



**TWELFTH REPORT**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT  
(2019-20)**

**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS**

**Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

**Presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 10.09.2020**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on \_\_\_\_\_**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on \_\_\_\_\_**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**September, 2020/Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)**

**SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
4. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
5. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
6. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
7. Shri Y. Devendrappa
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
9. Shri Hans Raj Hans
10. Shri Abdul Khaleque
11. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
12. Smt. Geeta Kora
13. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
14. Shri Vijay Kumar
15. Shri Akshaibar Lal
16. Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze
17. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
- #18. Shri Prince Raj
19. Shri Arjun Singh
20. Smt. Supriya Sule
21. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
- \*23. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
- \*26. Shri Biswajit Daimary
- \*27. Shri Ashok Gasti
- \*28. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
29. Shri P. L. Punia
- \*30. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

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# Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 09.12.2019.

\* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 22.07.2020.

## LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
3. Smt. P. Jyoti - Deputy Secretary

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2019-20) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Twelfth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 14.05.2020. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 06.08.2020.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix.

4. For facility of reference observations/recommendations/comments of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;  
6 August, 2020  
15 Shravana, 1942 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Social Justice and  
Empowerment

## CHAPTER - I

### REPORT

1.1 This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Third Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2019-20)" of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

1.2 The Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. It contained 9 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

**Paragraphs Nos. 3.9, 5.16, 6.14, 6.15 and 7.11**

**(Total: 5, Chapter-II)**

- (ii) Observation/Recommendation which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

**Paragraph No. 2.10**

**(Total: 1, Chapter-III)**

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and hence require reiteration:

**Paragraphs Nos. 4.13, and 5.17**

**(Total: 2, Chapter-IV)**

- (iv) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which reply of the Government are of interim in nature:

**Paragraph No. 7.12**

**(Total: 1, Chapter-V)**

**1.3 The Committee desire that Action Taken Replies on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken in respect of the Recommendation contained in Chapter-V of this Report for which interim reply have been given by the Government, may be furnished at the earliest and in any case not later than three months after the presentation of this Report.**

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the replies received from the Ministry, which need reiteration or merit comments.

**A. Eklavya Model Residential Schools**

**Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)**

1.5 The Committee, in their Third Report, had recommended as follows:

“The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in Government and public and private sectors, but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population. The Committee note that EMRS has since been carved out as a separate scheme in 2019-20 and from this year onwards EMRS will be treated separately from Article 275 (1) of the Constitution and a budget of ₹31 lakh has been allotted to it for this year alone.

The Scheme is in operation for the last 22 years and out of 438 sanctioned EMRS, only 284 are functional although 302 EMRS are also due for sanctioning. The Committee also note that out of 564 sub-districts having 50% ST population, only 102 have EMRS. The reason submitted by the Ministry for less EMRS include delay in construction in school building, difficult to find alternative building, unavailability of the land and delay in submitting of proposals by States. The Ministry have now assured that by the year 2022, total number of EMRS will be 740. The Committee note that several field visits by the Ministry officials have been undertaken in order to see the progress of EMRS. Based on these findings, directions have been issued to State Governments to take necessary action to improve the condition of EMRS.

However, the Committee observe that the meetings of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) with State Governments are not yielding the desired results and hence apprehensive about the completion of all 740 EMRS till the year 2022 which is just 3 years away.

The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to speed up their efforts with respect to EMRS for maximum benefit of the target group and ensure strict monitoring for the same. Also, the Committee recommend that at least one EMRS should be sanctioned for every ST district and be made functional. The Committee further desire that the Ministry should formulate a mechanism to closely and regularly monitor different stages of completion of EMRS infrastructure in all States and UTs.”

1.6 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken reply, have stated as follows:

“As per decision of CCEA in December, 2018, every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20000 tribal people is to have an EMRS. Accordingly, 462 new EMRS are scheduled to be opened across the country, out of which 150 EMRS have already been sanctioned. Further, with the objective of effective implementation and monitoring of the scheme, a dedicated society i.e. National Educational Society for Tribal Students, has been established at national level which will closely monitor and administer construction and operationalization of schools. This society will monitor execution of work and will function in close coordination with State Societies to achieve the target in a time bound manner.”

**1.7 The Committee had recommended that at least one EMRS should be sanctioned for every ST district and be made functional. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated that as per the decision of CCEA in December, 2018, every block having more than 50 per cent ST population and atleast 20,000 Tribal people is to have one EMRS hence 462 new EMRS would be opened, out of which 150 stand sanctioned. The Committee fail to understand the logic behind sanctioning further EMRS when in the last 22 years only 284 have become actually functional. A new body called 'National Educational Society for Tribal Students' is stated to have been established to monitor the progress now. The Committee desire to be apprised about its mandate, membership, modus operandi and powers to speed up the construction of EMRS. They also desire to know whether a specific target and suitable action plan for the coming years have been devised to ensure that in the next 3 years, 740 EMRS would start functioning.**

## **B. National Overseas Scholarship Schemes**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.17)**

1.8 The Committee, in their Third Report had recommended as follows:

“The objective of the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme is to provide financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post Graduate, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Research Programme. Under the scheme 17 awards are sanctioned to ST students and 3 to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) students per year. Total 20 students are benefitted through this scheme.

The Committee, however, note with concern that during 2016-17,2017-18 and 2018-19 only 2, 12 and 16 students, respectively, joined the universities abroad which does not fulfill even the tiny slot of 20. The Ministry is in agreement and plans to increase the slot next fiscal, which the Committee appreciate. The Committee are also of the opinion that lack of awareness among the ST students could also be one of the reasons for weak performance of the scheme. For instance, the Tribal Department website of Assam Government gives a one-line information on the scholarship scheme and the window for application just shows that it will be notified shortly. The Committee are appalled at such apathy of a few State Governments towards the welfare of STs and feel that the Ministry should have been alert to such lapses. Now the Committee desire them to carry out an inspection of all State Government websites to ensure maximum publicity of all ST welfare schemes including the scholarship scheme.”

1.9 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken reply, have stated as follows:

“The observation/recommendation of the committee have been noted for compliance.”

**1.10 The Committee had observed in their original Report that lack of awareness among ST students could be one of the reasons for weak performance of National Overseas Scholarship Scheme. Citing the very inadequate information on the scheme on the website of one State Government as an example, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry should carry out an inspection of all State Government websites to ensure maximum publicity of all Tribal Welfare Schemes including the Scholarship Schemes. The Committee are anguished to find that the Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have merely stated that “the observation/recommendation of the Committee have been noted for compliance” without mentioning any steps taken by them actually in this regard. The Committee feel that availability of latest information pertaining to all the Schemes including Scholarship schemes on the State Government's websites is a very important step for awareness generation among the tribal students of the State. Hence, the Committee while reiterating their earlier recommendation exhort the Ministry to refrain from casual reply and issue instructions to all the State Governments to provide updated information pertaining to all the welfare schemes including Scholarship Schemes on their websites followed by inspection of the same by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Committee wish to have a specific report on the same. As the Ministry had also informed at the time of examination of DFG (2019-20) that they are planning to increase the slot of 20 students per year under the Scheme, the Committee desire to be informed about the progress, if any, made on this matter also.**

## **C. Tribal Healthcare**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 7.12)**

1.11 The Committee, in their Third Report, had recommended as follows:

“The Committee find that the main components of this Scheme are Health, Education and infrastructure. However, there is a shortage of Medical Centres, Mobile dispensaries and doctors in tribal areas which must be rectified. The Committee also opine that due to major mining activities in tribal pockets, the workforce are basically tribal people who suffer from specific respiratory and skin problems and various type of fevers. Even the rampant malnutrition among tribal children is a cause for worry. Considering these facts, the Committee desire the Ministry to make concerted efforts in posting of efficient doctors in ST districts, opening of more medical centres and mobile dispensaries.”

1.12 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken reply, have stated as follows:

“Ministry releases grant-in-aid to the NGOs/VOs for running and maintenance of Ten or more Bedded Hospitals, Mobile Dispensaries on the recommendations of the State Level Committee of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations and concerned District Collector/Commissioner. As the scheme is demand-driven, in view of the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the Ministry will take up the matter with the State Governments/UT Administrations for appropriate action on the observations/ recommendations of the Standing Committee.

This Ministry has prepared a Tribal Health Action Plan which was shared with NITI Aayog, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, AYUSH and with States in November, 2019. There have been few rounds of discussion on this Plan with NITI Aayog and MoHFW and a joint VC was also called of State Tribal Secretaries and Health Secretaries with Secy, MoHFW and Secy, Tribal Affairs with their officers.

Keeping in view the shortage of health facilities in PHC deficient areas and poorly accessible areas, the Health Action Plan may be adopted for mapping with tribal Blocks which do not have PHC/CHC or have deficient Health Services on PPP Model.

The Model works at three level:

Level 1 – Tertiary Health Care Facility, Medical College Hospital

Level 2 – Tribal Primary Health Centre (TPHC), Mobile Medical Clinic & MCH Clinic, Motorbike Ambulance (Within the jurisdiction of TPHC), Medical Ambulance (4 wheeler for OHC to Higher level hospital)

Level 3 – Community Village Health Services, One Gra, Arogya Bank, Arogya Mitra & Traditional Healer, One Female Health Volunteer/ ASHA for every 50 families.

The activities under the above mentioned action plan would be monitored through Tribal Health & Nutrition Web Portal. Moreover, This Ministry has made Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences as its Centre of Excellence who has been asked to work on curriculum for Tribal Healers so that they can be brought into the mainstream. In order to have coordinated efforts, TRI Uttrakhand has been designated nodal TRI to compile work done by different stake holders like AIIMS Jodhpur, Patanjali Research Institute, Ma Amrita Vishvapeetam, NIPER and others in indigenous knowledge available and to bring tribal healers in Health Services.”

**1.13 Keeping in view the shortage of Medical facilities in tribal areas, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry should make efforts for opening of more Medical Centres and mobile dispensaries with availability of doctors in such areas. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry have prepared a Tribal Health Action Plan, there have been few rounds of discussion on the Plan with NITI Aayog, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Tribal and Health Secretaries of the State Governments and few medical institutes have been identified to carry out tasks of bringing tribal healers in Health services, developing a curriculum for them and for other coordinated efforts. The Committee also note the Ministry's contention that keeping in view the shortage of health facilities in PHC deficient areas and remote areas, the Tribal Health Action Plan may be used for mapping with tribal blocks which have poor Health Services on PPP Model. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should make sincere efforts for early completion of all the consultations and other formalities with various stakeholders and implement the National Tribal Health Plan at the earliest so that health related issues among tribals are addressed effectively. The Committee desire that a time frame may be identified and adhered to strictly for the same.**

## CHAPTER - II

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

#### Recommendation (Para 3.9)

2.1 The Committee note that during the year 2019-20 funds allocated to the scheme of Grants under First Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India are Rs. 2662.55 crore whereas expenditure upto 30.09.2019 was only Rs. 1390.30 crore. From the information furnished to them on the 27 States which received grants, the Committee observed that performance of some States was pathetic. Assam, Goa, Kerala and Uttarakhand showed zero utilisation in 2017-18, 2018-19 or both due to which no fund could be released.

The Committee are happy to note that senior officers of the Ministry have been allotted specific States and they visit those States for monitoring. The Committee desire that details of these officers can be shared with MPs/MLAs belonging to these States so as to take their feedback and help.

#### Reply of the Government

2.2 This suggestion has been noted and the concerned officers are being advised to contact the local MPs/MLAs for their feedback and help.

[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]

#### Recommendation (Para 5.16)

2.3 The Committee note with deep concern that the rate of maintenance allowance for degree/Post Graduate/PhD. and other courses for hostlers and day scholars of different courses ranges from maximum Rs. 230 to 550 for day scholars and Rs. 380 to 1200 for hostlers. As the amount is very meagre, it needs to be revised keeping in view the rising cost of education. The Committee are sad that this allowance has not been revised since the year 2010. As a result, poor ST students must be struggling hard to complete their education. Therefore, the Committee desire the Ministry to address this issue on priority basis.

The Ministry informed the Committee that the details of beneficiaries maintained by States/UTs are uploaded by them on the DBT MIS portal. The Committee further note that the Ministry are continuously striving to reduce the time lag between the date of application and the disbursement of allowance. This is to ensure that the scholarship is released in the same academic year. They hope that such efforts will continue. The Committee also observe delay in uploading data on the part of States for the year 2018-19 like Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Tripura while completing the process of disbursement and thus feel that the Ministry should emphasise upon the States for uploading beneficiary data in time and ensure that students receives scholarship amount with minimum delay. As now the on-line monitoring software of the Ministry is functional, the Committee desire that the Ministry should pay utmost attention towards analysing the data fed in its modules and alert the defaulters in real time so that the Scheme of Post- Matric Scholarship proves to be a valuable support for ST students to raise their educational status.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 The concerns of the Committee regarding the amount of maintenance allowance for degree / Post Graduate / PhD will be taken into consideration while revising the plan guidelines of Post-Matric Scholarship scheme for ST students. Further, the Ministry is in constant touch with the State /UT Govts regarding the uploading the beneficiary data in time and to ensure that students receives scholarship amount with minimum delay. A training programme was also organised for States/UTs on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 regarding the uploading of data on the DBT-MIS portal.

[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]

### **Recommendation (Para 6.14)**

2.5 The Committee note that TRIs have been established for tribal development, preservation of tribal culture and providing inputs to States through various activities viz. research studies, evaluation studies, organization of training/seminar/workshop, organizing of tribal festivals etc. The Committee note that some of the TRIs have not been functioning properly due to vacant posts. As new TRIs are being planned, the

Committee are apprehensive whether those will prove to be any good or will just be white elephants. The Committee feel that information technology is advanced enough now to manage all activities in a central place hence establishing a National TRI should suffice. However, its location should be revisited as preferably such an institution should be in a State having the largest ST population like Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 Since 2014-15, efforts have been made to revamp and strengthen the functioning of TRIs in the State to evolve them as a body of knowledge & research and as a think tank for tribal development and preservation of art and culture of tribal people. The annual outlay of the Scheme 'Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)' has been enhanced from Rs. 21.00 crore in 2016-17 to Rs. 80.00 crore in 2017-18 and Rs. 110.00 crore in 2019-20.

TRI Uttarakhand has been made nodal TRI for coordination of research works being conducted for tribal medicine by various CoEs and TRIs so as to create a centralized knowledge hub on the subject.

MoTA will entrust other subjects to other TRIs also for PAN India coordination and management of centralized information system on other subjects in an online mode. Accordingly, the functioning of State TRI will be strengthened.

As regards National TRI, it has been decided by competent authority to have it in Delhi NCR.

[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]

### **Recommendation (Para 6.15)**

2.7 The Committee were informed that at present there is no tribal university under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Committee further note that there is a regional campus of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in Manipur with just five departments. Moreover, it is located at the border line of tribal area. The Committee believe that the establishment of a full fledged tribal university in a tribal area would encourage more ST students to take up higher education. With the improvement in the education sector, the tribal students can pursue what they want to and secure jobs in their field of interest.

This would overall improve the condition of tribal families and uplift them financially. The Committee are aware that universities come under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Hence, they desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should approach and pursue with them to examine the proposal of establishment of a full fledged Tribal University in States having very large ST population viz. Tripura, Meghalaya, Odisha etc. so that tribal people can be benefitted.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 The suggestions of the Committee have been noted.

[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]

### **Recommendation (Para 7.11)**

2.9 The prime objective of Grants-in-aid to Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is to stimulate the growth of service deficient tribal areas in sectors like education, health and sanitation etc. The Committee observe that budget allocated for the fiscal year 2019-20 is Rs. 110 crore. The Ministry have spent approximately Rs. 6 crore upto 30.09.2019. The Committee note with concern that upto 30.09.2019 merely 5% of the total budget could be spent. It has been informed that the NGO portal is compelled to have many closing and opening dates to accommodate the processing of applications leading to delay in release of grants. Hence the Committee recommend that the communication module of the portal should be made more interactive to readily provide advice and resolve queries to speed up the procedures.

The Committee also desire a foolproof monitoring mechanism for NGOs/VOs associated with the scheme to ensure maximum benefit to the target population. A multi phase monitoring system can be designed to check release of funds and the work progress of the NGOs and VOs.

## **Reply of the Government**

2.10 The observations/recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2019-20) (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' have been noted for compliance.

The communication module of the portal would be made more interactive to readily provide advice and resolve queries to speed up the procedures.

The monitoring mechanisms of NGOs/VOs are as under:-

- a. Mandatory Annual Inspection by the District Authorities;
- b. Examination by Multidisciplinary State Committee of the State Governments /UT Administrations;
- c. Submission of Annual Audited Accounts by the NGOs/VOs;
- d. The Special Inspections of the NGOs/VOs are undertaken by the Officials of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and other agencies like TRIFED/NCST/NSTFDC and independent agencies appointed by the Ministry, as and when required.

Further, usage of PFMS Expenditure Advance Transfer (EAT) Module by NGOs/VOs is a mandatory requirement for release of funds under the scheme. Ministry has already provided sufficient training to the ongoing NGOs to adapt to the new requirement.

Besides, Ministry has appointed Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF), which has been appointed as a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for verifying and grading new projects recommended by State Governments.

[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]

## CHAPTER - III

### OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

#### Recommendation (Para 2.10)

3.1 The Committee note that BE of 2019-20 was to the tune of 6894.96 crore, as against the Ministry's projected demand of Rs. 9406.03 crore while the expenditure as on 30.09.2019 reported was Rs. 4529.89 crore which comes around 65.69 % of the total allocation.

The Committee find that in some of the important schemes the actual expenditure was very low which are as follows:

- i. Grants to Assam Government under clause (A) of the second Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution: Expenditure was nil against the allocation of Rs. 0.01 lakh.
- ii. Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS): Expenditure was nil against the allocation of Rs. 0.31 lakh.
- iii. Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of STs: Expenditure was Rs. 5.86 crore against the allocation of Rs. 110 crore.
- iv. Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP): Expenditure was Rs. 50.91 crore against the allocation of Rs. 130 crore which is less than 50%.
- v. Tribal Festivals, Research Information and Mass Education: Expenditure was Rs. 0.47 lakh against the allocation of Rs. 24 crore.
- vi. Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas (EAP) and Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana: The expenditure was nil against the allocation of Rs. 0.01 lakh.

The Ministry cited the same reasons like non-receipt of complete proposals/non-submission of Utilization Certificates/Physical Progress Report for the same.

In this connection, the Committee note that a TRI portal has been developed with a view to provide online solutions including processing of proposals sanctioned and

release and outcome monitoring, which is likely to be launched. While appreciating the same, the Committee desires the portal to be launched immediately so that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is able to bring desired impact on welfare of STs. The report of evaluation studies of these schemes must be followed up too. The Committee also desire that the revised guidelines of schemes must be implemented sincerely.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.2 (a) Allocation under 'Grants to Assam Government under clause (A) of the second Proviso' is only token provision. Demand of Government of Assam is being met from the budget allocated under "Grants under Article 275 (1) of Constitution of India" and this allocation will also be utilized for the purpose.

(b) The scheme of EMRS was one of the components under "Grants under Article 275(1)" till last year. This year separate budget head has been created for the scheme of EMRS. However, since only token amount is allocated under new objects heads during current year, therefore, the requirement is being met from the budget allocation of Article 275(1). The token amount allocated under EMRS will also being utilized for the purpose.

(c) Under the scheme "Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP) till date this Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 105.21 crore i.e. 80.93% against the allocation of Rs. 130.00 Crore. However, the scheme being demand driven, sincere efforts are being made to streamline the plan of expenditure. The State Governments are repeatedly reminded of such matters from time to time in writing and on telephone. Regular meetings are also made with the State representatives. The report of the evaluation studies have been received which is under examination in the Ministry.

(d) Out of total allocation of Rs. 24 crores under Tribal Festivals, Research Information and Mass Education an amount of Rs.23.71 crores expended i.e. 98.79 % during the year 2019-20.

(e) Development Programmes in Tribal Areas (EAP) and Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana (VBKY) is an overarching strategy of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) for the development of tribal population. MoTA is implementing various schemes namely, Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS), Scheme of

Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Pre-Matric Scholarships to ST Students, Post Matric Scholarships to ST Students, National Overseas Scholarships for ST Students for Studying Abroad, National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students, Support to Tribal Research Institutes, Scheme of Centers of Excellence, Scheme of Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organization working for welfare of Schedule Tribes and provides grants under Article 275 (1) under the constitution of India.

These schemes are implemented to complement the initiatives of other line Ministries and State Governments with the objective of bridging the developmental gaps between tribal population and other population and to bring perceptible improvement in the quality of life of the tribal population. As such VBKY is no longer a separate scheme. The amount of Rs. 0.01 lakh shown as unspent against VBKY was only a token provision.

[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]

## CHAPTER - IV

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND HENCE REQUIRE REITERATION

#### Recommendation (Para 4.13)

4.1 The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors, but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population. The Committee note that EMRS has since been carved out as a separate scheme in 2019-20 and from this year onwards EMRS will be treated separately from Article 275 (1) of the Constitution and a budget of Rs. 31 lakh has been allotted to it for this year alone.

The Scheme is in operation for the last 22 years and out of 438 sanctioned EMRS, only 284 are functional although 302 EMRS are also due for sanctioning. The Committee also note that out of 564 sub-districts having 50% ST population, only 102 have EMRS. The reason submitted by the Ministry for less EMRS include delay in construction in school building, difficult to find alternative building, unavailability of the land and delay in submitting of proposals by States. The Ministry have now assured that by the year 2022, total number of EMRS will be 740. The Committee note that several field visits by the Ministry officials have been undertaken in order to see the progress of EMRS. Based on these findings, directions have been issued to State Governments to take necessary action to improve the condition of EMRS.

However, the Committee observe that the meetings of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) with State Governments are not yielding the desired results and hence apprehensive about the completion of all 740 EMRS till the year 2022 which is just 3 years away.

The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to speed up their efforts with respect to EMRS for maximum benefit of the target group and ensure strict monitoring for the same. Also, the Committee recommend that at least one EMRS should be sanctioned for every ST district and be made functional. The Committee further desire that the Ministry should formulate a mechanism to closely and regularly monitor different stages of completion of EMRS infrastructure in all States and UTs.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.2 As per decision of CCEA in December, 2018, every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20000 tribal people is to have an EMRS. Accordingly, 462 new EMRS is scheduled to be opened across the country, out of which 150 EMRS have already been sanctioned. Further, with the objective of effective implementation and monitoring of the scheme a dedicated society i.e. National Educational Society for Tribal Students have been established at national level which will closely monitor and administer construction and operationalization of schools. This society will monitor execution of work and will function in close coordination with State Societies to achieve the target in a time bound manner.

**[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]**

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

### **Recommendation (Para 5.17)**

4.3 The objective of the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme is to provide financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post Graduate, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Research Programme. Under the scheme 17 awards are sanctioned to ST students and 3 to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) students per year. Total 20 students are benefitted through this scheme.

The Committee, however, note with concern that during 2016-17,2017-18 and 2018-19 only 2 students, 12 students and 16 students respectively joined the universities abroad which does not fulfill even the tiny slot of 20. The Ministry is in agreement and plans to increase the slot next fiscal, which the Committee appreciate. The Committee are also of the opinion that lack of awareness among the ST students could also be one of the reasons for weak performance of the scheme. For instance, the Tribal Department website of Assam Government gives a one-line information on the scholarship scheme and the window for application just shows that it will be notified shortly. The Committee are appalled at such apathy of a few State Governments towards the welfare of STs and feel that the Ministry should have been alert to such lapses. Now the Committee desire them to carry out an inspection of all State Government websites to ensure maximum publicity of all ST welfare schemes including the scholarship schemes.

### **Reply of the Government**

The observation / recommendation of the committee have been noted for compliance.

**[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]**

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

## CHAPTER - V

### OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE OF INTERIM IN NATURE

#### Recommendation (Para 7.12)

5.1 The Committee find that the main components of this Scheme are Health, Education and infrastructure. However, there is a shortage of Medical Centres, Mobile dispensaries and doctors in tribal areas which must be rectified. The Committee also opine that due to major mining activities in tribal pockets, the workforce are basically tribal people who suffer from specific respiratory and skin problems and various type of fevers. Even the rampant malnutrition among tribal children is a cause for worry. Considering these facts, the Committee desire the Ministry to make concerted efforts in posting of efficient doctors in ST districts, opening of more medical centres and mobile dispensaries.

#### Reply of the Government

5.2 Ministry releases grant-in-aid to the NGOs/VOs for running and maintenance of Ten or more Bedded Hospitals, Mobile Dispensaries on the recommendations of the State Level Committee of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations and concerned District Collector/Commissioner. As the scheme is demand-driven, in view of the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the Ministry will take up the matter with the State Governments/UT Administrations for appropriate action on the observations/recommendations of the Standing Committee.

This Ministry has prepared Tribal Health Action Plan which was shared with NITI Aayog, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, AYUSH and with States in November, 2019. There have been few rounds of discussion on this Plan with NITI Aayog and MoHFW and a joint VC was also called of State Tribal Secretaries and Health Secretaries with Secy, MoHFW and Secy, Tribal Affairs with their officers.

Keeping in view the shortage of health facilities in PHC deficient areas and poorly accessible areas, the Health Action Plan may be adopted for mapping with tribal Blocks which do not have PHC/CHC or have deficient Health Services on PPP Model.

The Model works at three level:

Level 1 – Tertiary Health Care Facility, Medical College Hospital

Level 2 – Tribal Primary Health Centre (TPHC), Mobile Medical Clinic & MCH Clinic, Motorbike Ambulance (Within the jurisdiction of TPHC), Medical Ambulance ( 4 wheeler for OHC to Higher level hospital)

Level 3 – Community Village Health Services, One Gra, Arogya Bank, Arogya Mitra & Traditional Healer, One Female Health Volunteer/ ASHA for every 50 families.

The activities under the above mentioned action plan would be monitored through Tribal Health & Nutrition Web Portal. Moreover, This Ministry has made Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences as its Centre of Excellence who has been asked to work on curriculum for Tribal Healers so that they can be brought into the mainstream. In order to have coordinated efforts, TRI Uttarakhand has been designated nodal TRI to compile work done by different stake holders like AIIMS Jodhpur, Patanjali Research Institute, Ma Amrita Vishvapeetam, NIPER and others in indigenous knowledge available and to bring tribal healers in Health Services.

**[F.No.16015/11/2019-PC (Pt), date:14/05/2020]**

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.13 of Chapter-I of the Report)

**NEW DELHI;**  
**6 August, 2020**  
**15 Shravana, 1942 (Saka)**

**RAMA DEVI**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Social Justice and**  
**Empowerment**

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20) HELD ON THURSDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020**

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Main Committee Room Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Y. Devendrappa
3. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
4. Shri Akshaibar Lal
5. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

**RAJYA SABHA**

6. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
7. Shri Ashok Gasti
8. Shri P.L. Punia
9. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
10. Shri Ramkumar Verma

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director

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2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of four Draft Action Taken Reports of the Committee on "Demands for Grants 2019-20" and taking evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

(Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) on “The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019”.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration of the following draft Reports for adoption:

(i) \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

(ii) \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

(iii) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Third Report on “Demand for Grants 2019-20” of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(iv) \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

4. The Committee adopted the aforesaid draft Reports without any amendment and authorised the Chairperson to present the Reports to Parliament or to the Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

5. \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

6. \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

7. \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

8. \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

***(The Committee then adjourned.)***

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\*\*\* Matter not related to this Report.

## APPENDIX

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRD REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20) ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2019-20)' OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
Total number of Recommendations	9	
(I) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government : <b>Paragraph Nos. - 3.9, 5.16, 6.14, 6.15 and 7.11</b>	5	55.56%
(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government : <b>Paragraph No. - 2.10</b>	1	11.11%
(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration: <b>Paragraph Nos. - 4.13 and 5.17</b>	2	22.22%
(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of in nature: <b>Paragraph No. - 7.12</b>	1	11.11%