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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT (2021-22)**

**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS**

*[Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained  
in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and  
Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)']*

**TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**December, 2021/Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)**

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**Presented to Lok Sabha on 17 December, 2021**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17 December, 2021**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

**December, 2021/Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2021-22)**

**SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Deepak (Dev) Adhikari
3. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
4. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
5. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
6. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
7. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
8. Shri Y. Devendrappa
9. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
10. Shri Hans Raj Hans
11. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
12. Shri Abdul Khaleque
13. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
14. Smt. Geeta Kora
15. Shri Vijay Kumar
16. Shri Akshaibar Lal
17. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
18. Shri Arjun Singh
19. Smt. Supriya Sule
20. Smt. Rekha Verma
21. Shri Tokheho Yephthomi

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla
23. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
24. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
25. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
26. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
27. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
28. Shri Narayan Koragappa
29. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
30. Smt. Chhaya Verma
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

## **LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
3. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Kamal Khurana - Executive Officer

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2021-22) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Twenty-seventh Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on “Demands for Grants (2021-22)” relating to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Nineteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the observations/recommendations contained therein on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Nineteenth 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 this Report.

NEW DELHI;

15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021  
24 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Social Justice and  
Empowerment

## **CHAPTER - I**

### **REPORT**

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in the Nineteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

1.2 The Nineteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. It contained 13 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under:-

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:  
**Paragraphs No. 2.14, 2.15, 3.16 and 3.18**  

**(Total: 4, Chapter-II)**
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:  
**Paragraphs No. 2.13, 6.9 and 7.10**  

**(Total: 3, Chapter-III)**
- (iii) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which reply of the Government has not been accepted and hence require reiteration:  
**Paragraphs Nos. 3.17**  

**(Total: 1, Chapter-IV)**
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:  
**Paragraphs No. 3.19, 3.20, 4.13, 5.17 and 5.18**  

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

1.3 The Committee desire that Action Taken Replies on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken notes in respect of the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report for which interim replies 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 some of the replies received from the Ministry which need reiteration or merit comments.

#### **A. EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.17)**

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

“The Committee note that there is no EMRSs functional in the States of Bihar and Meghalaya and UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Jammu & Kashmir. The Committee also find that in the State of Jharkhand, out of 79 sanctioned EMRSs only 13 EMRSs are functional. Similarly, in Odisha only 19 EMRSs are functional out of 70 sanctioned EMRSs as on 16.2.2021. The Committee desire that the Ministry, first of all, must ensure that all States enter into MOUs with NESTS so as to give requisite boost to their efforts with regard to construction of sanctioned schools well in time. They should particularly consult with all the State Governments where construction work of EMRSs is pending for more than two years for completing all the formalities like allotment of land, etc. and convince them to make sincere efforts for early completion of EMRSs for the educational upliftment of the tribal population.”

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

“The matter of operationalization of non-functional schools has been of utmost importance. This is being regularly reviewed with the concerned State Governments to ensure that all the non-functional schools are made operational from alternate buildings till the construction of the school is complete. However, given the remoteness of the location of the schools, many State Governments have expressed difficulties in locating alternative buildings. However this is being pursued regularly.

The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has already entered into an MoU with 24 out of 28 States/UTs with EMRS. The matter of sorting out of land related issued is also being reviewed regularly with the State Governments to



ensure early resolving of various issues. However the crisis posed by COVID-19 has resulted in certain delays since the district administrations have been at the forefront of fighting the pandemic. However, the same is being reviewed at the highest order.”

**1.7 The Committee had observed in their earlier recommendation that none of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools(EMRSs) sanctioned in the States of Bihar, Meghalaya and UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Jammu & Kashmir has been made functional. The Committee had further observed that for the States of Jharkhand and Odisha out of sanctioned 79 and 70 EMRSs respectively only 13 and 19 EMRSs were made functional. The Committee had therefore recommended that the States should enter into MoUs with the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) to boost their efforts with regard to construction of schools well in time. The reply of the Ministry on this matter lacks clarity. On one hand, it is mentioned that the matter of operationalization of non-functional schools is being regularly reviewed with the concerned State Governments to ensure that all the non-functional schools are made operational from alternate buildings till the construction of the school is complete. On the other hand the Ministry also states that given the remoteness of the location of the schools, many State Governments have expressed difficulties in locating alternative buildings. The Committee are not at all satisfied with the response of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as the plea of the Ministry with regard to difficulties in locating alternate buildings due to remoteness of the location of schools is far from convincing because most of the tribal areas are generally in far off /remote areas. Hence this reason cannot be a justified one. Moreover, now after creation of NESTS, the**

**Committee feel that any further delay in making the sanctioned schools functional should not happen. The Committee, therefore, recommend that sincere efforts should be made by the Ministry to identify suitable alternate buildings in coordination with State Governments even if they are slightly away from the location of the sanctioned schools and ensure that such Schools are made functional without further wastage of time so that the tribal children are not deprived from getting the education and the purpose of the Government to establish EMRS is not defeated. The Committee also find from the Action Taken reply that the NESTS has entered into an MoU with 24 out of 28 States/UTs so far. The Committee would like NESTS to expedite the matter without any further delay. The Committee would appreciate if the goals set by the Ministry are achieved now that NESTS and EMRS Society exist in States to manage the affairs of EMRS.**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.19)**

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

“The Committee note that for the purpose of effective monitoring and data driven decision making on the EMRSs, a dedicated MIS is being planned to be developed by the Ministry. The MIS will have school wise information relating to release of funds, utilization, progress of construction, and other activities. The Committee feel that once the MIS is developed by the Ministry, it will be very useful for effective monitoring of all the activities of each EMRS. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should fix a timeline and make sincere efforts to develop a dedicated MIS for monitoring of EMRSs without any delay.”

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

“The MIS has already been made live with the School Module and the Staff Module. The work on the remaining modules are underway and shall be made live.”

**1.10 The Committee had recommended the Ministry to develop a dedicated MIS for effective monitoring of all the activities of each EMRS in a fix timeline. As per the reply of the Ministry, MIS has been made live with the School and Staff Modules and the remaining modules are underway. The Committee are not satisfied with the pace of work as much time is apparently still required to develop a full fledged MIS for EMRS, which will display information like funds utilization and the progress of actual construction of each school. The Committee strongly believe that unless a full-fledged MIS is developed, the progress of EMRS Scheme cannot be monitored effectively. The Committee feel that the work may not progress as envisaged in the absence of proper monitoring. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a dedicated MIS with all the requisite features needs to be developed in a fixed time frame, say within three months, without further delay.**

## **B. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES**

### **Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations looking for the welfare of STs**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)**

**1.11 The Committee, in their Nineteenth Report, had recommended as follows:-**

“The Ministry is providing Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs to cater to comparatively service deficient tribal dominated areas, where direct outreach of the Government through its institutional mechanism was not adequate. The Committee note that in 2020-21, BE of ₹ 110 crore has been downsized to ₹ 60 crore at the RE stage under the scheme and the Ministry have utilized only ₹ 13.14 crore upto 31.01.2021. For low utilization of funds under the Scheme, the reason given is that schools and hostels run by NGOs were closed in 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee acknowledge that the reason has led to under-utilization to some extent but feel that since the NGOs are working not only in schools but also in other fields

including health and livelihood such an underutilization shows that virtually no activity was undertaken by the NGOs in the field of tribal welfare. Moreover the COVID-19 pandemic did not spread to remote tribal areas as fast as in other areas. The Committee feel that a better coordination mechanism established by the Ministry with the NGOs working in the field of health and sanitation, could have ensured that at least a reasonable amount is utilized by these NGOs at the time of pandemic to provide health facilities and create awareness about the situation. The Committee desire that Ministry should collect data from all the State Governments to know the actual expenditure in the health sector by these NGOs in the year 2020-21. The Committee recommend that Ministry should take sincere and effective steps for full utilization of funds under the Scheme by the end of the current financial year. Since the majority of the schemes are implemented through various NGOs and VOs working in the field of welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes, the Committee desire that when any change/modifications is made in the procedure for grants to NGOs/VOs, the Ministry should play proactive role for capacity building of these organizations in advance so that no organization faces any problem in getting the grants due to procedural infirmities. At the same time, the Committee recommend that since misuse of funds by some NGOs is a bitter reality hence the inspection mechanism needs to be strengthened and better transparency achieved through effective use of digital devices and live data feed.”

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

“Under the scheme of ‘Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations (VOs) working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes’ and ‘Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts’, more than 99.17% of revised budget allocation was utilized. ₹ 59.50 crore against the revised allocation of ₹ 60.00 crore for 2020-21 was released.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, online Video Conferencing was held on 23.01.2021 and 09.01.2021 with all the NGOs/VOs which applied for Grants-in-Aid from Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Ministry addressed the concern of the NGOs/VOs and briefed them about the digitalized process of NGO Grant, changes in guidelines, requirement of documents in new format etc. Also,

NGOs/VOs were given opportunity to brief their working and requirement of Grants through a presentation meeting.

The Ministry has developed online Grant system (<https://ngo.tribal.gov.in>) for NGO Grants from conception to completion. It enables the District administration as well as State and Central Government to process and recommend proposals received from NGOs/VOs. Also NGOs/VOs can see sanctions generated and status of their application.

The implementation of NGO portal by the Ministry has helped in achieving transparency in funding and monitoring of NGOs/VOs this also enables NGOs/VOs in fulfilling the requisite application procedures, tracking the status of their applications, submitting completion certificates as well as registering grievance, if any. The other observations/recommendations of the committee have been noted for compliance.

**1.13 The Committee had inter-alia observed that NGO and VOs play an important role to implement the Schemes meant for welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes and had recommended that the Ministry should play proactive role for capacity building of these organizations in case of change/modifications in the procedure for grant of funds so that NGOs and VOs do not face any problem in getting the grants due to procedural infirmities. The Committee had further impressed upon strengthening the inspection aspect to avoid misuse of funds. The Committee note certain steps taken for the same such as Video Conferencing with NGOs/VOs, implementation of NGO portal by the Ministry etc. and are of the view that these may not address their concern as huge amount of exchequer money is invested in these Organizations for the welfare of STs but the outcome does not seem to commensurate with the same. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to take substantial steps so that the Organizations involved in implementing schemes for welfare of STs do not lose sight of their entrusted responsibility towards STs, as well as, to ensure to make their work quantifiable**

**while adhering to a stringent inspection mechanism to stop any misuse of public funds.**

### **C. DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS (PVTGs)**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.18)**

1.14 The Committee, in their Nineteenth Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee note that the Scheme has already been evaluated by an independent body and several important recommendations made. Some of the important recommendations relate to (i) Poor awareness about FRA-2006 among PVTGs, Government Schemes and programmes and other basic social entitlements (ii) Tuberculosis, typhoid, jaundice, malaria and sickle cell anemia have cost many lives of PVTGs. Poor access to public health care facilities makes the situation worse to check the spread of these diseases (iii) Poor literacy rate among the PVTGs due to poor access to primary and secondary schools nearby (iv) Availability of drinking water is a major concern among the PVTGs (v) No all-weather road connectivity to most of the PVTGs habitations (vi) As the villages fall under reserve forest, National Park and wildlife sanctuary, there is restriction from forest department for construction of concrete road in these areas (vii) Some of the PVTGs still do not have Caste Certificates, thus they are being deprived of the benefits offered by Central and State Governments (viii) Most of the States do not have Micro-Plan Projects for PVTGs except Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. The Committee find that the State specific recommendations are proposed to be shared with the State Governments to obtain their feedback. The Committee desire that the Ministry should formulate fresh guidelines based on the feedback from the States/UTs covering all the above crucial issues and direct the State Governments to follow guidelines in letter and spirit. The Committee are particularly shocked to know that some PVTGs do not have caste certificates, which is the basic document required for availing benefits under various welfare schemes meant for tribal people. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should issue directions to all the State Governments/UTs for starting a special drive to issue caste certificates to all the PVTGs without further delay.”

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

“Comments of State Governments on State specific observations of Impact Evaluation Report submitted by the IIPA have been sought and the same being awaited.

To ensure effective implementation of the Scheme for Development of PVTGs few States like Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have constituted micro-plan projects agencies while the other States with PVTGs population have their own administrative set up and have special project office for PVTGs, functioning under aegis of ITDA/ITDP. However, MoTA has requested all the PVTG concentrated States to constitute Micro-plan Project to ensure special focus to PVTGs population.

Formulation of fresh Scheme guidelines as recommended by the Committee is being contemplated.

Further, Ministry has taken note to examine the issue related to issuance of caste certificates to all PVTGs in consultation with concerned State Governments and a communication to this effect shall be addressed.”

**1.16 The Committee, while taking note of the recommendations of an independent body on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), had desired that the Ministry should formulate fresh guidelines based on the feedback from the States/UTs covering all the above crucial issues and direct the State Governments to follow those guidelines in letter and spirit. Further, the Committee had recommended Ministry to issue directions to all the State Governments/UTs for starting a special drive to issue caste certificates to all the PVTGs without further delay. The Committee *inter-alia* find from reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs that they have sought comments of State Governments on State specific observations/recommendations and the response is awaited. Further, the Ministry has taken note of examining the issue related to issuance of caste certificates to all PVTGs in consultation with concerned State Governments and a communication to this effect shall reportedly be addressed by them. The**

**Committee are disappointed to find a somewhat laidback approach with which the Ministry has responded to their recommendation let alone the findings of the impact evaluation report referred in their recommendation, which deserve a detailed and specific reply. The Committee therefore reiterate that the Ministry should expeditiously examine the matter and suitably implement the observations/recommendations of the said Impact Evaluation Study to mitigate the hardships of PVTGs.**



## **CHAPTER II**

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 2.14)**

2.1 The Ministry has reportedly taken digital initiatives for 5 Schemes including their NGOs Scheme, PVTGs Scheme etc. To address educational & health infrastructure needs of Tribals in geographically remote areas, mapping of such areas is the pre-requisite to identify and prioritize such tribal areas, which are in the dire need of such infrastructure and financial support. In the recent past, the Bharat Rural livelihood Mission had also recommended to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to collaborate with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the mapping for a better coordinated effort between the line Ministries for tribal welfare. The Committee feel that such efforts would prove to be very effective not only in identifying most deserving potential beneficiaries but would make it much more easier to have a well-rounded plan of action with clearly spelt-out role of each Ministry and monitor the progress of work undertaken at actual locations and assess their efficacy without wasting time, manpower and funds. Hence, they recommend that the matter may be included in the agenda of the next Board meeting of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and discussed between all the concerned Ministries, since all the Government schemes are stated being reviewed now, following the report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, for ensuring their optimal performance in the next five years. The Committee may be apprised of the progress on the matter at action taken stage.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.2 Ministry recognizes the fact that to address educational & health infrastructure needs of Tribals in geographically remote areas, mapping of such areas is the pre-requisite. In pursuance of this, during the year 2019-20, MoTA conducted a gap analysis based on Census 2011 data and Mission Antyodaya data maintained by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Through the analysis it was found that there are about 1,45,000 tribal villages with ST population  $\geq 25\%$  where gaps exist in

various sectors of development including Health and Education. The gap analysis summary for Health and Education is as under:

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Village-wise Infrastructure Details</b>		<b>No. of villages out of 117064 Tribal Dominated Villages</b>	<b>Gap</b>
1	Availability of school	Primary	61230	
		Middle School	26155	
		High School	10642	
		>Senior Secondary school	5519	
	No. of villages not having school			13501
2	Availability of Vocational Educational centre/ITI/RSETI/DDU-GKY		9366	
3	Availability of Sub centre	PHC	3453	
		CHC	7114	
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Village-wise Infrastructure Details</b>		<b>No. of villages out of 117064 Tribal Dominated Villages</b>	<b>Gap</b>
		Sub Centre	18185	
		None	88295	
	If Sub Centre >not available in the village, Distance of the nearest place where facility Is available	<1km	2164	
		1-2km	7110	
		2-5km	23365	
		5-10Km	25144	
		>10Km	28031	
	No. of villages not having health facility Within the distance of 10Km			28031

Through a revamped scheme of 'Special Central Assistance for Tribal Development (SCA for TD)' Ministry envisages for integrated development of tribal dominated villages as model village (Adarsh Gram) in a phased manner wherein ST people would have access to basic services and infrastructure facilities to enable them lead a dignified living and utilize their inherent potential to the fullest. The scheme is intended to be implemented through appropriate convergence of resources with State Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Schedule Tribe Component (STC) with Central Line Ministries, Corporate Social Responsibility funds, District Mineral Funds etc. Further,

Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are striving to converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance health and nutrition status of the tribal communities of India.

The Ministry releases grant-in-aid to the NGOs/VOs working mainly in the field of school education and health on the recommendations of the State Level Committee

of the concerned State Governments / UT Administrations and concerned District Collector / Deputy Commissioner. The scheme is designed to fill the critical gaps in the areas of education and health in the regions where these services are deficient and need to be supplemented with the efforts of NGOs/VOs. However, overall responsibility for the development in the areas of education and health rests with the line Ministry only. The Ministry has taken initiatives to implement its schemes in convergence with the schemes and programmes of other line Ministries and state governments for better outcome.

The scheme of 'Development of PVTG' is essentially in the nature of gap filling intervention. All the 75 PVTG communities are expected to be covered under the Central and state STC components besides the major schemes of Tribal Affairs Ministry like Grants under Article 275(I) and SCA to TSS. Hence, the objective of the scheme during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 shall be directed towards identification of gaps and advising the states to propose projects accordingly.

EFC Memo for continuation and revision of the scheme of EMRS has already been shared with the concerned line Ministries/Departments and their observations has been taken into consideration while finalising the EFC Memo for appraisal of the scheme of EMRS by the Competent Authority.

Meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for continuation of schemes/programmes under Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry has already been held.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 2.15)**

**2.3** During the examination of the material available on various Schemes run by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for tribal welfare, the Committee have come across various evaluation studies which show that the tribal population has not benefitted optimally from the various Government Sector Schemes due to several constraints that require synchronized efforts between various Central and State Ministries / Departments dealing with tribal welfare, health and family welfare, roads and highways, fishery, livestock, solar energy, rain water harvesting, mines, environment & forests, education etc. to address several practical problems concerning tribal areas. Some of these problems are lack of road connectivity between tribal villages, far off locations of primary health centers from the tribal areas, lack of irrigation facilities for agricultural activities of

tribals, particularly in view of the depletion of forest produce owing to restrictions in entering wildlife sanctuaries, limited access to vaccination, contaminated drinking water in ponds and wells, alternate livelihood generation by rearing livestock and fishery, need for solar lighting arrangements for tribal homes as well as tribal schools, prevalence of alcohol and tobacco use among tribals, migration of tribals to other areas in search of employment, etc. During the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on the current year's Demands for Grants before this Committee, the Ministry informed about sector-wise funds sanctioned under three important Schemes i.e., Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS), Grants under first Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution and Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). According to them, the Ministry has been providing funds for 16 sectors namely education, livelihood, skill development, health, nutrition, animal husbandry, infrastructural development, irrigation and water shed management, road connectivity, sports and games, drinking water, ecotourism, art and culture, market and value chain development etc., which has nearly doubled from Rs. 2697 crore in 2017-18 to Rs. 4515.63 crore in 2019-20. The Committee appreciate the Government's commitment for tribal welfare as is evident from the information given above. However, they are of the opinion that there are several Schemes run by various Central Ministries too having implications for tribals, which can be synchronized with the Central Sector Schemes run by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for a much better impact. Hence, the Committee recommend that in the meetings to be held in future to review the Government Schemes for the next five years, the Ministry should encourage participation of as many other Ministries as possible to bring the mon board and

seek their cooperation, apart from continuing their monitoring and hand holding efforts with all the concerned State Governments. The Ministry should also be proactive in consulting people's representatives from the tribal dominated constituencies and involve them actively in order to be better informed about the problems faced by the tribals and their possible solutions.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 Ministry of Tribal Affairs agrees with the recommendation of the Committee that in the meetings to be held in future to review the Government Schemes for the next five years, the Ministry should encourage participation of as many other Ministries as possible to bring them on board and seek their cooperation, apart from continuing their monitoring and handholding efforts with all the concerned State Governments. MoTA has already held consultation with all the concerned line Ministries / Departments during formulation of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memorandum for the Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes – Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

As regards the recommendation of the Committee regarding synchronization of the schemes of the MoTA with the schemes run by various Central Ministries, The Ministry envisages to transform the nature of the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) for holistic development of tribal dominated villages along with changed nomenclature to 'Special Central Assistance for Tribal Development (SCA for TD)'. The SCA for TD scheme will aim towards integrated development of tribal dominated villages as model village (Adarsh Gram) in a phased manner wherein ST people would have access to basic services and infrastructure facilities to enable them lead a dignified living and utilize their inherent potential to the fullest. Through the scheme, it would be the endeavour of the Ministry to mitigate existing gaps in various sectors of development, including education and health services; quality of life; basic amenities; housing; employment; productive assets; income-generating opportunities and infrastructure incidental thereto etc. through appropriate convergence of resources at State Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Schedule Tribe Component (STC) with Central Line Ministries, Corporate Social Responsibility funds, District Mineral Funds etc. All States and Union Territories having notified ST population will be covered under the scheme. The Scheme will cover all the tribal dominated villages decided by MoTA based on the criteria approved by the Project Appraisal Committee from time to time. In the first phase of five years, 36428 tribal dominated villages with at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs will be taken up under the scheme.

Under the scheme 'Support to TRIs', TRI Division has been providing funds to State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) for carrying out activities for capacity building of PRIs. Further, under the scheme 'Tribal Festival, Research, Information and Mass Education', Ministry has sanctioned projects for capacity building of PRIs at gram panchayat level in State(s) of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

EFC Memo for continuation and revision of the scheme of EMRS has already been shared with the concerned line Ministries/Departments and their observations have been taken into consideration while finalising the EFC Memo for appraisal of the scheme of EMRS by the Competent Authority. This Ministry has already requested all the Nodal Officers that whenever they visit their specific States, the details of these Officers can be shared with MPs/MLAs belonging to those States so as to take their feedback and help.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 3.16)**

2.5 The construction of desired number of sanctioned EMRSs has remained rather slow with the result that in the last 23 years, only 285 EMRSs could be made functional. The Committee are happy to note now that a dedicated construction wing of NESTS (National Education Society for Tribal Students) consisting of retired officers in the rank of Chief Engineer (Civil), Executive Engineer (Civil), Assistant Engineer (Electrical) and Assistant engineer (Civil) has been set up for effective supervision and monitoring of pre-construction and post-construction activities of EMRSs since out of 588 sanctioned EMRSs only 285 are functional as on 31.01.2021. The Committee also note the Ministry's statement that total targeted 740 EMRSs will be constructed and made functional by the August 2023 and that the unit cost of each EMRS has been increased from Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 38 crore, and for hilly and difficult areas it will be Rs. 48 crore. The Committee hope that the personnel of construction wing of NESTS would be given charge of overseeing construction work progress of all remaining 303 schools soon which have been sanctioned indifferent States and make a detailed report on the reasons for delays in the completion of each EMRS and with the consultations of the States authorities, ensure that targets are set for completion of each EMRS. As the construction cost has been increased from Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 38 crore /Rs. 48 crore for hilly areas, the Committee feel that this would help in creating robust infrastructure

facilities for tribal students. The Committee also recommend that all the sanctioned posts in the Dedicated Construction Wing should be filled on urgent basis so that NESTS is able to work effectively and promptly for the purpose it was set up.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 The Construction Wing of NESTS has already been setup with Chief Engineer (Civil), Executive Engineer (Civil)- 2 Nos, Assistant Engineer (Electrical) and Assistant engineer (Civil) – 2 Nos. The Construction Wing of NESTS has already taken up the task of overseeing the construction work of schools in coordination with the Construction Agencies assigned. The proposal for further strengthening of the construction wing with creation of post for an Executive Engineer, Junior Engineer (civil) and Junior Engineer (electrical) has been included in the EFC Note for Continuation of the EMRS scheme for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

### **Recommendation No.3.18**

2.7 The Committee find that the Ministry have now set the target of completion of construction of 740 EMRSs by August, 2023. For this, the Committee desire that the Ministry should chalk out an annual action plan in which the priority to the tribal dominated States is given with target dates for each essential activity, that is, sanctioning of schools, allocation of land, completion of construction work, appointment of staff etc. so that the target of completion of all the EMRSs is achieved by August, 2023. The Committee are happy to note that the recruitment rules for teaching and non-teaching staff for 52 posts in each school have been since finalized and notified to the States/UTs. The Committee desire that the Ministry should direct all the State Governments to furnish a status report on the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff as per the guidelines. In addition, as the Ministry has also proposed Eklavya Day Boarding Schools, a status report on the same may be submitted to the Committee.

## **Reply of the Government**

2.8 A detailed annual plan has been worked out for timely completion of construction of schools. The same has been communicated to the construction agencies through an agreement signed between NESTS and the construction agencies.

Since the process of recruitment of staff by the State Governments was slow, the NESTSs worked out the current clear vacancies in all the EMRSs (excluding State of Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala where elections were underway) and a centralised test is being conducted through the National Testing Agency to fill the vacancies.

Eklavya Model Day Boarding Schools were introduced on a pilot basis to introduce day boarding schools in the tribal areas. Initially 5 schools were sanctioned across the country. However the 2 such day boarding schools had to be converted into residential schools on specific requests of the State Government since residential schools were more favoured in tribal areas. Therefore currently there are 3 sanctioned Day Boarding Schools and all are reported to be functional.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]



## CHAPTER III

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY.

#### **Recommendation No. 2.13**

3.1 The Committee note that the Ministry had utilized nearly 99 percent of allocated funds during the last four years. For the financial year 2020-21, the Committee find that the Budget allocation for Rs. 7411 crore had been reduced at the time of RE i.e. Rs. 5508 crore and the actual expenditure of the Ministry was Rs. 4530.40 crore as on 18.02.2021, and the less utilization of funds was stated due to the fact that the implementing agencies of various schemes, both Governmental or non-Governmental, were not able to carry out field level activities due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, thus leading to slow down in implementation of schemes. The Committee understand the problems faced by the Ministry in implementation of various schemes due to COVID-19 pandemic, but now as the pandemic is under control, they desire that extra efforts should be made by the Ministry to fill the gap due to non-implementation of Schemes since the tribal population is most vulnerable and would be pushed deeper into poverty and isolation otherwise. The Committee would like to urge upon the Ministry to pursue with State Governments and NGOs/VOs for completing all the formalities of furnishing UCs and PPRs in time now so that unspent amount of the Budget for the current financial year is utilized by 31 March, 2021. The Committee note that for Financial Year 2021-22, the Ministry of Finance have allocated Rs. 7524.87 crore to Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vis-à-vis* the projected requirement of Rs. 12050.06 crore for various schemes of the Ministry. The Committee desire that the Ministry should chalk out a plan to fill the gaps in low performing schemes during first three to four months of financial year 2021-22, and utilize maximum amount of the allocated Budget so that the Ministry are in a position to justify their demand for enhanced allocation at the RE stage in 2021-22.

#### **Reply of the Government**

3.2 Earlier during the initial quarters of financial year 2020-21, due to Covid-19 pandemic situation, State Governments were not able to submit Utilization Certificate (UC) / Physical Progress Report (PPR) of previous years releases. Further, as per

Ministry of Finance's earlier instructions funds had to be released to the State Governments on need basis and depending upon State's capacity to actually spend the balance from the previous year and releases made during 2020-21. In pursuance with the above directions of the Ministry of Finance, the Division was releasing only 50% of the approved funds to the State Governments after taking account of pending UCs/ PPRs of the previous years' releases. However, when Ministry of Finance provided relaxation to this clause vide O.M. dated 08.12.2020, MoTA was able to release funds as per normal criteria and release of funds to the State Governments was expedited. With the continuous efforts and follow ups with the State Governments, MoTA was able to utilize Rs.799.93 crore out of Rs. 800 crore allocated at RE stage under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme during 2020-21. As regards planning for release of funds during 2021-22 is concerned, presently, Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memorandum for the Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes – Centrally Sponsored Schemes is pending for appraisal by Ministry of Finance. As and when the scheme of SCA to TSS gets approved or any other instruction received from Ministry of Finance, release of funds to the State Governments will be expedited. EFC meeting already held and minutes are awaited.

Concerned State Treasury has been requested for timely transfer of funds released by this Ministry to the concerned State for expeditious utilization of funds and submissions of UCs / PPRs under the Scheme of "Support to Tribal Research Institute".

Under the scheme of "Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations (VOs) working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes" and "Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts" more than 95% of the budget allocation during 2018-19 and 2019-20 was utilized. Similarly, an amount of Rs 59.50 Crore (99.17%) against the revised allocation of Rs. 60.00 crore for 2020-21 was released. The outlay for 2021-

22 has been projected as Rs. 110.00 crore that could be released in accordance with the allocation plan.

Under the scheme of Development of PVTG, the allocation of RS 250.00 crore during 2018-19 and 2019-20 was fully utilized. Similarly, the revised allocation of Rs 140.00 crore for 2020-21 was released, The outlay for 2021' 22 has been projected as Rs 250.00 crore that could be released in accordance with the allocation plan.

The Budget Allocation under the scheme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and EMRS is Rs. 1350.00 Crore and Rs. 1313.23 Crore respectively which was reduced to Rs. 800.00 Crore and Rs. 1200.00 Crore respectively at the RE Stage. The entire allocation of the RE stage has been utilized for the scheme of Grants and EMRS within stipulated time and funds could not be released to only those States which have not submitted the required documents i.e. Utilization Certificate (UC) and Physical Progress Report (PPR) of the previous year releases. However, States were being continuously reminded to submit the required documents to this Ministry within the stipulated time so that funds could have been released to those States in the financial year 2020-21.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

### **Recommendation No. 6.9**

3.3 The Committee find that the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) provides financial assistance for income generation activities and marketing support assistance for economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes. No allocation was made at RE stage to NSTFDC in the year 2020-21 and only a token amount of Rs. 0.01 crore has been allocated in the year 2021-22 to the Corporation. In this connection, the Committee were informed that the entire authorized share capital of Rs. 750 crore has been exhausted by NSTFDC in the financial year 2019-20 and that the draft EFC note for enhancement of authorized share capital from Rs. 750 crore to Rs. 1500 crore was submitted to the Department of Expenditure, who declined the request citing the present economic situation. Hence, no allocation of funds was made to NSTFDC in 2020-21. The Committee find that the NSTFDC has been consistently utilizing entire budget allocations during the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 and implementing various

Schemes for Scheduled Tribes, and feel that in the absence of proper authorized share capital, their income from repaid loans etc. will hardly be sufficient to provide assistance to tribals for their economic upliftment. Hence, the Committee desire that the Ministry should again pursue the matter with the Department of Expenditure for reconsideration of the proposal for enhancing the authorized share capital with requisite justification so that fund allocation could be obtained at the RE stage by NSTFD.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.4 The Ministry approached the Ministry of Finance for enhancing the Authorised Share Capital of NSTFDC, however, the Finance Ministry has advised for a new model of functioning of NSTFDC to make it self-sufficient and less dependent on equity infusions. Moreover, the Ministry has proposed a new scheme 'Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes' (VCF-ST) for promoting Entrepreneurship among the STs. The VCF-ST scheme would be a social sector initiative to promote ST entrepreneurship and to support and incubate the start-up ideas by ST youth. The proposed scheme would be managed by the agency having expertise and sufficient experience. Venture Capital Fund for SC and Backward Classes have already been set up by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Initially it is proposed to set up VCF-ST with a corpus of Rs. 50.00 crore for a period of five years commencing from 2021-22. It is also proposed to adopt the guidelines similar to Venture Capital for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

### **Recommendation No. 7.10**

3.5 From the statement of claims and distribution of Title Deeds under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, the Committee find that in the States of Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Assam, the percentage of claims disposed off with respect to claims received was very minor, i.e. 0.71, 7.27, 37.93 per cent, respectively. The Ministry have also stated that the number of cases of rejection in the Assam are quite high and that the State Government has undertaken a review of rejected claims to ensure that no wrongful rejection takes place and the updated status of the review of rejection is still awaited. In Goa and Himachal

Pradesh, local level authorities are stated to be working to improve the recognition claims. Since the role of Panchayats, Gram Sabhas and village level Forest Rights Committees and local authorities is very crucial for claiming of Title Deeds under FRA Act, 2006, the Committee desire that the Ministry should start consultation process with all the State Governments/ UT Administrations and other stakeholders to ensure that no wrongful rejection of any claim under the Act takes place, so that the very identity of tribal community remains unharmed.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.6 As per FRA, 2006, State Governments are responsible for implementation of various provisions of the Act.

#### **Goa:**

Reasons for low disposal of claims, as communicated by the State Government of Goa, are as under: -

- i. **Issue of Quorum at Gram Sabha** - The mandatory quorum of 50% is not fulfilled at the Gram Sabha which is held revenue village wise. The issue referred by the State Government of Goa is under examination in consultation with the State Government.
- ii. **Spot Verification**- Government of Goa has constituted a Special Committee under the Chairmanship of Jt. Mamlatdars of each Taluka to carry out the Spot Verification of claims filed under FRA, 2006. The area claimed by the claimants is very huge on a hilly terrain due to which spot verification of only 02 claimed areas is possible. Also, the monsoon in Goa lasts from June to November due to which the claimed area is inaccessible for spot verification.
- iii. In order to expedite the disposal of claims, the District Level Committee headed by the District Collector being the Chairman takes timely review of work of spot verification and survey. Also, Chief Secretary and the Chairman of the State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) takes a review of the progress made under FRA, 2006 and gives directions to all the concerned for speedy disposal. Seating fees and allowances are given to the Private members of various committees as an incentive so that they are present during the meeting while deciding the cases. Directorate of Tribal Welfare coordinates with the Chairman of the District Level Committee so that the work of implementation of the FRA, 2006 is not hampered.

- iv. Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Welfare take meetings with all the concerned officials so that the work of implementation of FRA, 2006 is carried out on a war footing and to adhere to the timeline submitted before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

#### **Himachal Pradesh:**

- i. The State of Himachal Pradesh has been stating that the traditional rights of the Tribes are already settled in the State.
- ii. After having communicated a number of times by Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh that even those rights which are recognised under any State law or laws of any Autonomous District Council or Autonomous Regional Council or which are accepted as rights of tribal under any traditional or customary law of the concerned tribes of any State needs to be re-recognized under Section 3 (1)(j) of FRA, 2006.
- iii. During the review meeting held on 06.03.2019 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the State reported to have initiated the process of bringing the already recorded traditional rights of the tribal communities under the ambit of FRA as per its Section 3 (1)(j).

#### **Assam:**

As per the updated status communicated by the State of Assam during the review meeting held on 18.06.2019 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the State has admitted that the no of cases of rejection in the State are quite high. Therefore, they have undertaken review of rejected claims to ensure that no wrongful rejection is taking place. The status update regarding review of rejection is still awaited.

#### **Communication of Ministry of Tribal Affairs with State Governments / UTs:**

On 19.9.2019, Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India wrote letters to Chief Ministers of all State Governments including the above mentioned States communicating / reminding them, inter alia, that Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which has been designated the nodal Ministry for administration of FRA, 2006, has been issuing directions and Guidelines from time to time on various aspects of implementations of FRA to ensure its proper and effective implementation in the country and it has been conveying the need for capacity building of the frontline functionaries, who are responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Act / Rules through training programmes on a regular basis.

Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs further communicated that however, it has been observed that the procedure being followed at the Gram Sabha / FRC level for scrutiny / examination of forest rights claims submitted by forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers has not been fully correct

and as per the Act / Rules provisions in large number of cases which is indicative of lack of awareness among functionaries about the Rules and procedures there under and hence, the Hon'ble Minister stressed the need for more awareness generation and capacity building.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs also held meetings with all State Governments /UTs including with the above States from time to time to review the implementation of FRA, 2006 and Rules made there under and advising them for proper implementation of the act so that the objective of the act for undoing historical injustice done to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers is not defeated. Since 2019, five such meetings have been held so far on 06.03.2019, 18.06.2019, 24.02.2020, 02.09.2020 and 12.01.2021. In the last such meetings held on 12.01.2021, for instance, following major points were raised / communicated by Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the States :-

- i. Attention was drawn that while considering the claims under FRA, 2006, Sub Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) and District Level Committee (DLC) shall ensure that the compliance of process of recognition of rights provided under FR Rule 12 A. especially under sub-rule (6) that provides, "in case of incomplete application, or application that requires additional examination, such claim shall be remanded to the Gram Sabha or reconsideration instead of modifying or rejecting the claims. Further, the non-recommendation of claim by Gram Sabha and SDLC shall not be treated as rejection. It needs to be acknowledged that while recognizing the claims under FRA, the Right under Section 3(1)(i) has been recognized adequately, and the rights and duties of the forest right holders needs to be recognized one along another.
- ii. It must be noted that the rejection is not illegal once we are assured that the rejection has followed due course of procedure including having provided the scope of appeal and rejection carrying adequate documentation of the rejection. Any case otherwise would term the rejection illegal. In case if the person found non occupant of the land while the government's historical record shows otherwise, the concerned authorities must ensure that such record and evidences must be appreciated while considering the claims of such occupant and accordingly reviewed and resolved. Following Action points were desired to be fulfilled by the State Governments in the said meeting:
  - i. To organize a meeting at the level of Chief Minister and Chief Secretaries.
  - ii. To ensure that all claimants have been informed regarding the status of their claim under Forest Rights Act, including

claims having rejected and any case which is finally rejected by the States, must have reason for rejection.

- iii. To conduct State Level Monitoring Committee Meetings on regular basis, as required under the Act.

For Action Taken Reports on the Action points, States have been reminded. The same are awaited from the States including the above three States.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]



## CHAPTER IV

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

### **Recommendation No. 3.17**

#### **Eklavya Model Residential Schools**

4.1 The Committee note that there is no EMRSs functional in the States of Bihar and Meghalaya and UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Jammu & Kashmir. The Committee also find that in the State of Jharkhand, out of 79 sanctioned EMRSs only 13 EMRSs are functional. Similarly, in Odisha only 19 EMRSs are functional out of 70 sanctioned EMRSs as on 16.2.2021. The Committee desire that the Ministry, first of all, must ensure that all States enter into MOUs with NESTS so as to give requisite boost to their efforts with regard to construction of sanctioned schools well in time. They should particularly consult with all the State Governments where construction work of EMRSs is pending for more than two years for completing all the formalities like allotment of land, etc. and convince them to make sincere efforts for early completion of EMRSs for the educational upliftment of the tribal population.

#### **Reply of the Government**

4.2 The matter of operationalisation of non-functional schools has been of utmost importance. This is being regularly reviewed with the concerned State Governments to ensure that all the non-functional schools are made operational from alternate buildings till the construction of the school is complete. However, given the remoteness of the location of the schools, many State Governments have expressed difficulties in locating alternative buildings. However this is being pursued regularly.

The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has already entered into an MoU with 24 out of 28 States/UT with EMRS. The matter of sorting out of land related issues is also being reviewed regularly with the State Governments to ensure early resolving of various issues. However the crisis posed by Covid 19 has resulted in certain delays since the district administrations have been at the fore-front of fighting the pandemic. However, the same is being reviewed at the highest order.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

**Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para 1.7 of Chapter- I of the Report)

## **CHAPTER V**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE.**

#### **Recommendation No. 3.19**

**5.1** The Committee note that for the purpose of effective monitoring and data driven decision making on the EMRSs, a dedicated MIS is being planned to be developed by the Ministry. The MIS will have school wise information relating to release of funds, utilization, progress of construction, and other activities. The Committee feel that once the MIS is developed by the Ministry, it will be very useful for effective monitoring of all the activities of each EMRS. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should fix a timeline and make sincere efforts to develop a dedicated MIS for monitoring of EMRSs without any delay.

#### **Reply of the Government**

**5.2** The MIS has already been made live with the School Module and the Staff Module. The work on the remaining modules are underway and shall be made live soon.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

#### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para 1.10 of Chapter- I of the Report)

#### **Recommendation No. 3.20**

**5.3** As the Committee has come across some evaluation studies suggesting relaxation in admission criteria, particularly entrance exam, for PVTG children, they desire the Ministry to examine the same and submit their views and action on the matter.

#### **Reply of the Government**

**5.4** As per the approval of the competent authority, it has been decided to reserve 5 % of the seats in EMRS for children belonging to PVTG communities. The necessary guidelines is being worked out.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

### **Recommendation No. 4.13**

#### **Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations looking for the welfare of STs**

5.5 The Ministry is providing Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs to cater to comparatively service deficient tribal dominated areas, where direct outreach of the Government through its institutional mechanism was not adequate. The Committee note that in 2020-21, BE of Rs. 110 crore has been downsized to Rs. 60 crore at the RE stage under the scheme and the Ministry have utilized only Rs. 13.14 crore upto 31.01.2021. For low utilization of funds under the Scheme, the reason given is that schools and hostels run by NGOs were closed in 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee acknowledge that the reason has led to under-utilization to some extent but feel that since the NGOs are working not only in schools but also in other fields including health and livelihood such an underutilization shows that virtually no activity was undertaken by the NGOs in the field of tribal welfare. Moreover the COVID-19 pandemic did not spread to remote tribal areas as fast as in other areas. The Committee feel that a better coordination mechanism established by the Ministry with the NGOs working in the field of health and sanitation, could have ensured that at least a reasonable amount is utilized by these NGOs at the time of pandemic to provide health facilities and create awareness about the situation. The Committee desire that Ministry should collect data from all the State Governments to know the actual expenditure in the health sector by these NGOs in the year 2020-21. The Committee recommend that Ministry should take sincere and effective steps for full utilization of funds under the Scheme by the end of the current financial year. Since the majority of the schemes are implemented through various NGOs and VOs working in the field of welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes, the Committee desire that when any change/modifications is made in the procedure for grants to NGOs/VOs, the Ministry should play pro-active role for capacity building of these organizations in advance so that no organization faces any problem in getting the grants due to procedural infirmities. At the same time, the Committee recommend that since misuse of funds by some NGOs is a bitter reality hence the inspection mechanism needs to be strengthened and better transparency achieved through effective use of digital devices and live data feed.

## **Reply of the Government**

5.6 Under the scheme of “Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations (VOs) working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes” and “Strengthening Education Among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts”, more than 99.17% of revised budget allocation was utilized. Rs. 59.50 crores against the revised allocation of Rs. 60.00 crore for 2020- 21 was released.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, online Video Conferencing was held on 23.01.2021 & 09.01.2021 with all the NGOs/ VOs which applied for Grants in Aid from Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Ministry addressed the concern of the NGOs/ VOs and briefed them about the digitalised process of NGO Grant, changes in guidelines, requirement of documents in new format etc. Also, NGOs/VOs were given opportunity to brief their working and requirement of Grants through a presentation meeting.

The Ministry has developed online Grant system (<https://ngo.tribal.gov.in>) for NGO Grants from conception to completion. It enables the District administration as well as State and Central Government to process and recommend proposals received from NGOs/ VOs. Also, NGOs/VOs can see Sanctions generated and status of their application.

The implementation of NGO portal by the Ministry has helped in achieving transparency in funding and monitoring of NGOs/VOs. This also enables NGOs/VOs in fulfilling the requisite application procedures, tracking the status of their applications, submitting completion certificates as well as registering grievance, if any. The other observations / recommendations of the committee have been noted for compliance.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter- I of the Report)

### **Recommendation No. 5.17**

5.7 The Scheme of development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) is very significant for the protection and development of PVTGs. The Committee find from

the details of State wise funds released and utilized under the Scheme that no funds were released in the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 for Bihar, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Ministry attributed it to pendency of Utilization Certificates and Project Progress Reports against the earlier releases of funds under the Scheme. The utilization status was missing for 2020-21 for all States/UTs except the State of Telangana, which has utilized entire amount during the last three years. The Committee desire that the Ministry should extend assistance to the State Governments and NGOs/VOs working under the Scheme for timely and proper submission of utilization certificates and physical progress report so that proper utilization of funds could be ensured.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.8 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs regularly follows up with the States concerned on furnishing of pending UCs and PPRs against release of funds in previous years by sending communications and during the course of Project Appraisal Committee and review meetings that are held periodically.

With the launch of ADIGRAMS portal, the process of monitoring of such issues is expected to become more objective as the nodal agencies are now expected to upload UC/PPR online.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

### **Recommendation No. 5.18**

#### **Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**

5.9 The Committee note that the Scheme has already been evaluated by an independent body and several important recommendations made. Some of the important recommendations relate to (i) Poor awareness about FRA-2006 among PVTGs, Government Schemes and programmes and other basic social entitlements (ii) Tuberculosis, typhoid, jaundice, malaria and sickle cell anemia have cost many lives of PVTGs. Poor access to public health care facilities makes the situation worse to check the spread of these diseases (iii) Poor literacy rate among the PVTGs due to poor access to primary and secondary schools nearby (iv) Availability of drinking water is a

major concern among the PVTGs (v) No all-weather road connectivity to most of the PVTGs habitations. (vi) As the villages fall under reserve forest, National Park and wildlife sanctuary, there is restriction from forest department for construction of concrete road in these areas (vii) Some of the PVTGs still do not have Caste Certificates, thus they are being deprived of the benefits offered by Central and State Governments (viii) Most of the States do not have Micro-Plan Projects for PVTGs except Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

The Committee find that the State specific recommendations are proposed to be shared with the State Governments to obtain their feedback. The Committee desire that the Ministry should formulate fresh guidelines based on the feedback from the States/UTs covering all the above crucial issues and direct the State Governments to follow guidelines in letter and spirit. The Committee are particularly shocked to know that some PVTGs do not have caste certificates, which is the basic document required for availing benefits under various welfare schemes meant for tribal people. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should issue directions to all the State Governments/UTs for starting a special drive to issue of caste certificates to all the PVTGs without further delay.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.10 Comments of State Governments on State specific observations of Impact Evaluation Report submitted by the IIPA have been sought and the same are being awaited.

To ensure effective implementation of the Scheme for Development of PVTGs few States like Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have constituted micro-plan projects agencies while the other States with PVTGs population have their own administrative set up and have special project office for PVTGs, functioning under the aegis of ITDA/ITDP. However, MoTA has requested all the PVTG concentrated States to constitute Micro-plan Project to ensure special focus to PVTGs population.

Formulation of fresh Scheme guidelines as recommended by the Committee is being contemplated.

Further, Ministry has taken note to examine the issue related to issuance of caste certificates to all PVTGs in consultation with concerned State Governments and a communication to this effect shall be addressed.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs OM No. 16015/03/2021-PC dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021]

**Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para 1.16 of Chapter- I of the Report)

15<sup>th</sup> December , 2021  
24 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

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



**APPENDIX**

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
CONTAINED IN THE NINETEENTH REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON “DEMANDS  
FOR GRANTS (2021-22)” OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS**

		<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
I.	Total number of Recommendations	13	
II.	Observations/Recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.14, 2.15, 3.16 and 3.18)	4	31
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government (Paragraph Nos 2.13, 6.9 and 7.10)	3	23
IV.	Observations/Recommendations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration (Paragraph Nos. 3.17 )	1	8
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph Nos 3.19, 3.20, 4.13, 5.17 and 5.18)	5	38