with various important Ministries/Departments like Ministries of Rural Development, Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Health and Family Welfare etc. to protect the interest of the tribals on land and forests etc.

5.9 On being asked whether about 80% of land was alienated to the non-tribals as per sample survey conducted by the Department of Rural Development in 1988, the Committee have been informed that there are some cases where tribal lands have been alienated to the non-tribals. Since each State having PTG population has enacted laws in order to prevent alienation of tribal lands both in tribal and scheduled areas, each State Government is taking stringent measures to restrict the land alienation.

Interventions and efforts being made by the Ministry of Rural Development for restoration of tribal lands alienated by non-tribals:

5.10 The Committee further asked the details where the non-tribals in various States have become the virtual owners of the land and the remedial measures taken in this regard. The Ministry have furnished information received from the Ministry of Rural Development in respect of cases related to areas of tribal land alienated and restored as under:-

**As on March, 2000
(Area in acres)**

S l. N o	State	No. of case s filed in the Cou rt	Area	Case s disp osed of by the Cou rt	Are a	Case s Reje cted	Are a	Case s deci ded in favo ur of Trib als	Are a	Cases in which land was restor ed to Tribal s	Are a	Case s pend ing in Cour t	Are a
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				(7+9)	(8+1 0)							(3-5)	(4-6)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	65875	287776	58212	256452	31737	150227	26475	106225	23383	94312	7663	31324
2.	Assam	2042	4211	50	19	-	-	50	19	50	19	1992	4192

3.	Bihar	8629 1	1048 93	1765 18	9515 1	3188 4	4973 0	4463 4	4542 1	44634	4542 1	9773	9742
4.	Gujarat	4792 6	1403 24	4040 0	1206 91	119	497	4028 1	1201 94	39503	1182 59	7526	1963 3
5.	Karnataka	4258 2	1303 73	3852 1	1150 21	1668 7	4715 9	2183 4	6786 2	21834	6786 2	4061	1535 2
6.	Madhya Pradesh	5380 6	1583 98	2959 6	9712 3	2959 6	9712 3	NR	NR	NR	NR	2421 0	6127 5
7.	Maharashtra	4563 4	NR	4462 4	9948 6	2468 1	NR	1994 3	9948 6	19943	9948 6	1010	NR
8.	Orissa	1431	1712	594	816	152	204	442	612	212	455	837	896
9.	Rajasthan	651	2300	240	774	53	187	187	587	187	587	411	1526
10	Tripura	2892 6	2529 5	2888 8	2527 4	2008 4	1836 6	8804	6908	8551	6732	38	21
	Total	3751 64	8552 82	3176 43	8108 07	1549 93	3634 93	1626 50	4473 14	15829 7	4331 33	5752 1	1439 61

5.11 As regards the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure that the PTGs are not deprived of their land and that the land alienated from them so far is restored to them, the Committee have been informed that in order to ensure that the tribals including PTGs do not lose their land, various Legislations/Acts have been promulgated by the State Governments and UT Administration. A Statement giving details on laws enacted by the State Governments in order to prevent alienation of tribal lands is annexed (**Annexure II**).

5.12 The Committee enquired whether the State Laws have provisions to deal with cases of occupation of tribal land through deceit and force on the pattern of provisions made in the Bonded Labour Abolition Act, 1976 apart from provisions of the Indian Penal Code. The Ministry have furnished the State-wise details as under:

Karnataka: Provisions of the Karnataka Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (PTCL) Act, 1978 and Rules 1979 is in force in the State.

Madhya Pradesh: The State has promulgated MPLRC Act, 1959.

Orissa: The State Government has promulgated Regulation II (1956) and OLR Act, 1960 to check land acquisition and illegal transfer of tribal land to non-tribal.

Tripura: Apart from the provisions of IPC, the State Law “TLR & LR Act, 1960 have provisions to deal with the cases of occupation of tribal land.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands: The Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes), Regulation 1956 is in force to protect the interests of the tribals including the Primitive Tribal Groups.

Interventions and efforts being made by the Ministry of Agriculture for tribals/PTGs engaged in shifting cultivation:

- 5.13 During the course of evidence, the Committee pointed out that PTGs are mostly shifting cultivators and they could not get permanent land even after 55 years of Independence. The Ministry in reply, have informed under the scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA) 67,000 hectares of land have been treated at the cost of Rs.40.82 crore and nearly 41,000 Jhumia families benefited under the programme during the VIIIth Plan. The achievements during the IXth Plan are as under:-

S.No.	Name of State	Nodal Deptt.	Progress		Families Benefited
			Financial (Rs. lakh)	Physical (ha.)	
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Agri. Deptt.	561.99	14872	3223
2.	Assam	Hill Area Dev. Deptt.	605.00	11956	11680
3.	Manipur	Hort.& Soil Con. Deptt.	880.00	19224	****
4.	Meghalaya	Soil Con. Deptt.	927.00	15367	4112
5.	Mizoram	Agri. Deptt.	2185.99	51668	37030
6.	Nagaland	Soil & Water Con. Deptt.	2236.00	33059	34639
7.	Tripura	Hort.& Soil Con. Deptt.	805.00	13803	8353
	Total		8200.88	159949	99037

*** The same families of VIII Plan watersheds were continued in the IXth Plan also.

5.14 The Committee note with concern that 85.40 lakh tribal people including PTGs have been displaced from 1951 to 1990 due to development projects like dams, industries and mines. About 21.20 lakh ST persons have been rehabilitated during the same period. The Committee further note that a National Rehabilitation policy is in the offing. The Committee also observe that the tribal people especially, PTGs are worst affected by the development projects like dams, industries and mines and they need adequate relief and rehabilitation package. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs being the nodal Ministry should impress upon the Ministry of Rural Development to move a comprehensive Bill, for Rehabilitation and Resettlement of tribals affected by development projects, in Parliament without further delay.

5.15 The Committee take note of the fact that the tribals are the original inhabitants of forests but their rights in forests and on forest produce are not adequately protected. The enactment of “The Forest Conservation Act, 1980” , “The Wildlife Preservation Act, 1972” and various policies of Central Government etc. have failed to protect the traditional rights of the PTGs in the forests. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should co-ordinate the efforts being made by important Ministries/Departments like Rural Development, Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Health and Family Welfare etc. for protecting the rights of the tribals in the forests. Keeping in view the role of forests in the development of PTGs, the Committee also desire that PTGs should also be actively involved in protection, conservation and development of forests. The Committee note with concern that in the name of implementation of Conservation Acts, and in the name of public interest, orders are obtained from Courts which result in the eviction of tribals from their traditional abodes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take active interest in such litigation and if necessary intervene to protect the interest of tribals.

5.16 The Committee note with concern that though State Governments and UT Administration have enacted various Laws and Regulations to check the alienation of tribals from their lands but the tribals are still being deprived of their lands in the States/UT. The Committee further note that only five States *viz*, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have enacted provisions to deal with cases of occupation of tribal land through deceit on the pattern of provisions made in the Bonded Labour Abolition Act, 1976. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should ensure that adequate safeguards are incorporated in the State Laws/Regulations to protect

the poor tribals including the PTGs against occupation of their lands by the non-tribals through deceit. State Governments might also be persuaded to amend their Land Alienation Acts to make it more stringent against the offenders and for speedy restoration of lands from illegal occupation. The Committee also desire that free legal aid should be provided to the tribals through ITDPs/ITDAs and NGOs especially in the cases of tribal land alienation.

5.17 The Committee commend the efforts made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in implementing the scheme of Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas(WDPSCA) in which 67,000 hectares of land have been treated benefiting nearly 41,000 Jhumia families during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Committee also note with satisfaction that the number of Jhumia families benefited during the IXth Five year Plan has increased to 99,037 and the total areas of land treated is 15,9949 hectares. Keeping in view the fact that PTGs are mostly shifting cultivators, the Committee desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture so that concerted efforts are made towards reclamation of land for settlement and agriculture purposes of the PTGs and the tribal people during the Tenth Plan period.

CHAPTER VI
ASSISTANCE TO INTEGRATED TRIBAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS(ITDPs), TRIBAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTES(TRIs) AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATIONS(NGOs)

6.1 The Ministry have stated that the Central Sector Scheme for PTG is one of the most flexible schemes since under it any activity for the benefit of the PTGs can be covered which are not specifically covered under any of the other schemes. The scheme can be implemented by State Governments and NGOs. For this purpose, the State Governments or NGOs have to submit a proposal which is considered by a Selection Committee with representatives of the Planning Commission, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Integrated Finance Division, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to approve the specific proposals and recommend allocating funds for the development of the PTGs. The funds are thereafter non-divertible and have to be necessarily spent for the development of the identified PTGs as proposed by them.

6.2 On being asked whether any criteria have been fixed for allocation of funds among ITDPs, TRIs and NGOs, the Ministry have informed that no specific criteria have been fixed. All the proposals received are placed before a Selection Committee and only those proposals which have been agreed to by the Committee are processed for grants-in-aid in consultation with the Integrated Finance of the Ministry.

6.3 The Committee further enquired whether representatives of State Tribal Welfare Departments are taken among the Selection Committee. The Ministry have replied that the representatives of State Tribal Welfare Departments have not been made members of the Selection Committee. However, the Ministry ensures that in each meeting of the Selection Committee they attend as special invitees.

6.4 The details of various programmes/projects implemented by ITDPs, TRIs and NGOs for the development of PTGs are as under: -

ITDPs	TRIs	NGOs
1. Training programme 2. Health care programme 3. Income generation programmes 4. Safe drinking water 5. Awareness generation programme 6. Village resource development	.MAA BADI – Children of age-group 5-10 years are provided with mid – day meal, free uniforms, education and are motivated to adopt health and sanitation.	1. Training programmes 2. Establishment of Self Help Groups 3. Health programmes 4. Education awareness programmes 5. Income generation programmes

works 7. Forest Development works on useful sharing basis 8. Minor irrigation 9. Plantation of Medicinal Plants 10. Water shed approach 11. Human and Industrial development 12. Promotion of Self Help Groups 13. Soil Conservation 14. Education 15. Establishment of Green Houses 16. Community Centre		6. Repairing of old houses 7. Special coaching 8. Educational awareness seminars 9. Kitchen garden programmes 10. Construction of Community Centers 11. Village sanitation programme 12. Agro demonstration farming 13. Health culture plantation 14. Legal aid camp 15. Women's reproductive health 16. Safe drinking water 17. Pre school education for girls
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6.5 The Ministry have also stated that Project officers to Micro-projects for PTGs and Integrated Tribal Development Projects have been entrusted with the task of implementing policies for protection and development of PTGs.

6.6 When asked whether the Ministry is satisfied with the performance and achievement of these project officers of ITDPs, the Committee have been informed that the Ministry is not fully satisfied with the performance and achievement of Project Officers of ITDPs. Hence, each State Government has been requested to strengthen the ITDPs with adequate delegation of powers to the Project Officers to implement various programmes through the line departments.

6.7 As regards monitoring, the Committee have been informed that monitoring is being undertaken by the Ministry through quarterly progress reports from the States/NGOs who are implementing the programmes for the development of PTGs. The quarterly progress reports provide information regarding financial and physical achievements.

6.8 The Committee have also been informed that the Ministry provides financial assistance to State Governments and voluntary agencies under Central Sector Scheme for formation of Self Help Groups of PTGs and generation of awareness among them so that they may gain knowledge about Government programmes and schemes and ask for availing benefits under the scheme.

6.9 To a query whether the Ministry possess information about the number of Self Help Groups of PTGs formed for generation of awareness about the Government programmes and schemes, the Committee have been informed that under the new Central Sector Scheme for development of PTGs started from 1998-99, efforts have been made by both State Governments and NGOs to encourage the PTGs for formation of Self Help Groups(SHG) among themselves to avail the benefit of various schemes/programmes.

6.10 The Committee also enquired about the degree of participation of PTGs in the programmes/activities by ITDPs, TRIs and NGOs. The Ministry have replied that the degree of participation of PTGs in the activities/programmes is low on account of rigidity of social and cultural values prevailing among them, low level of education and their settlements being isolated and lacking accessibility. Further State machineries are not making adequate efforts for their development. However, it has been noticed that where schemes specifically are being implemented by committed NGOs, they are coming forward in large number to avail the benefits of the scheme.

6.11 The Committee note with concern that though the Project Officers of Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDPs) are entrusted with the task of implementing policies for protection and development of PTGs, the Ministry are not satisfied with their performance and achievement. The Committee, therefore, recommend that for effective functioning, ITDP framework in States should be suitably restructured and strengthened in terms of finance, manpower and delegation of powers to the Project Officers so that various programmes could be implemented through the line departments smoothly and effectively.

6.12 The Committee note that financial assistance has been provided to State Governments and Voluntary Agencies for formation of Self Help Groups and generation of awareness among the PTGs to enable them to gain knowledge about various Government programmes and schemes for their development. However, the Ministry have no information on the number of Self Help Groups set up so far. The Committee fail to understand how in the absence of such vital data, funds released for the formation of Self Help Groups will actually be utilised for that purpose. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should ensure that funds provided for the formation of Self Help Groups are fully utilized, as intended, by the State Governments and NGOs and also to collect the necessary data on Self Help Groups formed in States/UT at the earliest.

6.13 The Committee further note that State machineries are not making adequate efforts for the development of PTGs and the degree of participation of PTGs in the activities/programmes for their development is low due to the factors of rigidity of social and cultural values prevailing among them and low level of literacy etc. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the training to few select PTG members from each group, who will be able to disseminate information among their own group may be imparted in batches so that the number of PTGs participating in development programmes may increase substantially during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

CHAPTER VII

WELFARE OF PTGs - HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HOUSING FACILITIES

Health:

7.1 The Committee enquired about the medical facilities being provided to the PTGs living in hilly and inaccessible areas. The Ministry in a written reply have stated that emphasis has been given on health and education in addition to economic generation programmes under the Central Sector Scheme for development of PTGs. Under it 13 Mobile Dispensaries have been sanctioned in 6 States to provide facilities for health care of PTGs. State Governments/UT Administration are also providing health care facilities in the hilly and inaccessible tribal areas including the area inhabited by 75 PTGs. According to the information received from Planning Commission, 3258 Primary Health Centers and 20355 Health Sub-Centers are functioning in the tribal areas. The identified PTGs are also availing the health care facilities from these medical institutions.

Interventions and efforts being made by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Indian Council of Medical Research for providing health care to the tribals/PTGs.

7.2 The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have launched a new scheme entitled “Medical Care for Remote and Marginalised Tribal and Nomadic Communities” during IXth Five Year Plan. An outlay of Rs.10.00 crore was provided under the IXth Plan Period for the scheme. The Scheme has been merged with the Indian Council of Medical Research from the Xth Plan. Necessary plan provision for launching the scheme was provided from 1998-99 onwards. Under the scheme, following projects have been taken by ICMR:-

- (i). Prevention & Control of Hepatitis ‘B’ infection among Primitive Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- (ii). Intervention for hereditary common hemolytic disorders among major tribals of Sundergarh District.
- (iii). Intervention programme for Cholera and Intestinal; Parasitism, Vitamin A deficiency disorders among some Primitive Tribal population of Orissa.

- (iv). Intervention Programme for Nutritional Anaemia and Hemoglobinopathies amongst Primitive Tribal population of India.

7.3 In addition, the following projects have been undertaken by ICMR specifically for PTGs:-

- 1. Capacity building of primitive tribes:** ICMR has undertaken this study as per the advice of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, which is funded by WHO. This study was initiated in March, 1999 which as per the existing plans will continue till December, 2003. The States/PTGs covered are as under:-

State	Districts	Primitive Tribes	Population covered (house to house survey)
Tripura	Dhalai North Tripura	Reang Reang	23666 28189
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri Thiruvallur Kanchipuram	Todas, Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas, Paniyans, Irulas, Kattunayakans	19224 8746 3838
Orissa	Malkangiri Keonjhar	Bonda, Didayi Juang	14044 21936
Maharashtra	Yavatmal Gadchiroli	Kolam Madia	29162 26837
Madhya Pradesh	Dindori	Baiga Chak	9513
Chattisgarh	Jaspur Sarguja	Pahadi Korwa, Birhor Pahadi Korwa	9511 16725
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Andaman & Nicobar	Onges, Shompen, Jarwa, Great Andamanese Sentinelese	450
Jharkhand	Palamu Sahibganj	Korva Paharia	Only Biochemical work

7.4 Out of approximately 20 lakh population of primitive tribes in the country, this pilot study is covering little more than 10% from 15 districts. The choice of districts and PTGs was opted by the concerned states.

7.5 The progress of the project is periodically submitted to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and WHO and presented in the annual review meetings.

2. Intervention programme for nutritional Anemia and Hemoglobinopathies amongst some primitive tribal populations of India: Multicentric Project, IHH, Mumbai.

7.6 This project was initiated in 1999 with funding from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The names of the districts/states and PTGs covered under the project are as under:-

Sl.No	State	District/Taluka	Primitive Tribes
i.	Maharashtra	Pune/Karzat,	Kathodi/Katkaris,
ii.	-do-	Yavatmal	Kolam, Madias
iii.	Gujarat	Vulsad Vansda, Kaparada, Waghai, Chikuli, Dharampur	Kathodi, Kotwadia, Kolchas
iv.	Tamilnadu	Nilgiris/Kotagiri, Coonoor, Ooty, Pandalur, Kundha	Kurumbas Irullas, Paniyas
v.	Orissa	Keonjhar, Malkangiri, Angul, Dhenkanal	Didayi Bondo

7.7 For each primitive tribe a population of 2000 is to be covered but wherever the total population is less than 2000, the same will only be covered. This part of the project was proposed to be completed by Oct. 2002.

7.8 It is proposed to study additional States and primitive tribals during extension phase of the project. The following primitive tribal groups are proposed to be covered during the extension period:-

Sl.No	State	Primitive Tribe
1&2	Bihar & Chhatisgarh	Asur, Birhor, Birja Korma, Mal Pahana, Parttlaya, Savar Sauria Pahana Hill Kharia

3.	Madhya Pradesh	Abujhmara, Baiga, Bharia Saharia, Hill Korwa, Kamar
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7.9 Here also, for each primitive tribe a population of 2000 is to be covered but wherever the total population is less than 2000, the same will only be covered.

7.10 The expected coverage in this project would be about 40,000. The approval of the Ministry has been received for extension phase but funds are yet to be received.

3(i) Prevention and control of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection among the primitive tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, RMRC, Port Blair.

7.11 This project was started in January, 2000 for a period of 4 years with the coverage as under:-

State	District	Primitive Tribe	Population covered
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Andaman & Nicobar	Shompens & others	Hepatitis B vaccination was administered to 942 persons and 1334 school children

3(ii) Intervention programme for Cholera, Intestinal Parasitism, Vit. A Deficiency and Scabies amongst the Primitive Tribes of Orissa, RMRC, Bhubaneswar.

7.12 This project was started in March 2000 for a period of 5 years. The coverage is indicated below:-

State	District	Primitive Tribe	Population covered
Orissa	Koraput Malkangiri Dhenkanal Phulbani and Keonjhar	Bondo, Didayi Kondha and Jaunga	1849 (Bondo 526, Didayi 683, Konda 361, Jaunga 279)

3(iii) Intervention for Hereditary common Hemolytic disorders among the major tribals of Sundargarh District of Orissa, RMRC, Bhubaneswar.

7.13 This project was started in February 2000 for a period of 5 years with the coverage indicated as under:-

State	District	Primitive Tribe	Population covered
Orissa	Sundargarh	Kharia	596

7.14 It is planned to take up two more tribes, Bhuyan and Munda under this project.

7.15 The research schemes for PTGs by ICMR cover about 15% of the total population of PTGs. ICMR does these studies in research mode and the provision of Health facilities and Medical staff is not in the purview of ICMR. The Council is willing to undertake studies in other areas in phased manner, if the funds are made available through WHO or GOI.

7.16 The Indian Council of Medical Research has undertaken some pilot projects specifically for PTGs. On the basis of the outcome of the pilot projects this scheme can be extended to other areas. However, the existing schemes of Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Health Department of States/UT. Administration seek to provide adequate health facilities and medical infrastructure for the PTGs inhabiting remote areas.

7.17 When asked about the efforts made by the State Governments and NGOs in implementing health and education related schemes for the PTGs, the Committee have been informed that both State Governments and NGOs are making efforts for implementation of various health and educational schemes for the development of PTGs. The schemes include health camps in PTGs areas, distribution of free medicines. The State-wise position as per information available is given below:

(i) **Orissa:** In the State of Orissa, Gyan Mandir Institute for meeting the basic minimum necessities of each and every individual have been established. These Institutions function like nursing for the children, adult education, training in the field of health and hygiene etc.

(ii) **Madhya Pradesh:** The health camps in Primitive Tribal Group area on market days provide free health care check up and assist them with medical aid and distribution of spectacles etc.

Free medicine and equipment to health institutions in Primitive Tribes Group area, reimbursement of medical bills are some of the schemes being implemented for the Primitive Tribal Groups.

(iii) Karnataka: Vivekananda Girijanakalyana Kendra, B.R. Hills, Vivekananda Youth Movement, H.D. Kote, Spoorthi Rural Development Society Kundapura are involved in providing Health and Education to the PTGs.

(iv) Andaman & Nicobar Island: Primary Health Center at Kadamtala and Tushnabad have been set up to provide health facilities to the members of the PTGs. There is a medical sub-center manned by a Doctor at Dugong Creek, a medical sub-center manned by a pharmacist at Strait Island and a medical sub-center at Shompen Hut Complex have been set up. In addition, for increasing literacy among the PTGs in the UT Administration, there is a Middle School at Great Andamanese Settlement at Strait Island and a Primary School at Onge Settlement at Dugong Creek. The incentives like free uniforms, free books, mid-day meals have also been provided to the tribal children for attending the schools.

Education:

7.18 The Committee enquired about the level of literacy among the PTGs. The Ministry have informed that according to 1991 Census the rate of literacy among the tribal communities was 29.60% . Female literacy was 18.10%. Among the PTGs, the average literacy rate is estimated at 10%.

7.19 On being asked whether any steps have been taken to improve the level of literacy among the PTGs, the Ministry have stated that since introduction of new Central Sector Scheme for the development of PTGs, emphasis have been given on education in addition to other activities. However under State plan and centrally sponsored schemes, State Governments and UT Administration have set up residential schools, hostels and ashram schools for imparting education. According to 1991 Census, 134 Districts in the country had less than 10% literacy among the STs women. Many of the PTGs are found in these Districts. Considering the importance of the role of women in tribal society, a Central Sector Scheme of Educational Complex in low literacy pockets is working in the States/UT. The extent of assistance under the scheme is 100% to the institutions/organisations set up by Government which are autonomous bodies under a statute or as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. In addition, NGOs working in the tribal area could also avail the benefit of the scheme.

7.20 The Ministry have also stated that in addition to important central and centrally sponsored schemes like educational complexes in low literacy pocket, boys and girls hostels, grants to NGOs etc. the Department of Education, Government of India through the State Governments have been implementing various incentive schemes to check the dropout rates among the STs especially the PTGs. The Tenth Five Year Plan has emphasized the development of education among the Scheduled tribes, especially the PTGs.

7.21 As regards the number of schools, hostels, ashram schools, residential schools etc. set up for imparting education to the PTGs, the Ministry have stated that since 1998-99 under the Central Sector Scheme for development of PTGs, funds have been sanctioned for setting up of 7 hostels and 2 primary schools as education is one of the priorities for development of PTGs.

7.22 In reply to a query, the Committee have been informed that as these groups have primitive traits, a distinctive culture etc. they are not exposed to the modern environment due to their habitation in remote and hilly areas. The modern educational facilities have not reached them due to their strong cultural values and beliefs and as such, it requires lot of persuasion to make them accept services under the schemes and programmes of the Government/NGOs. However, Government are making efforts through awareness generation programmes to provide them educational facilities at their doorstep.

Housing:

7.23 The Committee have also been informed that assistance for construction of pucca houses are provided by State Government/UTs out of SCA to TSP, Grants-in-aid under Article 275(1), Indira Awas Yojana of Ministry of Rural Development and State Sector Schemes.

7.24 On being asked to state the number of pucca houses constructed for the PTGs so far, the Ministry have stated that according to the information received from the following States, each State Government is making sincere efforts for providing funds for construction of houses. The State-wise details are as under:-

Andhra Pradesh: Semi permanent houses are being constructed for STs in the State. The pucca houses constructed for PTGs exclusively are very limited.

Karnataka: Out of 9506 PTG families in the State, 6727 have been provided with pucca houses.

Madhya Pradesh: In the year 2000-2001, 78 persons were provided pucca houses.

Orissa: Micro Project functioning for all round development of PTGs in the State are taking adequate steps for providing fire proof houses from out of the project funds. The project authorities have further been coordinating with the district authorities for providing pucca houses to the PTG families under Indira Awas Yojana. The data on number of pucca houses is not readily available with the State Government.

Rajasthan: During the last three years, 165 Pucca houses were constructed for Saharia PTG under Indira Awas Yojana.

Tripura: No pucca houses have been constructed for the PTG families so far. But the State Government has upgraded 9111 houses of PTGs under shelter assistance scheme.

Andaman & Nicobar Island: 26 houses were built and provided to Onges settled at Dungong Creek, 6 houses provided to Onges at South Bay in 1978 and 8 houses provided to Great Andamanese at Strait Island. 13 houses have so far been reconstructed and the works on the remaining houses were in progress.

7.25 The Committee note with concern that only 13 Mobile Dispensaries have been sanctioned to provide health care facilities to the PTGs in six States. There are no Primary Health Centers/Health Sub-Centers functioning exclusively in the PTG areas. Therefore, the identified PTGs have to avail health care facilities from the medical centers functioning in the tribal areas. The Committee observe that the health care facilities for the PTGs are grossly inadequate particularly for the groups who are living in remote, hilly and inaccessible areas. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that adequate number of Mobile Dispensaries, Primary Health Centers, Sub-Centers, Community Health Centers etc. which may exclusively cater to the PTGs should be set up in the areas of their habitation. The Committee also desire that Project Directors of ITDPs should conduct health surveys among the PTGs regularly and ensure that medicines and other life saving drugs are made available on demand.

7.26 The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare specifically for the health care of the PTGs.

ICMR has undertaken some pilot projects and research studies in some PTG areas but since provision of health facilities and medical staff is not within the purview of ICMR, the Committee desire that the Ministry should take up the matter with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide adequate funds through its resources or approach WHO for undertaking studies in other areas also in a phased manner. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should pursue the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to make all out efforts to provide health care facilities and medical infrastructure for the PTGs living in hilly and inaccessible areas.

7.27 The Committee note that the average rate of literacy among the PTGs is estimated at 10% only as compared to the rate of literacy among the whole tribal communities which is 29.60% according to the 1991 census. The Committee view the situation seriously and recommend that the Ministry should make all out efforts for the spread of literacy among the PTGs during the Tenth Five Year Plan by ensuring that children of PTGs are enrolled in the schools, hostels, ashram schools and educational complexes set up for imparting education to the tribal students in general and the PTGs in particular. The Committee further desire that incentives to check the dropout rates among the PTGs should be made more attractive. The Committee also urge the Ministry to approach the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education and State Education Departments for construction of more schools in PTG areas for raising the level of literacy among the PTGs.

7.28 The Committee note that very few States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, have constructed pucca houses/upgraded the houses for the PTGs but the number of pucca houses constructed by them have been very limited. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the States/UT vigorously to provide adequate funds for construction of pucca houses as per the needs and lifestyle of the PTGs.

CHAPTER VIII

MONITORING OF THE SCHEME

8.1 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry were satisfied with the implementation of various schemes taken up by them for the socio-economic upliftment of the PTGs so as to bring them into the mainstream. The Ministry have stated that they are not fully satisfied with the implementation of various schemes by the States/UT for socio-economic upliftment of PTGs. The funds earmarked for the purpose are at times utilised by the States/UT for other purposes. The administrative cost and other expenditures towards the implementation of programmes are comparatively higher than the achievements. The States/UT are not strictly following the guidelines issued by the Ministry.

8.2 On being asked whether the Ministry have a system of ensuring that the benefits of the schemes formulated for the development of PTGs have actually reached them, the Committee have been informed that in order to ensure proper implementation of the programmes for the welfare of PTGs, the Ministry usually reviews the programmes through discussions with the State representatives as well as through field visits. In addition, the State Governments/UT Administration have their own monitoring mechanism to evaluate the implementation of the programmes.

8.3 The steps/measures suggested to persuade the State Governments to ensure implementation of the programmes for PTGs are as mentioned below:-

- (a) On the spot visit by the officers in-charge of the programmes
- (b) The committees constituted at the district/ITDP levels should regularly review the programmes. In addition, the State Tribal Welfare Department should conduct half yearly and annual meetings with the representatives of the implementing agencies in order to assess the implementation of the programmes.
- (c) Regular annual action plan for each PTG based on a baseline survey should be prepared by the concerned State Governments.

8.4 When enquired whether the Ministry have not felt a need to evaluate the impact of the Central Sector Scheme for PTGs so that corrective measures can be taken both on the planning and execution part, the Committee have been informed that since the Central Sector Scheme for the development of PTGs started in 1998-99, no separate evaluation studies have been conducted to evaluate the impact of the scheme. The Ministry has

further stated that it will sponsor through Non-Governmental Research Organisation to undertake evaluation study on sample basis to ascertain the impact of this scheme.

8.5 The Committee note with grave concern that funds earmarked for the development of PTGs are at times utilised by the States/UT for meeting the administrative costs and that other expenditure towards the implementation of programmes are comparatively higher. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should strengthen its monitoring over the schemes by keeping a close watch on the pace of expenditure incurred by States/UT and ensure that funds are not diverted for other purposes in any case. The Committee also feel that evaluation study on the schemes for “Development of PTGs” is required in order to assess the progress made and difficulties faced in the implementation of the scheme. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to undertake evaluation studies for ascertaining the impact of the scheme at the earliest so that corrective measures can be taken both in planning and execution at the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

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Standing Committee on Labour
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NEW DELHI;
18 December, 2002
27 Agrahayana, 1924 (Saka)