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

**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

**(2022-23)**

**THIRTIETH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**March, 2022/Phalgun, 1943 (Saka)**

**THIRTIETH REPORT**  
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**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2022-23)**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 14.03.2022**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 14.03.2022**



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

**March, 2022/Phalguna, 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 Yepthomi

**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 |

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2021-22) having been authorized by the Committee to present on their behalf this Thirtieth Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2022-23' pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which were laid on the Table of the House on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. After obtaining their Budget related Documents and Explanatory Notes, the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for appearing before them and furnishing information in connection with the examination of the 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)'.

4. For ease of reference, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

**NEW DELHI;**

**11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Phalguna, 1943 (Saka)**

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

**REPORT**  
**CHAPTER – I**  
**INTRODUCTORY**

1.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999, after bifurcation of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). It is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for development of STs. The programmes and schemes of the Ministry are intended to support and supplement, through financial assistance, the efforts primarily of other Central Ministries, the State Governments and partly of voluntary organizations, and to fill critical gaps in institutions and programmes, taking into account the situation of STs. These schemes are administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and implemented mainly through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for social, economic and educational development and through institution building.

1.2 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has undertaken activities that follow from the subjects allocated under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 as mentioned below:

1. Social security and social insurance with respect to the Scheduled Tribes.
2. Tribal Welfare: Tribal welfare planning, project formulation, research, evaluation, statistics and training.
3. Promotion and development of voluntary efforts on tribal welfare.
4. Scheduled Tribes, including scholarship to students belonging to such tribes.
5. Development of Scheduled Tribes.
- 5A. All matters including legislation relating to the rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes on forest lands.
6. (a) Scheduled Areas;  
(b) Regulations framed by the Governors of States for Scheduled Areas.
7. (a) Commission to report on the administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) issue of directions regarding the drawing up and execution of schemes essential for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in any State.

8. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
9. Implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (22 of 1955) and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (33 of 1989), excluding administration of criminal justice in regard to offences in so far as they relate to Scheduled Tribes.
10. Monitoring of Tribal Sub-Plan, based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog.

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

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

(b) The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) is an apex organisation set up on 10.04.2001, exclusively for economic development of Scheduled Tribes was incorporated as a government company under Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Corporation plays a significant role in providing credit support for economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes at concessional rates of interest. The Company signs MoU with the Ministry annually and based on the parameters thereunder the performance of the Company is reviewed periodically.

(c) The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has been registered as a Society, under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 at New Delhi on 1st April 2019 to establish, endow, maintain, control and manage the Eklavya Model Residential Schools' and to do all acts and things necessary for or conducive to the promotion of such schools.



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

## CHAPTER – II

### BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2022-23 are given under Demand No. 100 . The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid in Parliament on 07 February, 2022.

2.2 The Ministry administers various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes besides two Special Area Programmes, viz., Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) and Grants-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to contribute the overall efforts for development of tribal people in the country. List of schemes implemented by the Ministry are given as under.

#### A. Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS Schemes):

S No	Scheme
1-2	Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post Matric Scholarship for STs
3	Support to Tribal Research Institute
4	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
5	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)
6	Grants to States under Article 275(1) of Constitution

#### B. Central Sector Schemes:

S.No	Scheme
1	Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
2	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students
3	Scholarship to the ST Students for studies abroad
4	Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes
5	Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation
6	Institutional Support for Marketing and Development of Tribal Products (TRIFED etc.) and Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP
7	Tribal Festival, Research information and Mass Education
8	Monitoring and Evaluation

2.3. The Ministry had proposed for an amount of ₹13208.52 crore in BE for 2022-23 under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes to the Ministry of Finance. Out of the proposed amount of ₹13208.52 crore, Ministry of Finance has provided for an amount of ₹ 8406.92 crore. The details of budget estimates, proposal made by the Ministry and allocation made as per ceiling provided by the Ministry of Finance under the Schemes are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	BE 2022-23 proposed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs	BE 2022-23 provided by the Ministry of Finance
1	Pre-Matric Scholarship	422.53	419.00
2	Post Matric Scholarship	1984.93	1965.00
3	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)	265.30	252.00
4	Tribal Research information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)	25.00	15.00
5	Monitoring, Evaluation, Survey, Social Audit (MESSA)	20.00	15.00
6	Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas (EAP)	0.01	0.00
7	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Schemes	1473.50	1354.38
8	Support to Tribal Research Institutes	128.59	128.60
9	Scheme under proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	1500.00	1350.00
10	Grant to Assam Government under Clause A of the Second Provision to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	0.01	0.01
11	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students	145.00	145.00
12	National Overseas Scholarship Scheme	4.00	4.00
13	Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes	110.00	110.00
14	Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)	6509.11	2000.00
15	Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)	499.00	499.00
16	Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes	50.00	50.00
17	Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North Eastern Region	71.53	107.53
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13208.52</b>	<b>8406.92</b>

2.4 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure for last three years alongwith Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 for various Schemes of the Ministry is as follows:-

( ₹ in crore)

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP (upto 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022)	BE
6847.89	7293.66	7288.74	7355.76	5472.50	5461.67	7484.07	6126.46	3874.00	8406.92

2.5 The Statement showing the Scheme-wise details of plan outlays and actual expenditure during the last 3 years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22		
		BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.(upto 31.1.2022)
1	SCA to TSP	1350.00	1350.00	1349.86	1350.00	800.00	799.49	1350.00	785.00	3.42
2	Grants under Article 275(1)	2662.56	2662.55	2662.53	1350.01	800.00	800.00	1350.01	900.00	364.05
3	Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)	0.31	16.22	16.21	1313.23	1200.00	1200.00	1418.04	1057.74	767.70
4	Support to NSTFDC	80.00	80.00	80.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
5	Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojna	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the Scheduled Tribes	110.00	110.00	94.84	110.00	60.00	59.66	110.00	90.00	46.39
7	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group(PVTG)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	140.00	140.00	250.00	160.00	143.03
8	Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products.	83.00	128.50	128.50	140.00	105.00	105.00	150.00	120.00	56.50
9	Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)	100.00	110.00	109.98	110.00	60.00	60.00	120.00	60.00	34.89
10	Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP)	130.00	190.00	164.64	152.51	85.74	82.86	155.00	115.00	57.50
11	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students	100.00	100.00	99.89	100.00	120.00	120.00	150.00	120.00	106.38
12	Scholarship to the ST Students for Studies Abroad	2.00	2.00	1.90	2.00	4.76	4.76	3.00	5.00	5.64
13	Pre-Matric Scholarship	340.00	440.00	440.00	400.00	250.00	248.90	400.00	400.00	389.18
14	Post-Matric Scholarship	1613.50	1826.39	1863.33*	1900.00	1833.00	1830.18	1993.00	2257.72	1892.19
15	Tribal Festivals, Research Information & Mass Education	24.00	24.00	23.23	24.00	12.00	9.00	30.00	15.00	5.07
16	Monitoring and Evaluation	2.50	4.00	3.83	4.00	2.00	1.82	5.00	5.00	2.06
17	Improving Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
18	Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North Eastern Region	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.00	0.00
	<b>Total-Schemes</b>	<b>6847.89</b>	<b>7293.66</b>	<b>7288.74</b>	<b>7355.76</b>	<b>5472.50</b>	<b>5461.67</b>	<b>7484.07</b>	<b>6126.46</b>	<b>3874.00</b>

2.6. On being enquired about the reasons due to which Budget Estimates were reduced in 2020-21 and 2021-22 at RE stage and these Revised Estimates could also not be spent during the period, the Ministry of Tribal affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“It may be noted that the BE for the Ministry was reduced during 2020-21 and 2021-22 by the Ministry of Finance after assessing for Revised Estimates. Both

Governmental and Non-Governmental implementing agencies had not been able to completely carry out the field level activities due to the ongoing pandemic, which led to a slowdown in implementation of schemes. Nonetheless, this Ministry has already made an expenditure of Rs. 4,070.04 crore as on 15.02.2022. The funds could not be released as budgeted as the States could not utilize the money released earlier and submit UCs. Otherwise, the Ministry has been spending the entire budgetary provision in the past.”

2.7 When Committee enquired whether the Ministry would be able to spend Budgetary allocation for 2021-22 in full as the Ministry have been able to spend only ₹3,874.00 crore till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022, the Ministry of Tribal affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“The Ministry has been able to spend the funds allocated under the BE for the previous financial years and would be able to utilize the amount sanctioned under the RE for the current Financial year. Since there has been pendency of utilisation certificates from many States in respect of the previous releases, release has not been as much as expected. The Shortfall will be made up by March, 2022”

2.8 The Committee were further informed during the deliberation by the representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the evidence before the Committee that:

“अगर आप इस बार योजनाओं को देखेंगे तो इस बार शिक्षा, जीविका और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर पर खास जोर दिया गया है। पहले यह होता था कि एक गैप-फीलिंग टाइप अरेंजमेंट होता था, पर अभी जो हमारी स्कीम्स हैं, चाहे वह शिक्षा की योजना हो, वह भी एक तरह से फुल फ्लेजेड स्कीम है, जिसे मंत्रालय इम्प्लीमेंट करेगा। दूसरा, चाहे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर हो, 36,428 गांव हैं, उसे भी मंत्रालय करेगा। तीसरा, जैसा कि आप जानती हैं, माननीय समिति ने पिछले साल एस.टी. कॉम्पोनेंट के बारे में बोला था। उस कॉम्पोनेंट का बेस्ट यूटीलाइज कैसे कर सकते हैं, इसमें बहुत मेहनत हुई है।“

2.9 On being asked whether the Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 are sufficient to meet the requirement of the year and the initiatives taken to ensure that the allocation made is fully spent to accomplish the objectives of the allocation, the Ministry of Tribal affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“As the Ministry has spent a similar quantum of funds under various schemes in the past, allocation to States/UTs is proposed to be made as per the guidelines for each scheme. Since comparable amounts have been allocated in earlier years, and the scheme guidelines provide for clear norms for allocation, there is no difficulty expected in making allocations in respect of the schemes. Periodical review of

expenditure is taken at the highest level and States are persuaded to utilize the amount released and submit the Utilisation Certificates in time”

2.10 On being enquired about the parameters taken into consideration for projecting the requirement for budgetary allocation from Ministry of Finance and the reasons due to which projections made to Ministry of Finance are substantially reduced which is further reduced at RE stage alongwith the steps taken to curb the practice, the Ministry of Tribal affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“Many schemes of the Ministry are demand driven. The releases of the funds are made depending upon the submission of UCs and PPRs for the previous releases by the States. Some States have not been able to submit the same, resulting in their allocation not being fully released. However, allocations which remain unutilized by such States/UTs are re-allocated to better performing States/UTs. As mentioned earlier, the scheme guidelines provide for clear parameters for allocation of funds. Taking all these factors in consideration projections are made to Ministry of Finance. Further, it may be noted that, during the financial year 2019-20, budget allocation was enhanced at RE stage and this Ministry was able to expend around 106% of its BE.”

2.11 The Committee appreciate the fact that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have recently shown a more focused approach on the Schemes administered by them for overall welfare as well as socio-economic and educational empowerment of tribal population. From the deposition of the representatives of the Ministry during evidence, it emerged that the Ministry conducted a much-awaited gap analysis of tribal areas and took an overview of 265 schemes being run under various Ministries to identify and subsequently bridge the gaps in sectors like education, health, agriculture, skill development, employment, housing, road connectivity, drinking water, electricity, etc. which revealed that there are about 1,17,000 tribal villages with ST population where such gaps exist. The Committee note that Ministry of Tribal Affairs thereafter have revamped/clubbed some of their age old major schemes into two schemes namely ‘Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana’ for 2020-2026 period and the ‘Pradhan Mantri JanJatiya Vikas Mission’ having specific Budgetary allocations, measurable indicators, gap based annual plans, defined target beneficiaries etc. The Committee hope that the Ministry will implement the same in an outcome-oriented and time-bound manner. They desire to be apprised of the progress at the action taken stage.

2.12. The Committee find that initially the Budgetary allocations of ₹ 7355.76 crore and ₹7,084.07 crore were made for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively, to administer their Central sector and Centrally sponsored schemes besides two officials programmes viz. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-scheme and Grants-in-Aid

under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. However, the allocation was reduced to ₹ 5472.50 crore in 2020-21 and ₹ 6126.46 crore in 2021-22 at the Revised Estimate stage. Surprisingly, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs could not even spend fully the RE allocation in 2020-21 and have been able to spend ₹ 4070.04 crore in 2021-22 upto 15th February, 2022, leaving apart the cut in allocation made by the Ministry of Finance for all Ministries due to COVID. The reason cited was that both the Governmental and non-Governmental agencies had not been able to completely carry out the field level activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also the States could not utilise the amount released to them by the Ministry and furnish UCs. Nonetheless after analysing the expenditure of the various schemes administered by the Ministry during 2021-22, it is difficult for the Committee to accept that ongoing Pandemic adversely affected the expenditure as work on several Schemes such as, Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Scheduled Tribes, development of Particularly Vulnerable Groups, etc could have continued, particularly when the Ministry have already carried out a gap analysis of tribal villages in Health and education sector and revamped their schemes to be implemented in a phased manner with defined target beneficiaries for each year under the 'Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)' as well as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM). The Committee, in the past, have recommended various measures to augment coordination between the States, implementing agencies and the Ministry of Tribal affairs. Also, the Committee have, time and again, observed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should avoid rush of expenditure at the fag end of a financial year and make sincere efforts so that funds are timely spent and the targeted people get the benefits. The Committee now expect that, with identified targets under the PMAAGY and other schemes, the trend of expenditure would improve and the Ministry would also make efforts for timely receipt of UCs and approval of the proposals. They should also strive to achieve a better coordination between the States and the implementing agencies for full utilisation of the funds allotted to them.

2.13. The Committee are constrained to note that the projections of requisite funds made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are invariably reduced by the Ministry of finance in the actual BE allocation. These allocations are further reduced in the Revised Estimate stage. In the year 2020-21 the allocation was reduced at the Revised Estimate stage from ₹ 7355.76 crore to ₹ 5472.50 and in 2021-22 it was reduced from ₹ 7484.07 crore to ₹ 6126.46 crore. Further, the Budgetary allocation for 2022-23 has been substantially reduced by the Ministry of Finance as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, despite their projection of ₹ 13208.52 crore, was granted ₹ 8406.92 crore only. The Committee would like to believe that as various Outcome targets in the 5 phases of PMAAGY have been identified and the targets for scholarship schemes, EMRS etc. have also been fixed, the projections were realistic. Hence, they feel that there should not have been so much reduction at actual BE stage. Still a gap of nearly ₹ 5000 crore in the same has happened. Quite obviously, the Ministry could not convince the Ministry of Finance on reducing this gap to a minimum. The Committee would therefore hope that the Ministry of

**Tribal Affairs would utilise available funds fully this year to achieve the targets and, in future, prepare a realistic budget, considering the experience and viability of revamped Schemes.**



## CHAPTER - III

### PRE-MATRIC AND POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS

#### (I) PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

3.1 The objective of the Scheme is to support ST students for studying in Classes IX and X so that the incidence of dropout, especially in transition from the elementary to secondary level of education is minimized and they have a better chance of progressing to Post – Matric stages of education. The income of the Parents/Guardians should not exceed ₹ 2.50 lakh per annum. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Under the Scheme funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States/UTs except North East and Hills States/UTs like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Central Share. Scholarships are available for studies in India only.

3.2 Pre-Matric Scholarships are paid @ ₹ 225/- per month for day scholars and @ ₹ 525/- per month for hostellers, for a period of 10 months in a year. Books and ad-hoc grant are paid @ ₹ 750/- per year for day scholars and ₹ 1000/- per year for hostellers. ST students with disabilities who are studying in private unaided recognized schools are eligible for monthly allowances @ between ₹ 160/- to ₹ 240/- per month depending upon their degrees of disability.

3.3 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure for last three years alongwith Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 is as follows:-

( ₹ in crore)

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP (upto 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022)	BE
340.00	440.00	439.99	400.00	250.00	248.90	400.00	400.00	389.18	419.00

3.4 The target fixed and achievements made under the scheme are as follows:-

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target
12.10 lakhs students	14.51 lakhs students	No shortfall	15.00 lakhs students	14.46 lakhs students	No shortfall	15.00 lakhs students	12.7 lakhs students	No shortfall. Release of scholarship fund for F.Y. 2021-22 is still under process	15.00 lakhs estimate

3.5 It may be seen that an amount of ₹ 400.00 crore was allocated under the scheme for the year 2021-22, out of which ₹ 389.18 crore was released upto 31.01.2022. Under this scheme, it is seen that there has been a sudden dip in allocation of funds in the Revised Estimate of 2020-21 from ₹400 crore to ₹ 250 crore. However, in the subsequent year, the extent of allocation under the scheme retained to the level, i.e. ₹400 crore, which was in the original budget (Budget Estimates) of 2020-21. Further, for last couple of years, it was noticed that there has been full utilisation of allocated funds.

3.6 A statement indicating State-wise coverage of beneficiaries and Central assistance released during the years 2019-20 to 2021-22 (till 31.12.2021) is as follows:

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22 (as on 31.12.2021)
		Fund Released	beneficiaries	Fund Released	beneficiaries	Fund Released
1	Andaman & Nicobar	5.62	247	12.33	278	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	736.32	28124	1433.81	12647	3935.06
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	5849	0.00
4	Assam	0.00	2869	17.27	2710	102.18
5	Bihar	7131.47	46096	0.00	55198	0.00

6	Chhattisgarh	4796.94	143986	3541	134262	0.00
7	Dadar Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	-	-	234.00	3452	0.00
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	38.49	5044			
9	Daman & Diu	5.89	377			
10	Goa	80.56	3332	41.35	3475	0.00
11	Gujarat	5248.34	0.00	2198.84	0.00	3689.18
12	Himachal Pradesh	83.92	2709	91.87	3534	0.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	11470	0.00
14	Jharkhand	1514.49	106761	0.00	83511	3899.03
15	Karnataka	1846.92	87364	0.00	72626	1753.16
16	Kerala	287.31	7858	116.56	9880	347.07
17	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	42.27	3450	0.00
18	Madhya Pradesh	7698.90	318870	5429.34	314356	11458.18
19	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	111939	0.00
20	Manipur	443.33	24760	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	790	0.00
22	Mizoram	702.21	16890	167.86	11046	657.47
23	Nagaland	0.00	1500	60.75	3000	0.00
24	Odisha	6157.65	219875	6944.96	173833	5236.75
25	Puducherry	0.00	60	1.63	21	0.00
26	Rajasthan	5346.97	184163	3126.9	215040	6234.34
27	Sikkim	3.57	415	9.41	414	0.00
28	Tamil Nadu	589.74	13423	241.00	13471	546.55
29	Telangana	0.00	5570	0.00	856	0.00
30	Tripura	386.18	10980	252.09	9404	58.55
31	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.17
32	Uttarakhand	0.00	2504	138.24	1329	0.00
33	West Bengal	894.18	37333	788.22	30050	912.51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>43999.00</b>	<b>1271110</b>	<b>24890.24</b>	<b>1287891</b>	<b>38918.20</b>

3.7 On being asked whether the funds made available by the Ministry of Finance under the Scheme have ever fallen short, the Ministry *inter-alia* submitted in their written reply that:

“No shortfall in the budget made available to this Ministry.”

3.8 On being enquired whether the Ministry conducted any study to assess the number of eligible beneficiaries for Pre Matric Scholarship, the Ministry *inter-alia* submitted in their written reply that:

“Ministry has conducted the evaluation of Pre-Matric Scholarship through IIPA, New Delhi. Further NITI Aayog has also conducted the evaluation of the Pre-Matric Scholarship through KPMG.

Pre-Matric scheme are open-ended Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Budgetary Estimates are prepared on the basis of expenditure incurred during the previous year and targets are fixed based on the demand/proposals along with beneficiary details received from States/UTs. These targets are in the nature of estimates and the finalization of the number of eligible students and the expenditure is based on the number of eligible applications received on the portals inviting applications for the scholarship schemes.”

3.9 On being enquired with regard to the parameters taken into consideration to fix the income limit of parents and when it was revised and has there been any request from any quarter to increase the income, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* their written reply that:

“The income limit is fixed based on the inflation and income limit under similar schemes implemented by the Line Ministries.

The income limit under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme was last revised from Rs.2.00 lakhs to Rs.2.50 lakhs in 2013(w.e.f. the academic session 2013-14). Further, the evaluation report of the IIPA recommended increase in the income criteria for eligibility under the Pre-Matric Scheme. The income criteria under the scholarship scheme is decided after consultation with Department of Expenditure and taking into consideration various factors like availability of budget under the scheme, the criteria followed in other Ministries and with the approval of cabinet.”

3.10 In this regard, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed the Committee during the deliberation that:

“इस पर डिफेंस मिनिस्टर की अध्यक्षता में ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर की एक मीटिंग भी हो रही है, जिसमें स्कॉलरशिप की एक प्रश्नावली में एक प्रश्न यह भी था कि ढाई लाख रुपये की इनकम लिमिट रखी गई है, वह बहुत कम है और इसको बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए।”

3.11 As per the information provided by the Ministry, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) inter-alia made following suggestions/ recommendations in the evaluation report and are said to be considered during the appraisal of the scheme for the continuation for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26.

- (a) There is a need to raise awareness about the scheme through locally circulated print and electronic media. At least the medium of publicity should be, a considerably circulating newspaper, in the tribal language. The local news channels should also be considered to disseminate the information, scaling up to more physical targets. The matter given to newspaper and electronic media should be the part of record-keeping at States/UTs Tribal Department.
- (b) The customized training on the implementation of scheme should locally be organized by NIC for State, District and Schools/Institutions' Heads. The training should be conducted with well-defined learning outcomes, feedback on training by the trainees and evaluation of each trainee by the trainer concerned should be made part of the training framework. The assessment of the training/s should be done both by the trainees and the trainers.
- (c) The financial assistance from Centre to State/UTs vis-à-vis State or UTs /Districts to beneficiary accounts need to be released in a timely manner. However, in the last rectification/intervention/suggestion to ensure the flow of fund to be regulated uninterruptedly did not make much change. The liability of Centre and States/UTs to dispense the amount on priority basis should be dovetailed with timely disbursement of the amount to the beneficiaries account. Also, it requires dedicated staff at all levels. The dedicated staff to manage the schemes will be held accountable for any delay in the disbursement. The staff would also be keeping all information related to budget estimate, revised estimate, actual expenditure and the number of beneficiaries targeted. The staff members also need to ensure that the amount reaches the beneficiaries on a yearly basis. All transactions involved in the scheme are to be preserved by States/UTs. The States/UTs demand should be prepared in time by the State Tribal Department and be forwarded to the Ministry. The States/UTs need to ensure that the aforementioned details are shared with the Centre.

- (d) For income certificates, income ceiling of parents/guardians of the students should be revised in the light of consumer price index. Side by side, 40% escalation in the scholarship amount of the existing rate is recommended to meet the educational costs of the scholarship beneficiaries.
- (e) Educational Institutions may be provided with some non-recurring grant to procure internet facility providing easy access to scholarship processing.
- (f) In order to improve the outreach and effectiveness of the scheme, both financial and physical scaling up is recommended. To cover up all the potential-beneficiaries, fund availability in advance is to be ensured by States/UTs.
- (g) The study also recommends an annual social audit in order to assess the actual usefulness and the degree to which needy ST beneficiaries are being covered. The recommendations of the social audit will keep the Scheme resurrected and not let it be obsolete.

## **(II) POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (PMS)**

3.12 The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing post secondary level of education. The Scheme covers professional, technical as well as non-professional and non-technical courses at various levels including correspondence courses covering distance and continuing education. The Scheme was introduced during the year 1944-45 and has since been revised from time to time. The last submission of the Scheme has been made w.e.f. 01.04.2013.

3.13 The scheme is open to all ST students whose parents annual income is upto ₹ 2.50 lakh. The student can study any where in the country and scholarships are awarded through the Government of the State/UT where he/she is domiciled. In this scheme, the tuition fee as fixed by the State fee regulatory committee is reimbursed. The students are also provided maintenance allowance depending on the type of course. The income limit under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme was last revised from ₹ 2.00 Lakh to ₹2.50 lakh in 2013. The courses have been divided into four categories and the rates vary from ₹ 230/- per month to ₹ 1200 per month as shown below.

Group	Courses	Rate of Maintenance Allowance (in ₹ per month)	
		Hostellers	Day Scholars
Group I	Degree and Post Graduate level courses including M.Phil, PhD and Post Doctoral research [medicine, engineering, Management, CA Commercial Pilot etc.]	1200	550
Group II	Graduate/Post graduate courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B Pharma). Hotel Management, Mass Communication etc. Nursing (B Nursing), LLB, BFS, Other para-medical branches [MA, M.Sc, M.Com, M.Pharma, M.Ed etc]	820	530
Group III	All other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group I & II e.g. BA/B.Sc/B. Com etc.	570	300
Group IV	All Post-matriculation level non-degree courses [both general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.]	380	230

In addition to above, provision for ST students with disabilities has been made in the ranges from ₹ 160 to ₹ 240.

3.14 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure for last three years alongwith Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 is as follows:-

(₹ in crore)

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE
1613.50	1826.39	1862.65	1900.00	1833.00	1830.14	1993.00	2257.72	1891.45	1965.00

3.15 The target fixed and achievements made under the scheme are as follows:-

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement		Target
18.50 Lakhs students	20.61 lakhs students	No shortfall	18.00 lakhs students	20.60 lakhs students	No shortfall	20.00 lakhs students	14.49 lakhs students	No shortfall. Release of scholarship fund for F.Y. 2021-22 is still under process	20.00 lakhs students

3.16 The Scheme is implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States/UTs except NE and Hilly States/UTs of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature central assistance is 100%. An amount of ₹1,891.45 crore was released till 31.12.2021, against the budget allocation of ₹1,993.00 crore (general component of Umbrella Scheme). State-wise coverage of beneficiaries and Central assistance released under the Scheme during the years 2019-20 to 2021-22 (till 31.12.2021) is as follows:

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22 (as on 31.12.2021)
		Fund Released	Beneficiaries	Fund Released	Beneficiaries	Fund Released
1	Andaman & Nicobar	11.34	447	13.29	312	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	7797.07	158195	6039.35	71820	8991.45
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6113.41	20500	5712.96	31916	12360.5
4	Assam	4867.20	55507	5413.54	54846	1093.40



5	Bihar	1525.43	13938	708.22	19513	0.00
6	Chhattisgarh	7022.69	144453	8790.24	140163	0.00
7	Dadar Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	-	-	3481.73	6180	0.00
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	88.66	5618			
9	Daman & Diu	0.00	351			
10	Goa	732.79	5870	458.18	6412	0.00
11	Gujarat	14004.48	202667	22977.64	0.00	29171.54
12	Himachal Pradesh	2468.81	3009	0.00	5121	0.00
13	jammu & Kashmir	1048.29	10685	805.44	4940	0.00
14	Jharkhand	7862.86	79823	0.00	78755	12654.88
15	Karnataka	15003.43	118083	0.00	129094	17080.51
16	Kerala	1641.52	16583	3285.25	15820	2516.49
17	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	738	8200	0.00
18	Madhya Pradesh	12198.58	244126	12344	279722	24529.43
19	Maharashtra	15575.38	139550	18149.52	127848	19214.82
20	Manipur	6235.55	30969	2184.19	37258	4292.15
21	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	17315	2636.09
22	Mizoram	4415.78	38174	3446.82	33798	3874.63
23	Nagaland	3268.73	40164	3226.37	37183	4435.75
24	Odisha	16640.15	171532	19095.97	155309	21842.98
25	Puducherry	0.00	23	19.56	38	0.00
26	Rajasthan	25950.52	286652	25557.03	315315	0.00
27	Sikkim	566.80	4431	553.83	3488	1036.28
28	Tamil Nadu	5025.19	29478	3328.99	21593	4849.38
29	Telangana	19610.60	129243	27297.83	118347	7503.90
30	Tripura	2355.78	23720	4804.98	26092	7188.77
31	Uttar Pradesh	1822.71	17984	2281.67	19782	0.00
32	Uttrakhand	0.00	6499	0.00	3528	0.00
33	West Bengal	2411	62234	2256.42	58156	3872.05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>186264.75</b>	<b>2060508</b>	<b>182908.02</b>	<b>1827864</b>	<b>189145.00</b>

3.17 On being enquired whether the Ministry have conducted any study to assess the number of eligible beneficiaries for Post Matric Scholarship and how the Budgetary Estimates are prepared and target fixed, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *inter-alia* submitted in their written reply that:

“Ministry has conducted the evaluation of Post-Matric Scholarship through IIPA, New Delhi. Further NITI Aayog has also conducted the evaluation of the Post-Matric Scholarship through KPMG.

It is an open-ended Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Budgetary Estimates are prepared on the basis of expenditure incurred during the previous year and targets are fixed based on the demand/proposals along with beneficiary details received from States/UTs. These targets are in the nature of estimates and the finalization of the number of eligible students and the expenditure is based on the number of eligible applications received on the portals inviting applications for the scholarship schemes.”

3.18 On being asked whether the funds made available by the Ministry of Finance under the Scheme have ever fallen short, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *inter-alia* submitted in their written reply that

“No shortfall has been noticed in the budget made available to this Ministry”.

3.19 As regards to the parameters taken into consideration to fix the income limit of parents and when was it revised and has there been any request from any quarter to increase the income, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *inter-alia* submitted in their written reply that:

“The income limit is fixed based on the inflation and income limit under similar schemes implemented by similar Ministries.

The income limit under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme was last revised from Rs.2.00 lakhs to Rs.2.50 lakhs in 2013 (w.e.f. the academic session 2013-14). The evaluation study of the IIPA recommended increase in the income criteria for

eligibility under the scheme. The income criteria under the scholarship scheme is decided after consultation with Department of Expenditure and taking into consideration various factors like availability of budget under the scheme, the criteria followed in other Ministries and with the approval of cabinet.”

3.20 As per the information provided by the Ministry, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) on the evaluation of the Scholarship Scheme conducted made various recommendation, suggestion common to the recommendations/suggestions given on the evaluation of pre-matric scholarship scheme and are said to be considered during the appraisal of the scheme for the continuation for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26. In addition IIPA has also recommended that the Bank in the institutions (in prescribed disciplines as per the Scheme guidelines need to be set up immediately and the States/UTs Tribal Departments need to ensure the existence of the Book Bank. In case of book banks are not set-up, in coordination with Education Department/Higher Education, the required steps need to be taken.

**3.21 As regards the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, the Committee are surprised to find that there has not been much variation in the number of beneficiaries and targets fixed for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 under it which should have increased in view of the objective of the scheme that is, the incidence of dropouts should be minimized. In the year 2019-20, 14.51 lakh students got scholarship, similarly in 2020-21 14.46 lakh students got scholarship and 12.7 lakh students have received scholarship in 2021-22 and some of the remaining cases are reportedly under process. After examination of these statistics, the Committee feel that either the population of tribal students under pre-matric classes has remained stagnant or the Ministry have not made enough efforts to ensure that the target fixed under the scheme are based on correct data regarding tribal population so that all the eligible students get the benefits of the Scheme. The Committee are perturbed further to note from the State-wise coverage that either the beneficiaries or the funds released in some of the States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh are shown as nil. The Committee would like the Ministry to analyse reasons for the number of students getting benefit of the Scheme remaining stagnant as well as nil allotment of funds to some of the States/UTs. Simultaneously, the Ministry**

should take suitable steps to reach to maximum number of tribal students so that these students get due benefit of the Scheme.

3.22 The Committee find that an evaluation study of the Pre-matric scheme conducted by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) had made some valuable recommendations/suggestions with regard to increasing awareness, timely release of funds, revision in income ceiling of parents, annual social audit etc. to achieve the objectives of the schemes. The Committee are of the opinion that these recommendations/suggestions are important and in the interest of tribals. The revision of income ceilings has been emphasised by the Committee during evidence too. The Committee are however, unhappy as the Ministry have not taken any action till date. Now these recommendations/suggestions are proposed to be considered during the appraisal of the schemes for their continuation during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Committee feel that there is urgent need to increase the income ceiling of parents as the revision has been delayed badly, the ceiling last revised way back in 2013. Similarly, annual social audit and timely release of funds would prove to be very useful in tackling any loopholes and achieving the objectives of the scheme. The Committee would therefore, like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to expeditiously examine the suggestions/recommendations made in the IIPA report and suitably implement those without further delay.

3.23 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants Post-matric Scholarship ranging from ₹ 230 per month to ₹ 12000 per month to the students where parents income is upto ₹ 2.50 lakh for the courses divided into four categories. The Committee find that during the year 2019-20 there were 2060508 beneficiaries whereas in 2020-21 this number got reduced to 1827864. Further, the funds released during 2019-20 and 2020-21 were ₹ 1862.64 crore(approx.) and ₹ 1929.08 crore(approx.) respectively and ₹ 1891.45 crore (approx.) were released upto 31 December, 2021 for the year 2021-22. On the scrutiny of Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates, Expenditure and target fixed/achieved, the Committee find the pattern of allocation/expenditure remaining stagnant as both allocation and the number of beneficiaries have not increased over the years. The Committee are of the opinion that annual increase in tribal population should be taken into consideration at the time of budgetary allocation and it should also be ensured that number of beneficiaries increase every year.

## CHAPTER-IV

### NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TO ST STUDENTS

4.1 The objective of the scheme is to provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes for pursuing higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The duration of fellowship for M. Phil is 2 years and for Ph.D is 5 years. Under the Scheme, 750 fellowships are provided to the ST students each year for the maximum duration of the fellowship and there is no income ceiling in this scheme. This scheme covers Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges as indicated below:

- i Universities/Institutions/Colleges included under section 2(f) and 12(B) / 2(8) 12(B)/ of UGC Act.
- ii Deemed to be Universities included under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 and eligible to receive grants-in-aid from UGC.
- iii Universities/Institutions/Colleges funded by Central/State Government.
- iv Institutes of National Importance.

4.2 This is a Central sector Scheme and the entire funding is done by the Central Government. The funds are directly transferred to the accounts of the Scholar through Canara Bank, which is the authorized Bank designated by UGC since 2011. The rate of fellowship is as follows:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Amount (Rs)</b>	<b>Contingency</b>	<b>HRA</b>	<b>Escorts/Reader Assistance</b>
M.Phil	25000/- PM	i. Rs.10000 per year for <i>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</i> ii. Rs.12000 per year for <i>Science, Engineering Technology</i>	As per rules of University/ Institutions/ Colleges	Rs.2000/- p.m. in case of physically handicapped and blind candidates for all the subjects

Ph.D	28000/- PM	i.Rs.20500 per year for <i>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</i> ii.Rs.25000 per year for <i>Science, Engineering Technology</i>		
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4.3 The MoTA has taken an initiative namely 'Talent Pool' for the development of ST scholars by providing an environment of learning, support, contribution, and recognition and to enable them to participate in various research and evaluation activities undertaken by MoTA at Central and State levels. MoTA is funding more than 3000 research scholars every year for pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D in Fellowship Scheme, wherein ST scholars from all over India are studying in select Universities. In order to get connect with Tribal Talent, harness their strength by understanding their areas of interest and empowering them to develop as entrepreneurs, researchers and make them aware about various other schemes of Govt of India for their welfare, MoTA has chalked out a unique initiative with Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). Process of selection for 2020-21 academic year is in progress.

4.4 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure for last three years alongwith Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 is as follows:-

									<b>₹ in crore</b>
2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP (upto 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022)	BE
100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	120.00	120.00	100.00	120.00	96.69	145.00

4.5 The target fixed and achievements made under the scheme are as follows:-

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement		Target	
750 + renewal	2552 students	No shortfall	750 + renewal	2625 students	No shortfalls	750 + renewal	2508	No shortfall.	--	750+ renewal

4.6 As per the information provided by the Ministry, evaluation of the Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry was done by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The suggestions made by IIPA are said to be considered during the appraisal of the scheme for the continuation for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26. IIPA *inter-alia* made following suggestions/ recommendations in the evaluation report:

- (a) MoTA has grievance portal through which they resolve the issues of the student. MoTA gives training through regional workshops to Institutes and to Universities Nodal Officer on the process of Scholarship once in the year. However, it is suggested by the ST students that such training programmes should be imparted frequently for the nodal officers covering all notified Universities and top class institutions so that they can help each and every student regarding technical problems they face and their guidance program should focus on supportive direction for tribal students.
- (b) The Ministry should try to reduce the time from registration to disbursement of the scholarship. It should be maximum period of two months.
- (c) Number of seats for scholarship should be increased so that maximum number of students can take benefit from such schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for higher studies.
- (d) There should be contingency component in scholarship.
- (e) Students also requested that the amount of scholarship should be increased as sanctioned amount is not sufficient for some courses like Medical sciences, architecture & Planning, Engineering for both Master and Research level.
- (f) There should be proper awareness campaign about eligibility, mode of applying, demo of application form in you tube, solution of frequently asked questions, problems and benefits of the scholarship through social media like

Facebook, you tube, instagram and other popular platform that maximum students can understand the process and facts of the scheme.

- (g) The ST students suggested that number of fellowship should be increased so that maximum number of students can take benefit from such schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (h) The ST student beneficiaries availing fellowship in the selected universities and institutes reported that the amount of fellowship of Tribal Affairs should be increased as the UGC fellowship (Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) & Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) has increased by 10%. The amount of JRF of UGC in Science, Humanities and Social Science has been increased from Rs. 25,000/- per month to Rs. 31,000/- per month. Similarly, the SRF of UGC in Science, Humanities and Social Science has increased from Rs. 28,000/- per month to Rs. 35,000/- per month.
- (i) The students also requested that the amount under contingency of the fellowship should be increased.

**4.7 The Committee note that 750 National Fellowships are provided to the ST students each year for pursuing higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges. The Committee are surprised to find that Budgetary allocation/expenditure and target in 2020-21 and 2021-22 have remained the same i.e. ₹120.00 crore and the budgetary allocation for 2022-23 have marginally increased to ₹145.00 crore from ₹120.00 crore. The Committee desire to be apprised of the reasons due to which the target of 750 fellowships has not been revised. They feel that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should try to assess actual requirement of the fellowships and accordingly increase the number of fellowships offered to ST students so that students desirous of pursuing higher studies are able to realise their dreams of high education. The Committee would also like the Ministry to examine the recommendations/ suggestions made by Indian Institute of Public Administration with regard to National Fellowship and bring it at par with the JRF and SRF granted by the UGC as this would really help to ease the financial burden on ST students.**



## CHAPTER-V

### NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP FOR ST STUDENTS

5.1 The objective of this Central Sector Scheme is to provide financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Masters degree, Ph.D and Post Doctoral research programmes. 17 Scheduled Tribe candidates and 3 candidates belonging to PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) can be awarded the scholarship annually for pursuing Post Graduate, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral level courses abroad.

5.2 The scholarship is awarded to ST candidates, provided the total income of the candidate and his/her parents/guardians does not exceed ₹ 6.00 lakh annum. For Post Graduate course the candidate is required to have secured 55% marks or equivalent grade in the relevant Bachelor's degree with at least 2 years work experience being desirable. Candidates with experience are given preference. For M.Phil or Ph.D. course, he/she shall have 55% marks or equivalent grade in the relevant Master's degree with 2 years research/teaching/M.Phil. Degree in the concerned field is desirable. Candidates with experience would be given preference. For Post Doctoral studies a candidate shall have 55% marks or equivalent grade in the relevant Master's degree and Ph.D. alongwith 5 years teaching/research/professional experience in a relevant field are desirable. The candidates are required to secure admission in a university/college abroad on their own within 2 years from the date of communication selection. Rates of scholarship and other allowances are follows:

<b>Components</b>	<b>Amount in US dollars/UK Pounds</b>
i). Tuition fees	As per actual
ii). Annual Maintenance Allowance	\$15,400 (USA and other countries except UK) £9,900 (for UK)
iii). Annual Contingency and Equipment Allowance	\$1532(USA and other countries except UK) £1116 (for UK)
iv). Poll Tax, Incidental Journey Expenses, Medical Insurance Premium, Cost of Air Passage, Local travel, Visa fees	Actuals, wherever applicable

5.3 Four annual “Passage Grants” to Scheduled Tribe and PVTG candidates are also available under this scheme. The passage grants are open throughout the year to such candidates who are in receipt of a merit scholarship for postgraduate studies, research or training abroad from a foreign university/Government or under any other scheme, where the cost of passage is not provided. The scheme provides grants for to and fro passage from India and back by economy class.

5.4 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure for last three years alongwith Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 is as follows:-

									₹ in crore
2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP (upto 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022)	BE
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	4.76	4.76	3.00	5.00	2.46	4.00

5.5 The target fixed and achievements made under the scheme are as follows:-

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement		Target
20 applicants to be selected	20 applicants	No shortfall	20 applicants to be selected	20 applicants	No shortfall	20 applicants to be selected	Selection under process	No Shortfall	20 applicants to be selected

5.6 The Ministry informed that the 20 students have been selected for the year 2020-21 and the selection for the year 2021-22 is under process. An amount of ₹ 2.46 crore has been released upto 31.12.2021 against the budget allocation of ₹3.00 crore for 2021-22. For academic year 2021-22, the process of inviting applications is ongoing. The applications of eligible students are examined by the screening committee online and 20 candidates are selected by the expert committee, consisting of 10 experts from Engineering, Medical. Management and Arts faculty from reputed Institutes. The

selection process is managed through a dedicated portal <https://tribal.nic.in/nos.aspx> on which application are invited

5.7 On being enquired about the number of tribal students enrolled for higher studies in different institutions abroad during the last five years and whether all the students enrolled successfully completed their courses and the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure that the students enrolled successfully completed their courses, the Ministry of Tribal affairs stated in their written reply that:

“45 students have been enrolled for higher studies in different institutions abroad during the last five years. The completion of the course is depending on the duration of the courses, which ranges from 2 years to 5 years. It may be noted that finally selected candidates shall obtain admission and join an accredited university/ institution abroad within two years from the date of communication of selection. The candidates are required to seek admission and join accredited Universities/ institutions only. Prior to 2017-18, the candidate was allowed three years time to join the institution of their choice. Since 2017-18, it has been changed to two years. After implementing end to end digitization in 2018-19, the Ministry started to track the students. The scheme is implemented through the Embassies of India and the information regarding successful completion of the course is being obtained from them. In the year 2015-16, 9 students joined courses abroad. 9, 12, 10 and 5 students joined courses abroad in 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.

5.8 On being asked whether there has been any request from any quarter to enhance the number of Scholarships and when was the number of scholarships revised including the number the applications received/ sanction during the last five years, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“Keeping in view that the students who are awarded the scholarship are themselves unable sometimes to avail of the scholarship, the issue of enhancement of scholarship does not arise. Last revision of slots from 15 to 20 was done in 2012-13.”

5.9 With regard to the reasons due to which funds allocated under the Scheme could not be spent in 2021-22 and how does the Ministry propose to spend the enhanced allocation of ₹ 4 crore in 2022-23, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“The finally selected candidates are allowed to obtain admission and join an accredited university/ institution abroad within two years from the date of communication of selection. So the budget cannot be estimated correctly and spill over to next year. The scheme is implemented through the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions/Embassies bear the expenditure which in turn is reimbursed to them by this Ministry. There is no shortfall during the current year 2021-22. In fact based on the bills received from Ministry of External Affairs, the RE of the Scheme was revised from ₹ 3.00 crore to 5.00 crore, which will be utilized fully by March, 2022.

Since the number of students joining the courses abroad are increasing in recent years, accordingly the expenditure under the scheme is also increasing. Therefore, Ministry will be able to spend the enhanced allocation of ₹4.00 crore in 2022-23.”

5.10 On being enquired about the remarkable achievements made under the Scheme since its inception particularly in the field of research for the Country at large and tribals in particular, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“The tribal students are getting opportunity to study abroad and getting international exposure in the field of research study. Some of the students have received the opportunity to work in professional fields after completion of their studies. They are also serving as role models for students from the ST communities to aspire for and access opportunities in higher education in all subjects.”

5.11 As regards to the satisfaction with the performance under the Scheme and how does the Ministry propose to improve it further in the interest of tribal students, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“The performance of this scheme is satisfactory as it is providing an opportunity for tribal students to get international exposure in the field of research work. It is also improving the socio-economic conditions of the tribal students. Over the years, the number of awardees actually availing of this opportunity has also been steadily increasing.”

**5.12 The Committee note that Ministry of Tribal Affairs annually awards 20 National Overseas Scholarships, i.e. 17 for ST students and 3 for PVTG students having income ceiling of ₹ 6 lakh annually for pursuing higher studies abroad. The Committee are**

unhappy that during the last five years, only 45 students have been awarded the National Overseas Scholarship and that apparently no efforts have been made by the Ministry to increase the number of beneficiaries in this direction. In 2021-22, out of sanctioned amount of ₹ 5 crore, only ₹ 2.46 crore could be spent by the time the Committee examined the Demands for Grants. The Committee are unable to comprehend as to why even 20 National Overseas Scholarships fixed for each year for ST PVTG students are not being availed by them. They, therefore, are of the strong view that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should identify the reasons due to which even a small number of 20 Overseas Scholarships is not availed by the students. Also, as has already been reiterated by the Committee, in view of the rising cost of living, there is hardly any merit in fixing the income eligibility criteria of ₹ 6 lakh annually. The Committee feel that it is high time that the Ministry reviewed the criteria to fix the income ceiling to ₹ 10 lakh annually. It should be regularly reviewed so that the eligibility criteria get rationalised and large number of deserving students avail the opportunity. The Committee would therefore, like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide a specific reply on the suggested review of the income criteria at the action taken stage.

## CHAPTER-VI

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

6.1 There are certain groups among tribal populations which have declining or stagnant members, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward. These groups generally inhabit remote localities and have poor infrastructure and administrative support. 75 such groups in 18 States and one UT have been identified and categorized as particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

#### **Scheme for Development of PVTGs**

6.2 While PVTG communities are being assisted in all the schemes of Central Government, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Tribal Welfare Departments of the State Governments, a dedicated scheme was started for such communities in 1998-99. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme exclusively for development of PVTGs and 100% funded by Central Government. The States/ UTs submit the proposals focusing on developmental activities for PVTGs, viz., housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural growth, cattle development, connectivity, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs. The scheme provides for formulation of micro plans for PVTG population. The scheme guidelines make special provisions of separate Mahila Sabha meetings for formulation of CCD plans. At the time of appraisal of CCD plans, the gender disaggregated information of the beneficiaries has to be considered. Further, States / UT Governments are to ensure that at least one third of the total beneficiaries are women/girls. The funds are released to States/UT in accordance with the annual programme proposed for a particular financial year in the CCD Plan. The Conservation-Cum-Development (CCD) Plans are prepared by the State Governments and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for five years by adopting habitat development approach on the basis of data obtained from baseline or other surveys conducted by them, and are approved by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry.

6.3 The Ministry has developed ADIGRAMS portal to monitor the physical and financial progress of the scheme digitally. States have been asked to conduct baseline survey for assessing the population of PVTGs residing in the States/UTs. The scheme has been evaluated by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The major recommendations of IIPA are all the States should constitute Micro Plan projects under CCD Plan with emphasis not only on development of infrastructure but also on strengthening the traditional livelihood and skill development. The CCD Plans should have a long-term view of 3 to 5 years with provision of drinking water and sanitation, creation of irrigation infrastructure and connectivity of PVTG habitation with all-weather roads; relaxation of norms for construction of Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres for the PVTG communities. Issue of Caste Certificates with a provision to mention that the individual belongs to PVTG community in a Mission mode; implementation of MSP to MFP scheme in PVTG areas to ensure a fair price for the forest produces; recognition of habitat and other rights under the provisions of Forest Rights Act, 2006.

6.4 The Allocation and Expenditure made under the scheme of Development of PVTGs during last three years and current year alongwith BE for 2022-23 are given as under.

(₹ in crore)

<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	250.00	250.00	249.99
<b>2020-21</b>	250.00	140.00	140.00
<b>2021-22</b>	250.00	160.00	143.03 (upto 31.12.2021)
<b>2022-23</b>	262.00		

6.5 During 2021-22, ₹143.03 crore has been released to 12 States/UTs as on 31.12.2021. A statement indicating State/UT-wise details of funds released during 2019-20 to 2021-22 under the scheme is as under:

(₹ in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andhra Pradesh	3713.43	1245.51	1829.60
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.00	0.00	252.11
3	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Chhattisgarh	1311.35	989.32	996.90
5	Gujarat	429.05	552.20	761.80
6	Jharkhand	847.00	1777.29	0.00
7	Karnataka	1933.01	438.46	661.17
8	Kerala	0.00	88.00	0.00
9	Madhya Pradesh	8064.89	2188.11	2888.69
10	Maharashtra	2510.00	1411.66	0.00
11	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Odisha	976.38	1202.00	1197.00
13	Rajasthan	968.10	968.00	706.17
14	Tamil Nadu	819.48	551.08	1967.81
15	Telangana	538.50	1460.50	1193.04
16	Tripura	1960.82	231.43	1481.71
17	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	82.04	0.00
18	Uttarakhand	489.53	295.00	367.07
19	West Bengal	437.47	519.40	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24999.01</b>	<b>14000.00</b>	<b>14303.07</b>

6.6 With regard to the target fixed and achievements made under the scheme the Ministry has submitted that:-

“The scheme for development of PVTGs support to States and UTs is in the nature of Gap filling intervention and are not confined to any specific kind of quantifiable measures. Priority for the activities to be taken is decided by respective State Governments as per the need arising from time to time. Physical targets are actually not fixed by the Ministry nor it is feasible for the Ministry to indicate physical targets/ achievements.”



Statement of funds allocation under the Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), State/UT-wise																	
Sl. No.	State/ UT	State-wise share FY 2021-22	FY 2017-18			FY 2018-19			FY 2019-20			FY 2020-21			FY 2021-22		
			Allocation	Expenditure	UC due	Allocation	Expenditure	UC due	Allocation	Expenditure	UC due	Allocation	Expenditure	UC due	Allocation	Expenditure	UC due (GGA)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1918.00	2076.00	2076.00	0.00	1837.00	1837.00	0.00	3713.43	3713.43	0.00	1245.51	258.60	986.91	1829.60	0.00	278.60
2.	A&N Islands	250.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	252.11	0.00	2.11
3.	Bihar	250.00	295.91	158.47	137.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	1006.00	1089.50	1089.50	0.00	1051.50	1051.50	0.00	1311.35	1311.35	0.00	989.32	989.32	0.00	996.90	0.00	726.90
5.	Gujarat	577.00	390.67	390.67	0.00	604.00	604.00	0.00	429.05	429.05	0.00	552.20	552.20	0.00	761.80	0.00	544.60
6.	Jharkhand	2530.00	2047.03	2047.03	0.00	3295.79	3295.79	0.00	847.00	847.00	0.00	1777.29	1777.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Karnataka	440.00	467.00	467.00	0.00	460.00	460.00	0.00	1933.01	1933.01	0.00	438.46	197.96	240.50	661.17	0.00	240.00
8.	Kerala	250.00	62.00	0.00	62.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.00	0.00	88.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	8228.00	8232.46	7905.72	327.00	7998.09	5642.08	2356.01	8064.89	6158.10	1906.79	2188.11	0.00	2188.11	2888.69	0.00	0.00
10.	Maharashtra	1504.00	1226.25	1226.25	0.00	1230.26	1230.26	0.00	2510.00	402.68	2107.32	1411.66	0.00	1411.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Manipur	239.00	195.00	195.00	0.00	1157.55	276.53	881.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Odisha	1197.00	1297.00	1297.00	0.00	3626.00	3626.00	0.00	976.38	976.38	0.00	1202.00	1202.00	0.00	1197.00	0.00	502.00
13.	Rajasthan	964.00	1038.00	1038.00	0.00	1008.00	1008.00	0.00	968.10	968.10	0.00	968.00	914.24	53.76	706.17	0.00	548.17
14.	Tamil Nadu	2212.00	1770.75	1750.75	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	819.48	390.58	428.90	551.08	175.25	375.83	1967.81	0.00	382.48
15.	Telangana	716.00	778.00	778.00	0.00	533.00	533.00	0.00	538.50	538.50	0.00	1460.50	1460.50	0.00	1193.04	0.00	365.54
16.	Tripura	1630.00	2305.00	2305.00	0.00	789.53	789.53	0.00	1960.82	1719.93	195.09	231.43	173.36	4.00	1481.71	0.00	739.11
17.	Uttarakhand	474.00	130.00	130.00	0.00	565.86	565.86	0.00	489.53	23.10	466.43	295.00	0.00	295.00	367.07	0.00	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	100.00	17.96	0.00	17.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.04	0.00	82.04	0.00	0.00	0.00

19.	West Bengal	415.00	330.75	330.75	0.00	843.42	843.42	0.00	437.47	437.47	0.00	519.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Admn. M&E:	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>25000.00</b>	<b>23949.28</b>	<b>23385.14</b>	<b>564.40</b>	<b>25000.00</b>	<b>21762.97</b>	<b>3237.03</b>	<b>24999.01</b>	<b>19848.68</b>	<b>5104.53</b>	<b>14000.00</b>	<b>7700.72</b>	<b>5725.81</b>	<b>14303.07</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4329.51</b>
<b>Budget Outlay:</b>		<b>BE 2017-18:</b>	<b>27000.00</b>	<b>BE 2018-19:</b>	<b>26000.00</b>	<b>BE 2019-20:</b>	<b>25000.00</b>	<b>BE 2020-21:</b>	<b>25000.00</b>	<b>BE 2021-22:</b>	<b>25000.00</b>						
		<b>RE 2017-18:</b>	<b>24000.00</b>	<b>RE 2018-19:</b>	<b>25000.00</b>	<b>RE 2019-20:</b>	<b>25000.00</b>	<b>RE 2020-21:</b>	<b>14000.00</b>	<b>RE 2021-22:</b>	<b>16000.00</b>						

6.7 The Committee find that on the scheme meant for development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal groups (PVTGs), the Ministry is able to spend ₹ 143.03 crore till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 out of the total revised estimate of ₹ 160 crore. As envisaged under the scheme, the proposals are to be submitted by the State Governments focusing on developmental activities viz. Housing, connectivity, installation of non conventional sources of Energy, cattle development, land development, agricultural growth etc. for 75 identified PVTGs spread across 18 States and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Committee noticed during the year 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 that several States/UT such as Andaman & Nicobar island, Bihar, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh etc. did not get any fund. The Committee are not able to understand the reason for such a steep fall in funds released particularly when there are various areas where the funds can be utilized. They are further displeased to note that States have not assessed the population of PVTGs and have been asked by the Ministry to assess the population of PVTGs. However, no time has been fixed for their exercise. The Committee would appreciate if this exercising is completed in a fixed time frame. They would like to be apprised whether the coverage of 36,428 villages under the PMAAGY would cover the PVTGs too.

## **CHAPTER-VII**

### **SUPPORT TO TRIBAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES (TRIs)**

7.1 There are 27 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) across country, which are established and administratively supported by the respective State Governments. It is envisaged that TRIs should work as a body of knowledge for tribal development, preservation of tribal cultural heritage, providing inputs to States for evidence based planning and appropriate legislations, capacity building of tribals and persons / institutions associated with tribal affairs, dissemination of information and creation of awareness.

7.2 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, under the scheme "Support to TRIs" provides financial support to strengthen these Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in their infrastructural needs, research & documentation activities and training & capacity building programmes etc. As per Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in December 2017, activities to be undertaken under the scheme 'Support to TRIs' are State-of-the-Art building for TRIs/ National TRI. Repairs/augmentation /upgradation of existing TRI buildings excluding routine maintenance like house-keeping, day to day maintenance, utility bills, etc. Support for setting up of tribal museum / memorials including virtual museums. Support for setting up of libraries including digital repositories. Conference hall, training / resource centers, training hostels in TRI building. Setting up of tribal food cafe, artisans corner, exhibition-cum- sale outlets of tribal art & artifacts, souvenirs, etc. in TRI/museum campus, or at other places in the State.

7.3 Ministry of tribal Affairs also extends support to the State Governments for TRIs to organize tribal festivals/ yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and for promoting tourism and organisation of "exchange visits by tribals", so that the tribal culture practices, languages and ritual are preserved and disseminated. Under this scheme, out of sanctioned ₹60 crore, ₹34.89 crore have been spent by 31st December, 2021.

7.4 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure for last three years alongwith Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 is as follows:-

₹ in crore

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP (upto 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022)	BE
100.00	110.00	109.98	110.00	60.00	60.00	120.00	60.00	34.89	121.00

7.5 On being enquired whether the Budgetary allocation made under the Scheme during the last three years was sufficient to meet the requirement of the Scheme and about the reasons for not being able to spend the allocation in 2021-22 alongwith the reasons to reduce the allocation at RE stage during 2020-21 and 2021-22, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their written reply that:

“The fund requirement under the scheme is based on the proposals and detailed action plans along with the budgetary requirement prepared by State Tribal Research Institutes. Under the scheme, Ministry of tribal Affairs extends support to the State Governments to strengthen Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in their infrastructural needs, research & documentation activities and training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals/ yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and for promoting tourism and organisation of exchange visits by tribals.

The budgetary requirements during last three years was sufficient and Ministry was able to utilize its allocations at RE stage during 2018-19 and 2019-20.

However, implementation of the activities at field level under the scheme, during 2020-21 and 2021-22, have been adversely affected by the COVID situation which has resulted in the accumulation of pending utilization certificates with the States. This has resulted in reduction of allocation at RE stage during 2020-21 and 2021-22. As regard to reasons for not being able to spend the allocation in 2021-22, it is submitted that RE allocation of ₹60.00 Crore is expected to be utilized during the current financial year.”

7.6 As regards to the remarkable achievement made under the Scheme during the last five years and how the research conducted in Tribal Research Institutes have benefitted the tribals, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their written reply that:

(a) Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums:

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken steps for setting up of tribal freedom fighters museums in different parts of our country, in association with the State Governments to acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal people who struggled against the Britishers and refused to be bowed down so that the coming generations may know how tribals were involved in making sacrifices for the nation. Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums are going to be centres of tourist attraction due to their location; architecture and the audio-video displays being prepared and will play an important role in preserving and promoting tribal culture, handicraft and tribal art. These museums will also demonstrate the way tribal struggled for protecting their forests, land rights, their culture and would show the biological and cultural diversity of the country, which is considered as very important in nation building.

The details of tribal freedom fighters museums sanctioned are as under:

(₹. In Crore)

S. N.	State	Location	Project Cost	Year of Sanction	MoTA Commitment	Fund Released
1	Gujarat	Rajpipla	137.01	2017-18	50.00	50.00
2	Jharkhand	Ranchi	36.66	2017-18	25.00	25.00
3	Andhra Pradesh	Lambasingi	35.00	2017-18	15.00	7.50
4	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	25.66	2017-18	15.00	4.65
5	Kerala	Kozhikode	16.16	2017-18	15.00	7.50
6	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara	38.26	2017-18	15.00	6.93
7	Telangana	Hyderabad	18.00	2018-19	15.00	1.00
8	Manipur	Tamenglong	51.38	2018-19	15.00	1.00
9.	Mizoram	Kelsih	15.00	2019-20	15.00	12.00
10.	Goa	Ponda	30.00	2020-21	15.00	0.10
			Total		195.00	115.68

The work of Birsa Munda Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum, Ranchi at the Old Birsa Munda Jail, Ranchi has completed and museum was virtually inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15.11.2021.

(b) TRI Infrastructure:

Though envisaged to work as body of knowledge & research as a think tank for tribal development, many TRIs were lacking in necessary infrastructure. Accordingly, to revamp the infrastructure and facilities of State Tribal Research Institutes, Ministry has financially supported State TRIs. The details of new and existing TRIs which have been given funds for construction under the scheme and Status of construction is given as under:

S.N.	State	Location	Status of Building
1	Uttrakhand	Dehradun	Completed
2	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	Completed
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Naharlagun	Under construction
4	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	Under construction
5	Mizoram	Aizawl	Under construction
6	Nagaland	Kohima	Under construction
7	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills	Under construction
8	Telangana	Hyderabad	Under construction
9	Tripura	West Tripura	Under construction
10	Manipur	Imphal	Construction yet to start
11	Goa	South Goa	do

(c) Preservation of tribal culture and heritage:

Ministry has sanctioned various activities to promote tribal culture under the scheme as shown below:

- (i) Research studies/publication of books/documentation including audio visual documentaries on promotion of rich tribal cultural heritage which includes preservation of tribal languages. Details of such activities approved to TRIs during last 2-3 years under the scheme 'Support to TRIs'
- (ii) Tribal cultural exchange programmes.
- (iii) Research and documentation of Indigenous practices by tribal healers and medicinal plants etc. The details of the projects sanctioned under different components can be seen at [tribal.nic.in](http://tribal.nic.in) and [tri.tribal.gov.in](http://tri.tribal.gov.in) website of the Ministry and the portal to monitor progress.

- (iv) To preserve and promote rich tribal cultural heritage and also to create awareness among others, searchable digital repositories has been developed where all research papers, books, reports and documents, folks songs, photos/videos are uploaded. The repository currently has more than 10,000 photographs, videos and publications which are mostly done by TRIs. The repositories can be visited at <https://repository.tribal.gov.in> (Tribal Digital Document Repository) and <https://tribal.nic.in/repository> (Tribal Repository)

7.7 On being asked about the skill development programmes conducted and number of persons got training during the last five years and whether the Ministry is satisfied with the level of progress in this direction, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their written reply that:

“Under the scheme of support to TRIs, 258 activities such as seminars, training / capacity building workshops have been approved by Ministry during last five years in different States which would help in enhancing the skill level of tribal population.

To strengthen the monitoring of such programmes and create a unified database, Adi Prashikshan portal (<https://adiprashikshan.tribal.gov.in/>) has been developed which will provide a central database for all training programs conducted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Tribal Development/ Welfare Department as well other nodal agencies responsible for tribal development. The portal enables to bring together information on various training programs being held across the country on the flagship programs of tribal development including the trainings conducted under the scheme, training by the EMRS division and States. As per the information on the portal, as on date, there are 113 registered trainers and 21370 trainees and 396 training programmes. The sector wise and date wise details can be viewed at the portal.”

7.8 On being enquired whether the Budgetary Estimate for 2022-23 is sufficient to meet the requirement and the details of works targeted including tribal festivals/ yatras proposed during the year, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their written reply that:

“It is submitted that Budgetary Estimate 2022-23 would be sufficient to meet the requirement as these are based on the pattern of expenditure during earlier years under the scheme and State may also require funds for completion of tribal freedom fighters museums, which are being supported under this scheme, during



the next financial year. However, it is submitted that actual fund requirement will be based on the proposals and detailed action plans along with the budgetary requirement to be received from State Tribal Research Institutes. Further Ministry has been funding regular State level festivals in the previous years also and in case of receipt of proposals, Ministry will consider funding of festivals such as Medaram Jatara in Telangana, Hornbill Festival in Nagaland etc.”

7.9 As per the information provided by the Ministry, evaluation of the Scheme of Support to TRIs has been done by NITI Aayog through KPMG during 2019. KPMG *inter alia* made following recommendations/suggestions in the evaluation report:

(a) Greater emphasis should be on redesigning the objective of TRIs as a think-tanks, ensuring greater convergence with other tribal schemes as well as NGOs, eminent institutions and line departments.

(b) It is also important to ensure good quality research as well as greater community participation.

(c) The scheme needs to be annually tracked and monitored by the Ministry.

(d) The scheme should introduce the following modifications for its rationalization and higher impact –

(i) Higher emphasis on quality of the research activities as well as greater involvement of research experts.

(ii) Overall improvement of fund flow systems in terms of fund availability and utilization timelines by addressing human resource availability.

(iii) Strengthening institutional structure at State TRIs and investing in their capacity building.

(iv) Improving the monitoring and results framework by undertaking periodic monitoring and evaluation of scheme interventions and their effect on end beneficiaries.

(v) More interaction of researchers with Government.

7.10 The recommendations / suggestions of the report have been taken into consideration for the appraisal of the scheme for continuation for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.”

**7.11** As regards TRIs, the Committee are surprised to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been able to spend just ₹ 60.00 crore in 2020-21 and ₹ 34.89 crore (till 31 January, 2022) during the year 2021-22, out of the Budgetary Estimate of ₹ 110.00 crore and ₹ 120.00 crore for 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have themselves stated that many TRIs are lacking in necessary infrastructure. In such a situation, the TRIs can hardly work as a body of knowledge and research and as a think tank for tribal development. The Committee feel that there is enough scope available in the Tribal dominated areas for preservation of tribal cultural heritage, capacity building of tribals and persons/institutions associated with tribal affairs, etc. However, the work envisaged under the scheme have not taken off properly, perhaps due to casual approach of the Ministry and the lack of awareness. The Committee are therefore of strong view that that tribal cultural heritage needs to be preserved for the future generations. While declaring 15th November as 'JanJatiya Gaurav Diwas' is a right step, the Committee would also suggest to the Ministry to persuade State/UTs Governments for organizing tribal festival/yatras for promotion of their unique cultural heritage, for promoting tourism and organization of exchange visits by tribals, so that the tribal culture practices, languages are preserved.

As regards the 27 tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), the Committee are pleased to find that the work at TRIs located at Dehradun and Vishakhapatnam has been since completed. However, the work at several places viz Naharalgun, Srinagar, Aizwal, Kohima, West Garo Hills, Hyderabad and West Tripura is still not completed and the construction work at TRI, Imphal and TRI, South Goa has not even started. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the work of TRIs should be completed in time bound manner and sincere efforts should be made to complete the construction work of all the TRIs at the earliest.

**7.12** The Committee are perturbed to note that no time limit have been fixed for the setting up of Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums sanctioned since 2017-18. Recently only the Birsa Munda Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Ranchi has been completed and inaugurated. The Committee strongly feel that in the absence of target date, there are chances that the work would be unduly delayed and the cost would escalate, hence, they would like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to fix target dates for completion of work at the time of sanction of the project to obviate delay and cost escalation and also to ensure that the fund released are not left idle. The Committee would also like the Ministry to encourage the State/UT Governments to send proposals for setting up of tribal Museums particularly from where proposals have not been received as only 10 Museums have

**been sanctioned since 2017-18. The Committee would also like to be kept updated on the status of Museums sanctioned.**

## CHAPTER-VIII

### **MARKETING OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE (MFP) AND DEVELOPMENT OF VALUE CHAIN FOR MFP**

8.1 'Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of Value Chain for MFP', is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme introduced from the year 2013-14 as a measure of social safety for MFP gatherers, who are primarily members of Scheduled Tribes. The scheme seeks to establish a system to ensure fair returns for their efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, packing, transportation, etc. It also seeks to get them share of revenue from sale proceeds with cost deducted. It also aims to address other issues for sustainability.

8.2 The scheme envisages fixation and declaration of Minimum Support Price for the selected MFP. Procurement and Marketing operation at pre-fixed MSP will be undertaken by the designated State Agencies in the event of the prevailing market price of the particular MFP item falling below the stipulated MSP. Simultaneously, other medium and long term issues like sustainable collection, value addition, infrastructure development, knowledge base expansion of MFP, market intelligence development will also be addressed. The ongoing schemes of MSP for MFP and Institutional Support have been proposed by the Ministry to be rationalized and merged under Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM). Hence, the budget of ₹ 499.00 Crore for the year 2022-23 has been sought under the CSS scheme" i.e. "Institutional support during 2022-23.

8.3 In order to enhance the remunerations to tribals, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* notification No. F.No.19/17/2018-Livelihood dated 01 May 2020 revised the MSP for 50 earlier notified MFP items under the Scheme. Also, MFP item coverage under the Scheme has been extended to additional 37 items with pan-India focus *vide* MoTA's notification No. F.No.19/17/2018-Livelihood dated 26/05/2020. Thus, the Scheme currently covers 87 items. The Scheme is implemented through State Level Agency (SLA) selected by TRIFED in consultation with the State Governments. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India provides a revolving fund to the SLA. Loss, if any, is to be shared by Centre and State in the ratio of 75:25.

## **Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram**

8.4 Under the scheme of MSP for MFP, “Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram” an initiative targeting livelihood generation through various skill up gradation training and adoption of scientific collection, harvesting and primary processing of the MFPs was visualized and set into motion by TRIFED. On 14.04.2018 one Van Dhan Kendra (VDK) was inaugurated by Hon’ble Prime Minister in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh on a pilot basis. Guidelines of the scheme of MSP for MFP were revised in February, 2019 to give a fillip to Van Dhan Karyakram. Under the programme, a village level primary SHG unit known as Van Dhan Self-Help Group (VDSHG) which consists of up to 20 forest dwellers is set up, which undertakes the gathering, processing and value addition of Minor Forest Produces. 15 such VDSHGs are subsumed into one Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK), which combines 300 members to reap the advantages of economies of scale in training, aggregation of raw material, branding, packaging and marketing operations.

8.5 It is an initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing the wealth of the forest i.e., Van Dhan. The program aims to tap the traditional knowledge & skills of tribals and to strengthen the tribal’s wisdom into a more viable economic activity, through creation and operationalization of tribal community based enterprises, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. The VDVKs would be given necessary training inputs, tools and other support for value-addition of different forest produces available in and around the tribal habitat and improved marketing. Since the launch of Van Dhan Yojana from the year 2019, TRIFED has sanctioned 52,976 Van Dhan Self Help Groups (VDSHGs) to be subsumed into 3,110 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters (VDVKCs) in 27 States/UTs, associating 9.27 lakhs beneficiaries. These VDSHGs/VDVKs are at different stages of implementation. While the State Government has to make available, free of cost, land/building for setting of the Kendras, the Central Government will provide for expenditure towards training, advocacy, raw material, tool kits etc. The training programmes have been modified under Van Dhan Karyakram to integrate training, value addition, packaging, branding & marketing activities to establish sustainable tribal entrepreneurship, through a cluster based approach. This will provide regular livelihood and income generation opportunities to tribal families.

8.6 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure for last three years alongwith Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 under the Scheme is as follows:-

( ₹ in crore)

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP (upto 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022)	BE
130.00	190.00	164.65	152.51	85.74	82.86	155.00	115.00	57.50	The ongoing Schemes of MSP for MFP and Institutions Support have bene proposed by the Ministry to be rationalised and merged under Pradhan Mantri Janjatiye Vikas Misson (PMJVM). Hence, the budget of Rs.499.00 crore for the year 2022.-23 has been sought under the CSS scheme i.e institutional support.

8.7 The target fixed and achievements made under the scheme are as follows:-

2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target
The Scheme does not fix targets. Funds are released based on the proposals received from State Government under the scheme, funds were released for the following activities:			The Scheme does not fix targets. Funds are released based on the proposals received from State Government under the scheme, funds were released for the following activities:			The Scheme does not fix targets. Funds are released based on the proposals received from State Government under the scheme, funds were released for the following activities:			---
(i) Development of infrastructure like Cold storage, Warehouses. Processing Units etc at local level;			(i) Development of infrastructure like Cold storage, Warehouses. Processing Units etc at local level;			(i) Development of infrastructure like Cold storage, Warehouses. Processing Units etc at local level;			
(ii) Modernisatoin of haats/ procurement centres; and			(ii) Modernisatoin of haats/ procurement centres; and			(ii) Modernisatoin of haats/ procurement centres; and			
(iii) Revolving fund for procurement of MFPs.			(iii) Revolving fund for procurement of MFPs.			(iii) Revolving fund for procurement of MFPs.			

8.8 With regard to the budgetary allocation of the schemes and reasons for reduction at RE stage including measures taken to draw realistic estimates, the Committee were *inter-alia* informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* written reply that:

“MSP for MFP being a demand driven scheme, the expenditure was dependent upon proposals received from State Governments. Prior to introduction of the concept of VDVKs in 2018-19, funds under the scheme were intended to be used for procurement of MFPs when their market price falls below the MSP. In the absence of adequate demand from the State, Ministry had to reduce the budgetary allocations under the scheme at RE stage. But with the introduction of VDVK concept, the expenditure trend gained momentum. During 2020-21, and 2021-22 due to Covid 19 Pandemic, expenditure trend naturally dipped which led to reduction of budgetary allocation at RE stage.

The scheme has been revamped with defined targets and focus has been laid on constant monitoring besides provision of backward and forward linkages named as ‘Pradhan Mantri Janajatiya Vikas Mission’, During 2022-23, the Ministry has made TRIFED as the nodal implementation agency for PMJVM, wherein, TRIFED would directly approve Annual Action Plans and release funds to the State Implementing Agency. TRIFED is always in direct communication with the State Implementing Agency. With the defined targets in terms of number of VDVKs to be set up and the beneficiaries to be targeted besides constant monitoring, it is expected that the proposal frequency and expenditure under the scheme to be made more efficiently.”

8.9 Details of State wise Van Dhan Self Help Groups (VDSHG) & VDVK Clusters (VDVKCs) are given below:-

Sl. No.	States /UT	No. of VDSHGs Sanctioned /Approved	No. of VDVK Clusters Sanctioned / Approved	No. of Forest Gatherers	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	6225	415	123258	6162.9
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1275	85	25500	1275
3	Assam	7140	302	90316	4530
4	Bihar	120	8	1630	81.5
5	Chhattisgarh	4170	139	41700	2085
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	15	1	302	15

Sl. No.	States /UT	No. of VDSHG's Sanctioned /Approved	No. of VDK Clusters Sanctioned / Approved	No. of Forest Gatherers	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
7	Goa	150	10	3000	150
8	Gujarat	1740	116	34424	1721.2
9	Himachal Pradesh	61	3	810	40.5
10	Ladakh	150	10	3000	150
11	Jharkhand	585	39	11601	569.7
12	Karnataka	1946	140	41748	2087.4
13	Kerala	660	44	12038	597.25
14	Madhya Pradesh	1605	107	32100	1605
15	Maharashtra	3960	264	79350	3960
16	Manipur	3000	200	60390	2996.8
17	Meghalaya	585	39	11835	584.1
18	Mizoram	2385	159	46168	2306.55
19	Nagaland	3090	206	61800	3089.9
20	Odisha	4110	170	51019	2479.25
21	Rajasthan	7322	479	144803	7135.6
22	Sikkim	1200	80	23800	1169.05
23	Tamil Nadu	192	8	2400	120
24	Telangana	255	17	5100	255
25	Tripura	480	32	9039	436.95
26	Uttar Pradesh	375	25	7191	359.55
27	Uttarakhand	180	12	3605	179.95
<b>Total</b>		<b>52976</b>	<b>3110</b>	<b>927927</b>	<b>46143.15</b>

8.10 On being asked when was the Scheme of MSP for Minor Forest Produce was introduced and how many times it has been revised in last ten years and how far it has benefitted the tribals, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* written reply that:

“Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP” (MSP for MFP) was introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the year 2013-14, to provide



much needed safety net and support to people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers whose very livelihood depends on collection and selling of MFP. The scheme was catering to only 10 MFP items till 2015. To address the challenges faced by the Tribal gatherers and to broaden the dimension of the Scheme, from October 2016, the reach of the scheme was increased manifold and expanded to 27 States of India and included 76 new MFPs in between till date totalling at 87 MFPs. 37 new MFPs were included and upscaled the price of 50 existing MFPs during the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic to offer much-needed support to tribal gatherers.

In 2018-19, in order to make scheme more effective and for optimum utilization of funds, the concept of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras was introduced, and the scheme's focus was shifted to providing value addition and procurement of MFPs. TRIFED is the nodal agency for implementation of VDVK Programme. This Programme aims at livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing the wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan and seeks to tap into traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribals by adding technology & IT so as to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity. Under this Karyakram, community owned Minor Forest Produce centric multi-purpose Kendras are set-up in the areas with significant tribal population. The Kendras act as common facility centres for procurement cum value addition to locally available Minor Forest Produce. Value addition of raw produce is expected to increase the value of the MFP and consequently the income of the gatherers.

8.11 As regards to the financial allocation made to promote the traditional skills and knowledge of tribals alongwith the details of the allocation made for the last five years, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* written reply that:

“Under the scheme of MSP for MFP, the component of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra aims to tap into traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribals by adding technology & IT to upgrade it at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity. The Ministry has released an amount of ₹ 312.14 crore since 2018-19 to TRIFED for establishment of VDVKs. Against this, TRIFED has sanctioned 3,110 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (52,976 Van Dhan Self Help Groups) associated with 9.27 lakhs beneficiaries in 25 States and 02 UTs

8.12 On being enquired about the outcome of the Scheme including the measures proposed to strengthen the scheme in the context of Tribals and MFP gatherers, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* their written reply that:

“There have been administrative and monitoring issues with operationalization of the scheme with multiple scheme components and different implementing agencies. There were also issues of backward and forward linkages etc. In the Evaluation Report prepared by NITI Aayog, it was highlighted that the MSP for MFP scheme required careful sensitization and awareness among all stakeholders, agile planning, research and development to diversify usage of MFPs, their value addition and determination of States to implement the scheme in its totality.

Ministry has now rationalized the scope of the scheme and seeks to implement it with the nomenclature ‘Pradhan Mantri Janjatiye Vikas Mission (PMJVM)’. It seeks to achieve livelihood driven tribal development through quality input, technology, credit and better marketing access etc. in the next five years. It also aims at strengthening Tribal entrepreneurship initiatives and expanding base of ST livelihood by promoting more efficient, equitable, self-managed, optimum use of the natural resources, Agri/NTFP/Non-farm enterprises. The scheme further envisages that tribes should gain more control over the production resources and manage the support systems. It is expected to consolidate the gains through more effective convergence and by achieving economics of scale. Besides operationalization of sanctioned Van dhan Kendra and setting up of VDVks as per specific requirement of State and area, financial assistance will be provided to support VDVks by forming 200 Producer organisations for better marketing of their products /produce. Further, new haats and warehouses will be created and producers will be provided with the e-marketplace platform. Branding and promotion of products will be focused.”

8.13 The representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed the Committee during the course of the deliberation with regard to enhancing the livelihood of the tribals through this Scheme that:

“**200** बंधन प्रोजेक्ट्स आर्गनाइजेशंस का एक स्कोप रखा गया है। उसका जो फॉरेस्ट प्रोजेक्ट है, उसको कैसे स्टोर किया जाए, उसके लिए **600** वेयर हाउसेज, तीन हजार हॉट बाजार और ट्राइफेड के माध्यम से ट्राइफेड फूड पॉक्स भी बनाए जाएंगे। दो फूड पॉक्स, जैसा आप जानते हैं, एक रायगढ़ में और एक जगदलपुर में ऑलरेडी चल रहा है। इसी तरह से इस स्कीम के अंडर आर्टिकल **275** में अगर कोई स्टेट कहता है कि मुझे फूड पार्क बनाना है, तो जो जगदलपुर में या रायगढ़ में चल रहा है, वहाँ जामुन कस्टर्ड, महुआ ड्रिंक, ऑवला जूस की प्रोसेसिंग होगी। जो कंस्ट्रक्शन का प्रोसेस है, वह शुरू हो गया है। अगले **5-6** महीने के अंदर ये जो ट्राइफेड फूड पॉक्स हैं, ये बनकर रेडी हो जाएंगे। जो ट्राइबल प्रोडक्ट्स हैं, उनकी मार्केटिंग करना, तो **119** जो ट्राइब्स इंडिया की शांप्स हैं उनके द्वारा इनकी मार्केटिंग की जा रही है, आपने देखा होगा कि कॉफी कॉरपोरेट्स दीपावली पर गिफ्ट्स दे रहे हैं , ट्राइब्स इंडिया की और इसके साथ-साथ जो ट्राइब्स इंडिया का प्लेटफॉर्म है, उसमें अमेजॉन के थ्रू, फ्लिपकार्ट के थ्रू भी ट्राइब्स इंडिया सेल कर रहा है। इसमें आदि

महोत्सव भी, जो सेन्ट्रल लेवल पर दिल्ली हॉट में होता है और स्टेट लेवल पर उसके माध्यम से भी हम लोग ट्राइबल के प्रोडक्ट्स की मार्केटिंग कर रहे हैं।”

8.14 When asked about the mechanism for implementation and funding of the Scheme, the representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted before the Committee that:

“इसी तरह से विलेज की डेवलपमेंट के साथ-साथ उनकी लाइवलीहुड भी उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण है। पहले इसमें ऐसी व्यवस्था थी कि कुछ पैसा स्टेट को जाता था, कुछ पैसा ट्राइफेड को जाता था, और कुछ पैसा लागू करने वाली एजेंसीज़ को जाता था। एक स्कीम के मल्टीपल कंपोनेन्ट्स होते थे। वह इतने छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों में बँट जाता था और स्टेट तक पहुँचते-पहुँचते कुछ कमी आ जाती थी। इसमें अंतिम जिम्मेदारी किसकी है। ट्राइफेड जिम्मेदार है, स्टेट जिम्मेदार है, वहाँ की जो लागू करने वाली एजेंसी है, वह जिम्मेदार है पता नहीं चल पाता था। इसमें एक ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर की मीटिंग के बाद यह फैसला किया गया कि ओवर ऑल जो जिम्मेदारी है, वह इस स्कीम के अंतर्गत ट्राइफेड की होगी और हंड्रेड परसेंट ग्रांट स्टेट को ट्राइफेड के माध्यम से दिया जाएगा। इसके लिए ट्राइफेड स्टेट ही मॉनिटरिंग करेगा।”

8.15 In this regard, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted before the Committee that:

“मैडम, इसमें मुख्य परिवर्तन यह किया गया है कि पहले हम लोग इसको सेन्ट्रली स्पॉन्सर्ड, मतलब यहाँ से 75 परसेंट भेजते थे और उम्मीद करते थे कि स्टेट वाले भी 25 परसेंट उसमें लगाएंगे। उसी तरह से जब हमने समस्याओं को देखा कि उसमें बहुत समस्या है। अब शत-प्रतिशत ट्राइफेड के माध्यम से ही जाएगा। इससे हमारी एकाउण्टबिलिटी एक जगह पर ही रहेगी। यह इस बार चेंज किया गया है।”

**8.16** The Committee note that the mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value chain for MFP introduced in the year 2013-14 have been expanded to 27 States and 87 MFPs included to provide safety net and support to people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. In order to make scheme more effective and for optimum utilisation of funds the concept of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras programme was introduced in 2018-19 and focus was shifted to providing value addition and procurement of MFPs and TRIFED was made nodal agency for implementation. The Scheme would now proposed to be implemented as 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission' by TRIFED to achieve livelihood-driven tribal development in the next five years from 2022-23 onwards. The Committee observe that since 2013-14 several initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of tribals particularly traditional forest dwellers whose very livelihood depends on collection and selling of MFP. In its initiative 52976 Van Dhan Self Help Groups and 3110 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been sanctioned across the Country catering to the 927927 forest gatherers. However, the Committee find that the expenditure incurred during the previous years was significantly less to undertake the activities such as development of infrastructure like cold storage, warehouse, modernization of haats, revolving funds for procurement of MFPs etc. The Committee now expect that under the PMJVM, the goals of the Government with respect to tribal population would be achieved and new haats, warehouses, cold storages and e-market places will be established to enhance their income with the increased Budgetary allocation of ₹499 crore for 2022-23. The Committee would like to be apprised of the target set for setting up of Van Dhan Self Help Groups and the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras alongwith the achievements made under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission at the action taken stage.

## CHAPTER-IX

### **SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO TRIBAL SUB SCHEME (SCA TO TSS):** **(PRADHAN MANTRI AADI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA)**

9.1 Under the special area programme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS), Grants are released to States having ST population for development and welfare of tribal people. Funds are released to States based upon proposals received from the State Governments duly approved by Executive Committee and after appraisal and approval thereof by a Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) constituted in the Ministry for the purpose, to support activities in sectors like education, health, agriculture, skill development, employment-cum-income generation, etc, in which 100% grants are provided to States. Under the scheme of SCA to TSS, as per the extant guidelines, grants provided are of gap filling nature. Priority for the activities to be taken is decided by respective State Governments as per the need arising from time to time. The budget allocated to a State is fixed and the State is required to prioritise its proposals within same budget. Ministry has developed ADIGRAMS (Adivasi Grants Management System) to monitor successful completion of the projects as approved by PAC.

9.2 In the next finance cycle (2021-26), Ministry has proposed to revamp the scheme, which would be aimed at integrating development of tribal villages with ST population of more than 500 and 50% STs. More than 36,000 villages have been identified, which will be developed in next 5 years through convergence of funds available under STC component under Central Ministries / Departments, State Governments and funds available with the Ministry. The funds available with key Central Ministries/departments like Health & Family Welfare, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development, School Education & Literacy, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Food & Public Distribution, Telecommunication, Women & Child Development, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will be dedicated to the identified villages for providing key infrastructural facilities like road and mobile

connectivity, school and primary health care facilities and schemes meant for benefitting individuals like scholarship, pension, Ayushman card and skill development.

9.3 The scheme Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana which was previously known as 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub –plan' do aim at development and welfare of tribal people to bridge the gaps in sectors like education, health, agriculture, skill development, employment cum income generation etc. It is stated that the basic feature of this scheme is to reduce gaps in basic services and villages having sizeable tribal population.

9.4 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure for last three years alongwith Budgetary Estimates for 2022-23 is as follows:-

₹ in crore									
2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23
BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP (upto 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022)	BE
1350.00	1350.00	1350.00	1350.00	800.00	799.49	1350.00	785.00	0.00	1354.37

9.5 The Ministry has furnished the State-wise details of the funds released under the scheme of SCA to TSS during last five years are as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)						
S. No.	States	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
		Total Release	Total Release	Total Release	Total Release	Total Release
1	Andhra Pradesh	5000.42	3624.77	5617.39	12470.50	4954.96
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2211.83	9224.29	7015.50
3	Assam	3407.80	0.00	0.00	2710.08	4578.76
4	Bihar	743.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	994.00
5	Chhattisgarh	11717.82	14327.57	10342.65	9415.53	8769.06
6	Goa	455.68	559.09	352.31	0.00	724.26
7	Gujarat	9488.00	10270.41	11765.38	8975.55	10786.40
8	Himachal Pradesh	1959.39	2291.20	3628.00	2394.18	1367.00

S. No.	States	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
		Total Release	Total Release	Total Release	Total Release	Total Release
9	J & K	3671.61	3626.50	3749.80	4509.00	0.00
10	Jharkhand	9820.75	11372.49	8564.52	6201.49	7049.64
11	Karnataka	5100.00	5955.37	5347.76	7434.00	0.00
12	Kerala	808.09	808.43	335.00	0.00	459.15
13	Madhya Pradesh	19236.61	22828.70	16968.97	13415.25	0.00
14	Maharashtra	9547.00	13760.38	13802.57	11929.09	0.00
15	Manipur	2260.00	3790.38	5442.48	1434.02	0.00
16	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	2739.20	3788.00	328.25
17	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	1220.00	3140.00	1236.22
18	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	3225.00	2951.12	2846.14
19	Odisha	11806.27	11975.00	17553.22	8691.18	9010.42
20	Rajasthan	11072.90	10051.83	10327.93	11461.41	8662.66
21	Sikkim	1497.62	5986.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Tamilnadu	600.00	894.10	315.00	450.56	377.47
23	Telangana	3845.35	4493.55	2850.32	5361.29	4191.00
24	Tripura	1345.76	1649.77	1294.38	1362.97	1173.30
25	Uttarakhand	0.00	679.00	1012.88	600.00	757.80
26	Uttar Pradesh	121.92	458.35	0.00	779.91	508.83
27	West Bengal	5995.50	5397.11	5833.41	5862.58	3746.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>119502.230</b>	<b>134800.00</b>	<b>134500.00</b>	<b>134562.00</b>	<b>79536.82</b>

9.6 The sectoral details of the funds provided to State Governments during 2016-17 to 2020-21 under the scheme of SCA to TSS is as under:

(₹ in lakh)

S.No	Sector	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Animal Husbandry	4436.59	5732.72	6540.67	6424.19	3308.25
2	Art & Culture	0	0	2234	1240	200
3	Drinking Water & PWS	0	2631.75	4639.67	285.77	1721.04
4	Eco- Tourism	1650	207	900	1195.66	3463.37
5	Education	40627.16	41487.09	46636.35	49876.57	15963.91
6	Health	5015	6619.79	7758.85	12282.06	8431.95
7	Housing	0	0	308	150	0
8	Infrastructure Development	1082.59	5075.13	8074.46	2076.1	3560.03

9	Irrigation & Watershed Management	7933.02	8667.33	8873.2	5869.66	8586.88
10	Livelihood (including Agriculture)	32928.34	21063.7	26773.14	40908.95	32812.88
11	Market Interventions & Value chain Development	4194.8	1180.45	5965.1	4473	874.11
12	Nutrition	0	1132	301.5	200	0
13	Promotion of Collectives & Institution Building	0	0	0	3405	0
14	Research, Documentation and M&E	133.25	4200.644	2926.08	2590.23	1489.13
15	Road Connectivity	973.01	2400	7281.5	4735	1894.48
16	Skill Development	15742.96	13921.13	12265.45	8594.218	7187.81
17	Sports & Games	1126.75	2688.35	1862	336	158.5

9.7 On being asked the reasons due to which scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme has been revamped as Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana and how the Scheme is different from SCA to TSS, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* written reply that:

“The scheme was initiated since 1977-78 with the nomenclature ‘Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP)’. On amalgamation of Plan and Non-Plan, the scheme was called as ‘Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)’ since 2017. Funds have been provided to State Government with notified STs for development and welfare of tribal people to bridge the gaps in sectors like education, health, agriculture, skill development, employment-cum-income generation, etc.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs 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 has been worked out that there are about 1,17,000 tribal villages with ST population  $\geq$  25% where gaps exist in various sectors of development including health, education, livelihood, housing, road connectivity, mobile internet connectivity, vocational training, drinking water, electric supply etc.

The Sectoral Group of Secretaries – 5 (Welfare) in its meeting under Cabinet Secretary on 9th October, 2020, directed MoTA to prepare an Action Plan for a campaign on the line of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan for filling gaps in basic services



and facilities in villages with sizeable tribal population. It was felt to have a continuing scheme where integrated village development, could be implemented in an outcome-oriented and time bound manner. Accordingly, the existing SCA to TSS scheme has been revamped to be called as 'Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana'.

The PMAAGY seeks to transform "villages with significant tribal population" into model village (Adarsh Gram) in a phased manner wherein the villagers including the ST 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 health, education, drinking water, electric supply, road connectivity, mobile & internet connectivity and also providing individual entitlements under different schemes of Government of India and State Governments through appropriate convergence of resources.

9.8 In oral evidence, elaborating the issue of revamping the Scheme, the Secretary disposed as follows:

“ जो शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स कॉम्पोनेंट है, इसमें वर्ष 1975 से राज्यों को और विभिन्न मंत्रालयों को पैसे जा रहे हैं, उसमें कि हर मंत्रालय जनजातीय कल्याण के लिए जिम्मेदार है। पर, जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय का उन पर कोई कंट्रोल नहीं था। वर्ष 2018 में जब एलोकेशन ऑफ बिजनेस रूल्स चेंज हुआ तो उसमें मंत्रालय को कहा गया कि आप देखें कि यह बाकी मंत्रालयों का खर्च कैसे हो सकता है। आप देखेंगी कि 41 मंत्रालयों का जो यह बजट है, वह 87,000 करोड़ है। इसी तरह से, हर स्टेट को उनकी ट्राइबल पॉपुलेशन के मुताबिक एक राशि खर्च करनी पड़ती है। कुल मिलाकर, हमारे बजट के अलावा ढाई लाख करोड़ रुपये हर साल है। उस पूरे पैसे को एक बकेट बनाकर हम लोग कैसे उपयोग करें, उसी के कारण यह योजना बनाई गई।”

9.9 The salient features of the Scheme PMAAGY are as under:

- (i) Coverage of 36,428 villages having at least 50 % tribal population and 500 STs in the first phase of five years to be transformed into Adarsh villages through appropriate convergence.
- (ii) Total population to be covered under scheme would be about 4.22 crore (About 40% of the total Tribal Population).
- (iii) Coverage of all States and Union Territories having notified ST population.

- (iv) Annual Plan and Perspective Plan will be developed based on identified gaps based on Antyodaya Mission data of Ministry of Rural Development.
- (v) There will be provision for awareness generation, training and capacity building, social audit, etc.
- (vi) 'Gap-filling' amount i.e., ₹20.38 lakh per village for approved activities including administrative expenses.
- (vii) Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) to provide technical resource support at national and State level.

9.10 The State-wise details of total villages with atleast 50 per cent Tribal population and 500 STs under the PMAAGY is as under:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of the State</b>	<b>No. of Villages</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	517
2	Arunachal Pradesh	141
3	Assam	1700
4	Bihar	184
5	Chhattisgarh	4029
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	53
7	Daman & Diu	2
8	Goa	21
9	Gujarat	3764
10	Himachal Pradesh	90
11	Jammu & Kashmir	434
12	Jharkhand	3891
13	Karnataka	507
14	Kerala	6
15	Madhya Pradesh	7307
16	Maharashtra	3605
17	Manipur	254
18	Meghalaya	836
19	Mizoram	344
20	Nagaland	530
21	Odisha	1653
22	Rajasthan	4302
23	Sikkim	62
24	Tamil Nadu	167
25	Telangana	533
26	Tripura	375
27	Uttar Pradesh	183

28	Uttarakhand	64
29	West Bengal	874
	<b>Total Villages</b>	<b>36428</b>

9.11 As regards to the changes envisaged under the new scheme *vis-à-vis* earlier scheme the Committee were informed by the Ministry in the written reply that:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Existing Scheme</b>	<b>Proposed Scheme</b>
<b>Main focus</b>	Gap filling for accelerated socio-economic development of tribal communities.	Integrated development of tribal dominated villages as model village (Adarsh Gram)
<b>Funding</b>	100 % Grant in Aid	100 % Grant in Aid
<b>Coverage</b>	27 States from notified STs	26 States and 6 UTs with notified STs
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Not Defined	Defined (36,428 villages) / 1 crore households
<b>Dedicated MIS</b>	Not Available	In-built
<b>Gap based plan</b>	Not ascertainable	Ascertainable
<b>Convergence of Resources</b>	Not strictly adhered to	Will be adhered to
<b>Plan Formulation by State</b>	Not strictly based on gaps	Based on gaps
<b>GPDP</b>	Nil	Covered
<b>Role of GP</b>	Not ascertainable	GPs will be involved
<b>Measurable indicators</b>	Not defined	Will be measured based on defined monitorable Indicators
<b>Fund allocation</b>	Based on population and area	₹ 20.38 lakh per village as gap filling

ITEM	Existing Scheme	Proposed Scheme
<b>Funding Pattern</b>	100% Grant-in-Aid to the State Government: (a) 2/3 <sup>rd</sup> weightage to proportion of ST population. (b) 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> weightage to proportion of tribal dominated areas.	100% Grant-in-Aid to the State Government based on the number of villages selected.

9.12 On being asked the reasons for nil utilization of funds under the Scheme in 2021-22, the Ministry submitted in their written reply that:

“The BE or RE for 2021-22 could not be spend as the Scheme is under revision. The funds will be released after approval of CCEA.”

9.13 The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs also informed in this regard to the Committee during the deliberation that:

“स्पेशल सेंट्रल अस्सिस्टेंस के अंतर्गत ट्राइबल सब स्कीम के लिए करते थे, उसमें जैसा कि आपने जिक्र किया कि 1350 करोड़ रुपये के आस-पास बजट अनुदान था, उसमें कुछ भी व्यय नहीं हुआ है। उसकी पृष्ठभूमि यह है कि उस पर एक बहुत ही विस्तार से चर्चा की गई कि करीब 25-30 सालों से यह कार्यक्रम चल रहा है, जिसमें केन्द्र सरकार से राज्य सरकारों को हजार करोड़, बारह सौ करोड़ या तेरह सौ करोड़ रुपये की एक अनुदान की राशि जाती है, यह पैसा ऐसे ही हर साल जाता था। यह पैसा यहां से जाता था और एक्सपेंडिचर में ही उसकी गिनती हो जाती थी। उसके बाद वह राज्य के अधिकार क्षेत्र में था और उस हिसाब से राज्य जहां भी चाहे, उस पैसे को खर्च करते थे। उसमें यह पाया गया कि जो जनजातीय जनसंख्या है, जहां पर हमें अधिक मूलभूत सुविधाओं की आवश्यकता है, वैसी जगहों का जब हम लोगों ने विश्लेषण किया, तो देखा कि जैसे गरीबी का ही लें तो हमारी जनजातीय जनसंख्या देश की जनसंख्या से केवल 8.6 प्रतिशत है। लेकिन जब हम देखते हैं कि गरीबी रेखा से नीचे कितने लोग हैं, तो वह हम करीब 20 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा पाते हैं। उसी तरह से जब हम देखते हैं कि जो साक्षरता का स्तर है या शिशु मृत्यु दर का स्तर है या हेल्थ या लिटरेसी का इंडिकेटर है, वह जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में और जनजातीय समाज में कम रहा है। इस पर एक विश्लेषण किया गया और कैबिनेट सेक्रेटरी की अध्यक्षता में, सचिवों की समिति ने इस पर निर्णय लिया कि हम स्पेशल कम्पोनेंट जो राज्यों को भेजते हैं, उसको एक फोकस्ड-वे में, आप कुछ ही जगहों पर खर्च करें, ऐसा करके अगर एक कार्यक्रम बनाए तो ऐसे स्थानों को जहां पर जनजातीय आबादी ज्यादा है, वहां पर उसका प्रभाव देखने को मिलेगा। उसी हिसाब से हम लोगों ने इस बार उस कार्यक्रम की रूप-रेखा को बदल दिया है। उसके लिए वित्त मंत्रालय से हमें मंजूरी मिल गई है और हमने कैबिनेट को भी भेजा था, वहां से भी मंजूरी मिल गई है।”

9.14 With regards to the achievements made during the last five years under erstwhile scheme including the target fixed and what goals have been fixed for next year under

the revamped scheme, the Committee were *inter-alia* informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* written reply that:

“(a) Earlier the coverage of the scheme was limited to 23 States (including J&K) and the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland were not covered under the scheme. During the year 2017-18, it was decided by the Ministry as a part of policy to extend the benefit of the scheme to these States as well in the larger interest of the STs.

(b) Under the scheme of SCA to TSS, Ministry has approved funds for different sectoral activities for development of Scheduled Tribes.”

9.15 On being enquired about the goal envisaged for the next five years under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY), the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* written reply that:

“During the next five years, 36428 tribal dominated villages with at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs will be taken up under the scheme.”

9.16 On being asked by when the approval is to be done of the scheme so that the beneficiaries are not deprived of the benefits of the scheme, the Committee were *inter-alia* informed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* written reply that:

“Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. 01(01)/PFC-I/2022 dated 01.02.2022 has conveyed that Cabinet vide its decision dated 19.01.2022 has approved the Umbrella Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) namely ‘Scheme for Development of Scheduled Tribes (Pradhan Mantri Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana)’ including the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY) for continuation till 31.03.2026.”

**9.17 The Committee find that Centrally Sponsored Schemes i.e. Pradhan Mantri Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana including the Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana has been approved for continuation till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026. They further note that 36,428 tribal dominated villages / one crore households with at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs will be taken up under the Scheme during 2022-26 for the integrated development of tribal dominated villages as ‘model’ village. The Committee are surprised to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were not able to spend Budgetary Allocation during 2020-21 and 2021-22 under their erstwhile Scheme Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (now merged under PMAAGY) which indicates that**

funds provided to State Governments to bridge the gaps in sectors like education, health, agriculture, etc. remained unutilized despite the scheme being in existence since 1977-78. They note that there are about 1,17,000 tribal villages with more or equal to 25% Tribal population identified where gap exists in various sectors of development. The Committee are sad to note that there are several North Eastern States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland where no fund was released by the Union Government to State Governments during previous years. Similarly, there are certain sectors such as drinking water, Irrigation and watershed, road connectivity, etc., where the expenditure was very less during previous years. In this backdrop, the Committee feel that the revamped scheme of PMAAGY with identified objectives now needs to be closely monitored for effective implementation. The Committee desire that they may be informed of the steps taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs so that the goals set for the next five years can be achieved and the funds meant for the scheme judiciously spent.

## CHAPTER-X

### NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

10.1 Office of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs) was created in 1950 for effective implementation of various safeguards provided in the Constitution for the SCs & STs and various other protective legislations. In addition to it, a multi-member Commission for SCs and STs was set up in 1978. In 1992, these two organizations were replaced by a statutory multi-member National Commission for SCs and STs. Since the needs, problems and the solutions required for STs were quite different from those of SCs, a special approach for tribal development and an independent machinery to safeguard the rights of STs was considered necessary. Accordingly, a separate National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was set up with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2004 by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution, through Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003.

10.2 The main duties of the Commission are to investigate and monitor all matters relating to safeguards provided for STs and to evaluate working of such safeguards; and to inquire into specific complaints with respect to deprivation of rights and safeguards of STs. The Commission is vested with all the powers of a civil court trying a suit while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint relating to deprivation of rights and safeguards of STs and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely:

- (a) Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
- (b) Requiring discovery and production of any documents;
- (c) Receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
- (e) Issuing commissions for examination of witnesses and documents;
- (f) Any other matter which President may by rule, determine;

10.3 Clause 9 of Article 338A of the Constitution of India provides that Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Tribes.

10.4 The Commission shall also discharge some other functions in relation to protection, welfare, development and advancement of Scheduled Tribes, namely:

- (a) Measures that need to be taken over conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce to the STs living in forest areas;

- (b) Measures to be taken to safeguard rights of the tribal communities over mineral resources, water resources, etc., as per law;
- (c) Measures to be taken for development of tribals and to work for more viable livelihood strategies;
- (d) Measures to be taken to improve the efficacy of relief and rehabilitation measures for tribal groups displaced by development projects;
- (e) Measures to be taken to prevent alienation of tribal people from land and to effectively rehabilitate such people in whose case alienation has already taken place;
- (f) Measures to be taken to elicit maximum cooperation and involvement of tribal communities for protecting forests and undertaking social afforestation;
- (g) Measures to be taken to ensure full implementation of provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (40 of 1996);
- (h) Measures to be taken to reduce and ultimately eliminate the practice of shifting cultivation by tribals that lead to their continuous disempowerment and degradation of land and environment.

10.5 The NCST is required to present reports upon the working of safeguards for STs to the President of India, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit. These reports are required to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to Union and reason for non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations. Status of reports submitted by NCST since its creation and action taken thereof is given as under:

Report	Year	Date of submission of the report to the Hon'ble President of India by NCST	Action taken report tabled in Parliament by Ministry of Tribal Affairs on (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha)
1 <sup>st</sup>	2004-05 & 2005-06	08.08.2006	31.08.2012 & 30.08.2012
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2006-07	30.09.2008	26.04.2013 & 02.05.2013
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2007-08	29.03.2010	08.08.2016 & 10.08.2016
4 <sup>th</sup>	2008-09	27.08.2010	08.08.2016 & 10.08.2016
5 <sup>th</sup>	2009-10	13.07.2011	08.08.2016 & 10.08.2016
Special Report of Good Governance for Tribal Development and Administration	2012	18.06.2012	13.12.2013 & 12.12.2013
6 <sup>th</sup>	2010-11	25.10.2013	10.4.2017. & 29.3.2017
7 <sup>th</sup>	2011-12	20.02.2015	10.4.2017 & 29.3.2017



Report	Year	Date of submission of the report to the Hon'ble President of India by NCST	Action taken report tabled in Parliament by Ministry of Tribal Affairs on (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha)
8 <sup>th</sup>	2012-13	16.11.2015	10.4.2017 & 29.3.2017
9 <sup>th</sup>	2013-14	24.05.2016	31.12.2018 & 03.01.2019
10 <sup>th</sup>	2014-15	31.05.2016	11.02.2019 & 07.02.2019
11 <sup>th</sup>	2015-16	28.10.2016	25.11.2019 & 28.11.2019
Special Report on Indira Sagar Polavaram Project in AP	2018*	03.07.2018	-
12 <sup>th</sup>	2016-17*	14.11.2019	-
13 <sup>th</sup>	2017-18*	15.01.2020	-
Special Report (Rourkela Steel Plant) on Rehabilitation & Resettlement of Displaced Tribal	2020*	15.01.2020	-
14 <sup>th</sup>	2018-19*	24.03.2021	-

\* Under process in the Ministry

10.6 On being enquired about the budgetary allocation made to the Commission to carry out the responsibility entrusted to the Commission, the Committee were informed by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the deliberation of the Committee that:

“इस साल बजट केवल 11 करोड़ ही था, इसे बढ़ाकर 20.89 करोड़ कर दिया गया है। हमने आयोग के अधिकारियों के साथ डिसकशन की थी। मुझे आयोग के अध्यक्ष महोदय ने बुलाया था और मैंने अपनी फाइनेंस टीम के साथ जाकर उनसे डिसकस भी किया था। हमने कहा था कि अगर सैलरीज़ और ऑफिस के अन्य खर्च में कोई कमी आती है तो फाइनेंस सैलरी के लिए एक्सट्रा सप्लीमेंटरी ग्रांट दे सकता है। उनका मुख्य जोर था कि जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में समस्याओं की वे कुछ स्टडीज़ कराना चाहते हैं और इसके लिए फंड दिया गया है। इस साल रिवाइज्ड एस्टिमेट में एक्सट्रा फंड दिया है।”

10.7 He further informed the Committee that:

“पिछले साल वर्ष 2020-21 में जो खर्च हुआ था, वह कुल मिलाकर 8 करोड़ 60 लाख हुआ था। इस साल के लिए 11 करोड़ का प्रोविजन था, जिसको बढ़ाकर हमने 20 करोड़ 89 लाख कर दिया है। इस साल जो भी उनकी जरूरत थी, उसको हमने 9 करोड़ अगले वर्ष 2022-23 के लिए एक्सट्रा देकर पूरा किया है। वैसे ही अगले साल भी जो आवश्यकता होगी, वह हम देंगे। अभी तो हम 12 करोड़ दे रहे हैं, जो इस साल से 10 प्रतिशत ज्यादा है। सैलरी और बाकी एक्सपेंडिचर पर एक जनरल नियंत्रण है कि बहुत ज्यादा खर्च नहीं होना चाहिए। लेकिन, इनका जो प्रोजेक्ट वाला खर्च है, वह हम जरूर पूरा करेंगे। इनको जो भी सप्लीमेंटरी जरूरत होगी, उसको हम लोग देंगे।”

10.8 On being further enquired about the reasons for vacant posts in the Commission, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed the Committee during the deliberation that:

“यह चीज हम लोगों की जानकारी में है। इस बारे में हम लोग आयोग से बराबर चर्चा करते रहे हैं। उसमें पहले एक कमी रही थी कि कुछ पदों के लिए रिक्रूटमेंट रूल में जो एजुकेशनल क्वालिफिकेशन और एक्सपीरियंस रखा गया था, जैसे- आठ साल का एक्सपीरियंस होना चाहिए या पी.एचडी की योग्यता होनी चाहिए, उस तरह का रूल जो उन्होंने निर्धारित कर रखा था, वैसे कैंडिडेट्स हमें नहीं मिल रहे थे। हमने दो-तीन बार एडवर्टाइज भी किया था। अब हमने उनके जो रिक्रूटमेंट रूल्स हैं, उनमें कुछ संशोधन और रिलैक्स करने का काम कर रहे हैं। रूल्स को रिलैक्स करने से कुछ हो जाएगा।”

10.9 The National Commission on Scheduled Tribes set up with effect from 19 February, 2014 by inserting Article 338A in the Constitution of India is vested with all the powers of Civil Court while investigating any matter on inquiring into any complaint relating to deprivation of rights and safeguards for STs. The Committee, however, are constrained to note that the Reports of the Commission since 2018 are still under process in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and have not been presented to the Parliament till date. The Committee would like the matter to be expedited and Reports presented without any delay. Further, the Committee are surprised to note that several posts are lying vacant in the Commission. They are unable to understand as to how the Commission would function in the absence of manpower and the reasons for delay in recruitment. Hence, they desire that the vacancies should be immediately filled as there should be no reason now for any further delay since the recruitment rules have been suitably revised. The Committee are also of the opinion that the budgetary allocation for the Commission needs to be reviewed so that its functioning is not made to suffer for lack of funds. They recommend that necessary action be urgently taken in respect of Annual reports, recruitment of officials and budgetary allocation for the said Commission.

NEW DELHI;

11 March, 2022  
20 Phalgun, 1943 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Social Justice and  
Empowerment

**ANNEXURE-I**

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2021-22) (MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS) HELD ON THURSDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1650 hrs. in Committee Room No. '3', Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
3. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
4. Shri Y.Devendrappa
5. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
6. Shri Vijay Kumar
7. Shri Tokheho Yephthomi

**Rajya Sabha**

8. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
9. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
10. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
11. Shri Ramkumar Verma

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
3. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary

## WITNESSES

### REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

1. Shri Anil Kumar Jha Secretary
2. Shri A. K. Singh Joint Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Secretary and other officers representing the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened for discussion on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)' in respect of their Ministry. The Chairperson also drew attention of the representatives of the Ministry towards under utilization/non-utilisation of funds allocated on various welfare schemes in the Demands for Grants, (2021-22) downsizing Budgetary Estimates provision etc. The Chairperson expressed concern with regard to the performance of various schemes namely Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub plan, Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikash Mission, Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products and Minimum Support Price for the tribal products etc.

Thereafter, Chairperson requested the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to introduce other offices and to brief the Committee on the performance of the Ministry as well as the key points of Budgetary Proposals for 2022-23.

3. The representative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, accordingly, gave brief power point presentation highlighting the initiatives taken by Ministry for all-round development of Scheduled Tribes in the financial year 2022-23.

4. The Committee, therefore, *inter alia* deliberated on the following issues:

- (i) Budgetary allocation, expenditure and shortfall in expenditure etc. of the Ministry for the financial year 2021-22 and budgetary provision for 2022-23 under various schemes;
- (ii) Reasons for delay/non-disbursement of amount of Scholarships to tribal students.;
- (iii) Introduction of Venture Capital Fund to assist Scheduled Tribe Entrepreneurs;
- (iv) Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs);

- (v) Revamping of Scheme of SCA to TSS as Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana;
- (vi) Merger of Schemes of MSP to MFP and Institutional Support under Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikash Mission (PMJVM);
- (vii) Need to preserve and promote tribal culture, education and livelihood;
- (viii) Strengthening of Van Dhan Kendras and Self Help Groups; and
- (ix) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

5. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other representatives of the Ministry for providing valuable information on the subject and asked the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to furnish written replies on the issues that remained unanswered.

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

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

**APPENDIX****STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sl.No	Para No.	Observations/ Recommendations
1.	2.11	<p>The Committee appreciate the fact that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have recently shown a more focused approach on the Schemes administered by them for overall welfare as well as socio-economic and educational empowerment of tribal population. From the deposition of the representatives of the Ministry during evidence, it emerged that the Ministry conducted a much-awaited gap analysis of tribal areas and took an overview of 265 schemes being run under various Ministries to identify and subsequently bridge the gaps in sectors like education, health, agriculture, skill development, employment, housing, road connectivity, drinking water, electricity, etc. which revealed that there are about 1,17,000 tribal villages with ST population where such gaps exist. The Committee note that Ministry of Tribal Affairs thereafter have revamped/clubbed some of their age old major schemes into two schemes namely 'Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana' for 2020-2026 period and the 'Pradhan Mantri JanJatiya Vikas Mission' having specific Budgetary allocations, measurable indicators, gap based annual plans, defined target beneficiaries etc. The Committee hope that the Ministry will implement the same in an outcome-oriented and time-bound manner. They desire to be apprised of the progress at the action taken stage.</p>
2.	2.12	<p>The Committee find that initially the Budgetary allocations of ₹7,355.76 crore and ₹7,084.07 crore were made for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively, to administer their Central sector and Centrally sponsored schemes besides two officials programmes viz. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-scheme and Grants-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. However, the allocation was reduced to ₹5,472.50 crore in 2020-21 and ₹6126.46 crore in 2021-22 at</p>

		<p>the Revised Estimate stage. Surprisingly, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs could not even spend fully the RE allocation in 2020-21 and have been able to spend ₹ 4070.04 crore in 2021-22 upto 15th February, 2022, leaving apart the cut in allocation made by the Ministry of Finance for all Ministries due to COVID. The reason cited was that both the Governmental and non-Governmental agencies had not been able to completely carry out the field level activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also the States could not utilise the amount released to them by the Ministry and furnish UCs. Nonetheless after analysing the expenditure of the various schemes administered by the Ministry during 2021-22, it is difficult for the Committee to accept that ongoing Pandemic adversely affected the expenditure as work on several Schemes such as, Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Scheduled Tribes, development of Particularly Vulnerable Groups, etc could have continued, particularly when the Ministry have already carried out a gap analysis of tribal villages in Health and education sector and revamped their schemes to be implemented in a phased manner with defined target beneficiaries for each year under the 'Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)' as well as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM). The Committee, in the past, have recommended various measures to augment coordination between the States, implementing agencies and the Ministry of Tribal affairs. Also, the Committee have, time and again, observed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should avoid rush of expenditure at the fag end of a financial year and make sincere efforts so that funds are timely spent and the targeted people get the benefits. The Committee now expect that, with identified targets under the PMAAGY and other schemes, the trend of expenditure would improve and the Ministry would also make efforts for timely receipt of UCs and approval of the proposals. They should also strive to achieve a better coordination between the States and the implementing agencies for full utilisation of the funds allotted to them.</p>
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3.	2.13	<p>The Committee are constrained to note that the projections of requisite funds made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are invariably reduced by the Ministry of finance in the actual BE allocation. These allocations are further reduced in the Revised Estimate stage. In the year 2020-21 the allocation was reduced at the Revised Estimate stage from ₹ 7355.76 crore to ₹ 5472.50 and in 2021-22 it was reduced from ₹ 7484.07 crore to ₹ 6126.46 crore. Further, the Budgetary allocation for 2022-23 has been substantially reduced by the Ministry of Finance as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, despite their projection of ₹ 13208.52 crore, was granted ₹ 8406.92 crore only. The Committee would like to believe that as various Outcome targets in the 5 phases of PMAAGY have been identified and the targets for scholarship schemes, EMRS etc. have also been fixed, the projections were realistic. Hence, they feel that there should not have been so much reduction at actual BE stage. Still a gap of nearly ₹ 5000 crore in the same has happened. Quite obviously, the Ministry could not convince the Ministry of Finance on reducing this gap to a minimum. The Committee would therefore hope that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs would utilise available funds fully this year to achieve the targets and, in future, prepare a realistic budget, considering the experience and viability of revamped Schemes.</p>
4.	3.21	<p>As regards the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, the Committee are surprised to find that there has not been much variation in the number of beneficiaries and targets fixed for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 under it which should have increased in view of the objective of the scheme that is, the incidence of dropouts should be minimized. In the year 2019-20, 14.51 lakh students got scholarship, similarly in 2020-21 14.46 lakh students got scholarship and 12.7 lakh students have received scholarship in 2021-22 and some of the remaining cases are reportedly under process. After examination of these statistics, the Committee feel that either the population of tribal students under pre-matric classes has remained stagnant or the Ministry have not made enough efforts to ensure that the target fixed under the scheme are based on correct data regarding tribal population so that all the eligible students get the benefits of the Scheme. The Committee are perturbed further to note from the State-wise</p>

		<p>coverage that either the beneficiaries or the funds released in some of the States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh are shown as nil. The Committee would like the Ministry to analyse reasons for the number of students getting benefit of the Scheme remaining stagnant as well as nil allotment of funds to some of the States/UTs. Simultaneously, the Ministry should take suitable steps to reach to maximum number of tribal students so that these students get due benefit of the Scheme.</p>
5.	3.22	<p>The Committee find that an evaluation study of the Pre-matric scheme conducted by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) had made some valuable recommendations/suggestions with regard to increasing awareness, timely release of funds, revision in income ceiling of parents, annual social audit etc. to achieve the objectives of the schemes. The Committee are of the opinion that these recommendations/suggestions are important and in the interest of tribals. The revision of income ceilings has been emphasised by the Committee during evidence too. The Committee are however, unhappy as the Ministry have not taken any action till date. Now these recommendations/suggestions are proposed to be considered during the appraisal of the schemes for their continuation during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Committee feel that there is urgent need to increase the income ceiling of parents as the revision has been delayed badly, the ceiling last revised way back in 2013. Similarly, annual social audit and timely release of funds would prove to be very useful in tackling any loopholes and achieving the objectives of the scheme. The Committee would therefore, like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to expeditiously examine the suggestions/recommendations made in the IIPA report and suitably implement those without further delay.</p>
6.	3.23	<p>The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants Post-matric Scholarship ranging from ₹ 230 per month to ₹ 12000 per month to the students where parents income is upto ₹ 2.50 lakh for the courses divided into four categories. The Committee find that during the year 2019-20 there were</p>

		<p>2060508 beneficiaries whereas in 2020-21 this number got reduced to 1827864. Further, the funds released during 2019-20 and 2020-21 were ₹ 1862.64 crore(approx.) and ₹ 1929.08 crore(approx.) respectively and ₹ 1891.45 crore (approx.) were released upto 31 December, 2021 for the year 2021-22. On the scrutiny of Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates, Expenditure and target fixed/achieved, the Committee find the pattern of allocation/expenditure remaining stagnant as both allocation and the number of beneficiaries have not increased over the years. The Committee are of the opinion that annual increase in tribal population should be taken into consideration at the time of budgetary allocation and it should also be ensured that number of beneficiaries increase every year.</p>
7.	4.7	<p>The Committee note that 750 National Fellowships are provided to the ST students each year for pursuing higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges. The Committee are surprised to find that Budgetary allocation/expenditure and target in 2020-21 and 2021-22 have remained the same i.e. ₹120.00 crore and the budgetary allocation for 2022-23 have marginally increased to ₹145.00 crore from ₹120.00 crore. The Committee desire to be apprised of the reasons due to which the target of 750 fellowships has not been revised. They feel that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should try to assess actual requirement of the fellowships and accordingly increase the number of fellowships offered to ST students so that students desirous of pursuing higher studies are able to realise their dreams of high education. The Committee would also like the Ministry to examine the recommendations/suggestions made by Indian Institute of Public Administration with regard to National Fellowship and bring it at par with the JRF and SRF granted by the UGC as this would really help to ease the financial burden on ST students.</p>
8.	5.12	<p>The Committee note that Ministry of Tribal Affairs annually awards 20 National Overseas Scholarships, i.e. 17 for ST students and 3 for PVTG students having income ceiling of ₹ 6 lakh annually for pursuing higher studies abroad. The Committee are unhappy that during the last five years, only 45</p>

		<p>students have been awarded the National Overseas Scholarship and that apparently no efforts have been made by the Ministry to increase the number of beneficiaries in this direction. In 2021-22, out of sanctioned amount of ₹ 5 crore, only ₹ 2.46 crore could be spent by the time the Committee examined the Demands for Grants. The Committee are unable to comprehend as to why even 20 National Overseas Scholarships fixed for each year for ST PVTG students are not being availed by them. They, therefore, are of the strong view that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should identify the reasons due to which even a small number of 20 Overseas Scholarships is not availed by the students. Also, as has already been reiterated by the Committee, in view of the rising cost of living, there is hardly any merit in fixing the income eligibility criteria of ₹ 6 lakh annually. The Committee feel that it is high time that the Ministry reviewed the criteria to fix the income ceiling to ₹ 10 lakh annually. It should be regularly reviewed so that the eligibility criteria get rationalised and large number of deserving students avail the opportunity. The Committee would therefore, like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide a specific reply on the suggested review of the income criteria at the action taken stage.</p>
9.	6.7	<p>The Committee find that on the scheme meant for development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal groups (PVTGs), the Ministry is able to spend ₹ 143.03 crore till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 out of the total revised estimate of ₹ 160 crore. As envisaged under the scheme, the proposals are to be submitted by the State Governments focusing on developmental activities viz. Housing, connectivity, installation of non conventional sources of Energy, cattle development, land development, agricultural growth etc. for 75 identified PVTGs spread across 18 States and the Union Territory of Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands. The Committee noticed during the year 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 that several States/UT such as Andaman &amp; Nicobar island, Bihar, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh etc. did not get any fund. The Committee are not able to understand the reason for such a steep fall in funds released particularly when there are various areas where the funds can be utilized. They are further displeased to note that States have not assessed the</p>

		<p>population of PVTGs and have been asked by the Ministry to assess the population of PVTGs. However, no time has been fixed for their exercise. The Committee would appreciate if this exercising is completed in a fixed time frame. They would like to be apprised whether the coverage of 36,428 villages under the PMAAGY would cover the PVTGs too.</p>
10.	7.11	<p>As regards TRIs, the Committee are surprised to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been able to spend just ₹ 60.00 crore in 2020-21 and ₹34.89 crore (till 31 January, 2022) during the year 2021-22, out of the Budgetary Estimate of ₹110.00 crore and ₹120.00 crore for 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have themselves stated that many TRIs are lacking in necessary infrastructure. In such a situation, the TRIs can hardly work as a body of knowledge and research and as a think tank for tribal development. The Committee feel that there is enough scope available in the Tribal dominated areas for preservation of tribal cultural heritage, capacity building of tribals and persons/institutions associated with tribal affairs, etc. However, the work envisaged under the scheme have not taken off properly, perhaps due to casual approach of the Ministry and the lack of awareness. The Committee are therefore of strong view that that tribal cultural heritage needs to be preserved for the future generations. While declaring 15th November as 'JanJatiya Gaurav Diwas' is a right step, the Committee would also suggest to the Ministry to persuade State/UTs Governments for organizing tribal festival/yatras for promotion of their unique cultural heritage, for promoting tourism and organization of exchange visits by tribals, so that the tribal culture practices, languages are preserved.</p> <p>As regards the 27 tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), the Committee are pleased to find that the work at TRIs located at Dehradun and Vishakhapatnam has been since completed. However, the work at several places viz Naharalgun, Srinagar, Aizwal, Kohima, West Garo Hills, Hyderabad and West Tripura is still not completed and the construction work at TRI, Imphal and TRI, South Goa has not even started. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the work of TRIs should be completed in time bound manner and sincere efforts should be made to</p>

		complete the construction work of all the TRIs at the earliest.
11.	7.12	<p>The Committee are perturbed to note that no time limit have been fixed for the setting up of Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums sanctioned since 2017-18. Recently only the Birsa Munda Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Ranchi has been completed and inaugurated. The Committee strongly feel that in the absence of target date, there are chances that the work would be unduly delayed and the cost would escalate, hence, they would like the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to fix target dates for completion of work at the time of sanction of the project to obviate delay and cost escalation and also to ensure that the fund released are not left idle. The Committee would also like the Ministry to encourage the State/UT Governments to send proposals for setting up of tribal Museums particularly from where proposals have not been received as only 10 Museums have been sanctioned since 2017-18. The Committee would also like to be kept updated on the status of Museums sanctioned.</p>
12.	8.16	<p>The Committee note that the mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value chain for MFP introduced in the year 2013-14 have been expanded to 27 States and 87 MFPs included to provide safety net and support to people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. In order to make scheme more effective and for optimum utilisation of funds the concept of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras programme was introduced in 2018-19 and focus was shifted to providing value addition and procurement of MFPs and TRIFED was made nodal agency for implementation. The Scheme would now proposed to be implemented as 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission' by TRIFED to achieve livelihood-driven tribal development in the next five years from 2022-23 onwards. The Committee observe that since 2013-14 several initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of tribals particularly traditional forest dwellers whose very livelihood depends on</p>

		<p>collection and selling of MFP. In its initiative 52976 Van Dhan Self Help Groups and 3110 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been sanctioned across the Country catering to the 927927 forest gatherers. However, the Committee find that the expenditure incurred during the previous years was significantly less to undertake the activities such as development of infrastructure like cold storage, warehouse, modernization of haats, revolving funds for procurement of MFPs etc. The Committee now expect that under the PMJVM, the goals of the Government with respect to tribal population would be achieved and new haats, warehouses, cold storages and e-market places will be established to enhance their income with the increased Budgetary allocation of ₹ 499 crore for 2022-23. The Committee would like to be apprised of the target set for setting up of Van Dhan Self Help Groups and the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras alongwith the achievements made under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission at the action taken stage.</p>
13.	9.17	<p>The Committee find that Centrally Sponsored Schemes Pradhan Mantri Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana including the Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana has been approved continuation till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026. They further note that 36 tribal dominated villages / one crore households with at least tribal population and 500 STs will be taken up under the Scheme during 2022-26 for the integrated development of tribal dominated villages as 'model' village. The Committee are surprised to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were not able to spend Budgetary Allocation during 2020-21 and 2021-22 under their erstwhile Scheme Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (merged under PMAAGY) which indicates that funds provided to State Governments to bridge the gaps in sectors like education, health, agriculture, etc. remained unutilized despite the scheme being in existence since 1977-78. They note that there are about 1,17,000 tribal villages with more or equal to 25% Tribal population identified where gap exists in various sectors of development. The Committee are sad to note that there are several North Eastern States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland where no fund was released by the Union Government to State Governments during previous years. Similarly, there are certain sectors such as drinking water</p>

		<p>Irrigation and watershed, road connectivity, etc., where expenditure was very less during previous years. In this backdrop the Committee feel that the revamped scheme of PMAAGY identified objectives now needs to be closely monitored effective implementation. The Committee desire that they may be informed of the steps taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs so that the goals set for the next five years can be achieved and the funds meant for the scheme judiciously spent.</p>
14.	10.9	<p>The National Commission on Scheduled Tribes set up with effect from 19 February, 2014 by inserting Article 338A in the Constitution of India is vested with all the powers of Civil Court while investigating any matter on inquiring into any complaint relating to deprivation of rights and safeguards for STs. The Committee, however, are constrained to note that the Reports of the Commission since 2018 are still under process in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and have not been presented to the Parliament till date. The Committee would like the matter to be expedited and Reports presented without any delay. Further, the Committee are surprised to note that several posts are lying vacant in the Commission. They are unable to understand as to how the Commission would function in the absence of manpower and the reasons for delay in recruitment. Hence, they desire that the vacancies should be immediately filled as there should be no reason now for any further delay since the recruitment rules have been suitably revised. The Committee are also of the opinion that the budgetary allocation for the Commission needs to be reviewed so that its functioning is not made to suffer for lack of funds. They recommend that necessary action be urgently taken in respect of Annual reports, recruitment of officials and budgetary allocation for the said Commission.</p>