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

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs'

THIRTY SEVENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2022/ Sravana, 1944 (Saka)

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(2021-22)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 5.8.2022

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 5.8.2022



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2022/Sravana, 1944 (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. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
23. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
24. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
25. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
26. Shri Narayan Koragappa
27. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
- *28. Vacant
- **29. Vacant
- ***30. Vacant
- ****31. Vacant

* Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla Resigned *w.e.f* 16.03.2022

** Smt. Jharna Das Baidya retired *w.e.f* 02.04.2022

*** Smt. Chhaya Verma retired *w.e.f* 29.06.2022

**** Shri Ramkumar Verma retired *w.e.f* 04.07.2022

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri T.S. Rangarajan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Director |
| 4. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Smt. Banani Sarker Joshi | - | Under Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2021-22) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Thirty Seventh Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.'

2. The Thirtieth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 14th March 2022. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the observations/recommendations contained therein on 15th June, 2022. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 2nd August, 2022.

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

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

NEW DELHI;

02 August, 2022

11 Sravana, 1944 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

The Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Thirtieth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 14.03.2022. It contained 14 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:-
Para No.2.13, 3.22, 5.12, 6.7, 7.11 & 8.16 **(Total: 06, Chapter: II)**
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply: –
Para No. 2.11, 2.12 & 4.7 **(Total: 03, Chapter: III)**
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: –
Para No. 3.21, 3.23, 9.17 & 10.9 **(Total: 04, Chapter: IV)**
- (iv) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which reply of the Government is interim in nature: –
Para No. 7.12 **(Total: 01, Chapter: V)**

3. The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final Action Taken Note in respect of the recommendation contained in Chapter-V of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of this Report.

4. The Committee will now deal with the replies received from the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

A. PRE-MATRIC AND POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS

Recommendations (Para Nos.3.21 & 3.23)

5. In Para No. 3.21 of their 30th Report, the Committee had recommended that:-

“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.”

6. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“The Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship is open ended and there is no limit on number of eligible students for availing the benefit of the Scheme.

The Ministry with the help of States has been making continuous efforts to reach out to eligible students and provide them the scholarship so that more number of ST students can join higher classes. The Ministry has also taken steps to identify duplicate numbers in the list of beneficiaries.

It is further stated that except for Maharashtra, all other states including Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh had unspent funds or did not furnish UC, therefore funds could not be released to them. These States have been reminded, and as and when their utilization is reported, Ministry will release further grants to them. State of Maharashtra has not opted for Pre-Matric Scholarship of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It is implementing Pre-Matric scholarship with its own funds. The Ministry is constantly persuading all State Governments for on boarding on the scheme and expanding the coverage of scheme by mass awareness programs through States and social media also.”

7. In Para 3.23, the Committee had recommended that:-

“The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants Post-matric Scholarship ranging from ₹230 per month to ₹12,000 per month to the students whose 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 ₹1,862.64 crore (approx.) and ₹1,929.08 crore (approx.) respectively and ₹1,891.45 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.”

8. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“The Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship is open ended and there is no limit on number of eligible students for availing the benefit of the Scheme. As the scheme is demand-driven, more numbers of ST students can be given scholarship, if eligible. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs accords top priority to the educational schemes for ST students. Efforts are being made to improve utilisation of funds for scholarship. During the financial year 2021-22, an amount of ₹2,257 crore was released for Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students, which was ₹264 crore more than the BE for 2021-22. Ministry also does regular follow up with the States so that utilization certificates can be expedited for further releases.”

9. Taking cognizance of the stagnant number of beneficiaries and same target under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 and the substantial reduction in number of beneficiaries in 2020-21 in comparison to 2019-20 in Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, the Committee had recommended to the Ministry to analyse reasons for the same and ensure that number of beneficiaries are increased every year. The Committee had also recommended the Ministry to take suitable steps for coverage of maximum number of tribal students since the disbursement of funds in some of the States/UTs such as Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh was nil. The Committee are not satisfied with the routine reply of the Ministry that the funds were not released to the States as they either had unspent funds or did not furnish Utilisation Certificates. One of the reasons for the same, which the Committee has gathered after due analysis, is that some of the States do not close their portals on time to start verification process, which ultimately leads to delay in sending completed proposals. Also, there seem to be problem with receipt of Adhar-seeded proposals as many States

are not following a uniform system. While the Ministry's mandate is limited in this light, the Committee feel that they need to continuously monitor the performance of States and remind those of approaching deadlines at least, so that the future of ST children can be secured. The Ministry have also failed in justifying for the same targets fixed for previous three years. It is obvious that the Ministry is not hopeful of achieving a revised target in the present scenario.

The Committee would therefore like to reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that the Ministry should now feel inspired with a person from the ST community adorning the position of the Head of the State and take re-energized steps to increase the number of beneficiaries of scholarship schemes. The Committee desire that the Ministry should chalk out an action plan for increasing the targets under the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for tribal students, and apprise them of the same.

B. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO TRIBAL SUB-SCHEME (PRADHAN MANTRI AADI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA)

Recommendation (Para 9.17)

10. The Committee had recommended as follows:-

“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 31st 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.”

Reply of the Government

11. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“The Ministry has been able to spend the entire amount allocated under Revised Estimates during 2020-21 under the erstwhile Scheme ‘Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)’. The reasons for the reduction in budgetary allocation in RE was that due to Covid-19 epidemic situation, State Governments were not able to implement some projects and due to this could not submit Utilization Certificate (UC) / Physical Progress Report (PPR) of previous years releases. In the absence of pending UCs, the allocated amount due to some states could not be released and this led to reduction in the budgetary allocation during RE stage during 2020-21.

The scheme of ‘SCA to TSS’ was under process for revamping into a transformed scheme of ‘Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)’ during the year 2021-22 and was due for approval of Cabinet which was received in January 2022. This led to reduction in the budgetary allocation during RE stage during 2021-22. However, the Ministry was able to expend the complete amount allocated at RE stage during 2021-22 under the new scheme of PMAAGY.

Regarding observation of the Hon’ble Committee 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, it is humbly submitted that the funds are released to the State Governments keeping in view the fund availability in the respective scheme, schematic norms, submission of utilization certificate (UC) and physical progress report (PPR) by the States and other relevant financial instructions in vogue. The reason for release of less funds to some of North Eastern States is pendency of UC / PPR on the part of State Governments for the previous years’ releases. Further, 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. The details of the funds released to the North Eastern States during 2014-15 to 2021-22 is as under:

(₹. in lakh)

S. No.	States	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
		Release	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release
1	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2211.83	9224.29	7015.50	733.68
2	Assam	1788.59	5844.00	3407.80	0.00	0.00	2710.08	4578.76	8743.02
3	Manipur	1118.00	1100.00	2260.00	3790.38	5442.48	1434.02	0.00	427.98
4	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2739.20	3788.00	328.25	0.00
5	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1220.00	3140.00	1236.22	580.83
6	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3225.00	2951.12	2846.14	886.53
7	Sikkim	520.25	353.00	1497.62	5986.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Tripura	1183.94	2400.07	1345.76	1649.77	1294.38	1362.97	1173.30	631.78
	Total	4610.78	9697.07	8511.18	11426.15	16132.89	24610.48	17178.17	12003.82

In so far as the observation of the Hon'ble Committee regarding less expenditure in some sectors such as drinking water, Irrigation and watershed, road connectivity, etc., is concerned, it is submitted that under the scheme of 'SCA to TSS', the funds were provided to the State Governments based on the proposals submitted by them with the approval of Chief Secretary concerned, as per the priority defined by the concerned State Government. As there are separate schemes of Government of India for drinking water, Irrigation and watershed, road connectivity being implemented by Jal Shakti Mantralaya, Department of Rural Development and Ministry of Telecommunications, the SCA to TSS had a gap filling nature and the scheme was demand driven.

Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) is a revamped form of the scheme of 'SCA to TSS' for the development of tribals in sectors such as drinking water, health, agriculture, watershed management, education etc. The scheme of 'PMAAGY' aims to provide basic infrastructure facilities to enable them lead a dignified life and utilize their inherent potential to the fullest. While the scheme endeavors to mitigate existing gaps in various sectors of development, the objective of the scheme is to decentralize the process of village development through preparation of Village Development Plans at the village level, based on the needs, potential, and aspirations of the tribal communities. Hence, the focus of the scheme has shifted from sectoral development to integrated development of the identified 36428 tribal villages through appropriate convergence of resources in State Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Schedule Tribe Component (STC) with Central Line Ministries, Corporate Social Responsibility funds, District Mineral Funds etc. Priority will be given to the sectors having direct bearing on the socio-economic development such as

- Road connectivity (Internal and Inter-village /block)
- Telecom connectivity (Mobile /internet)
- School

- Anganwadi Centres
- Health Sub-Centre
- Drinking water facility
- Drainage and solid waste management; etc

Monitoring Mechanism for the scheme of PMAAGY for its effective implementation:

- a. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will carry out concurrent monitoring through physical and financial reports and visits by officers of the Ministry to review the implementation status. The scheme will be evaluated by Ministry of Tribal Affairs before the end of 2025-26.
- b. There will be a centralized web enabled MIS with software engineered data to make all information transparently available regarding release of funds and expenditure against each scheme/programme, physical progress, etc.
- c. The States/UTs shall make their nodal departments responsible for ensuring transparency and accountability at all levels in the implementation of PMAAGY and for updating information relating to schemes/programmes, allocation, expenditure, physical achievements and utilisation certificates in respect of VDP
- d. The State Nodal Department shall:
 - (i) Co-ordinate progress of various schemes / programmes and design a comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators covering fund allocation, release and expenditure, service delivery standards as well as outcomes in consultation with Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
 - (ii). Ensure follow up of the schemes implemented and maintenance of proper records on assets created under VDP.
 - (iii). Ensure regular review of progress under Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner.
 - (iv). Conduct Social Audit Programme with the involvement of elected representatives, beneficiaries and reputed voluntary organizations in a transparent and effective manner.
 - (v). Integrate with the centralized web enabled MIS with software engineered data.”

12. The Committee are surprised to note from the Ministry’s reply that coverage of the Scheme was earlier limited to 23 States and the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya , Mizoram and Nagaland, which have substantial ST population, were not covered under Special Central Scheme to Tribal Sub-Plan and desire that reasons therefor may be explained. It was as late as 2017-18, when it was decided by the Ministry, as a part of the policy, to extend the benefit

of the Scheme to these States. After merger of the Scheme of SCA to TSS in Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) in 2021-2022, the focus of the Scheme has shifted from sectoral development to integrated development of the identified 36428 tribal villages. Since the priority will be given to the sectors like Road connectivity, Telecom connectivity, Schools, Anganwadi Centres, Health Sub-Centres, Drinking water facility and Drainage and solid waste management under PMAAGY, the Committee note that for the effective implementation and strict monitoring of the Scheme some new elements have been introduced in the monitoring mechanism so that the development work under the Scheme can be completed in a time bound manner. As the State Nodal departments are now expected to integrate with the Centralised web-enabled MIS, it is the earnest desire of the Committee that the Ministry shall accord focussed attention on the same and as soon as dips are noticed in the achievement of set parameters, take pro-active steps for handholding/advising the State to effectively check the decline so that the needs of the tribal population are taken care of timely.

C. NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

Recommendation (Para 10.9)

13. The Committee had recommended as follows:-

“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.”

Reply of the Government

14. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution of India through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003. By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely- (i) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and (ii) The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) w.e.f. 19 February, 2004.

The total number of Posts sanctioned to NCST is 124, out of which 51 posts are filled up and 73 are vacant.

Earlier the cadre controlling authority for the Joint cadre posts of Group A posts of NCSC & NCST was Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E). Subsequently MoSJ&E vide letter no 42018/53/2009-Estt-I dated 16.08.2017 transferred the 11 Joint cadre posts viz. 4 posts of Director (GP-₹7,600/-), 2 posts of Deputy Director (GP-₹6,600/-) and 5 posts of Assistant Director (GP-₹5,400/-) to the administrative control and strength of Ministry of Tribal Affairs which is effective from 1.08.2017. For the posts of Group "B" and "C", the administrative control and strength of NCST have been delegated to the Commission vide Ministry's O.M No.20025/09/2018-NCST dated 27.08.2018. In this regard, to strengthen the Commission, necessary steps have been taken by the Ministry for filling up the vacant posts of NCST.

Director (04) post, NCST:

These posts are to be filled by deputation as none of the officer in the feeder cadre i.e. Deputy Director is presently eligible for promotion as Director in NCST. Hence, Ministry of Tribal Affairs released advertisement for filling up of these

posts by deputation in the year 2018 and again in the year 2019. It may be noted that one such attempt became infructuous as none of the candidate was found eligible in the year 2018. In the second attempt in the year 2019, only one candidate was found eligible out of 11 applications received in the Ministry. However, the same was also cancelled as the candidate was found ineligible by UPSC. Hence, the second attempt also became infructuous.

Now the Ministry has again initiated fresh process to fill up these posts on deputation basis after ascertaining the vacancies from NCST. The matter of filling up of two (2) posts of Director in NCST is under process.

Deputy Director (02) post, NCST:

Two Posts of Deputy Director in NCST has been filled up on the basis of Promotion of two eligible Assistant Directors.

Assistant Director (05) posts, NCST:

Presently total Sanctioned Posts of Assistant Directors in NCST are 5. Out of this, 02 posts are presently filled. Consequent upon the promotion of two Assistant Directors to the post of Deputy Director *w.e.f.* 01.08.2017 and after joining the promotional posts in NCST on 24.06.2021, two posts of Assistant Directors became vacant in NCST. Thus, total 3 posts of ADs are vacant in NCST as on date. Two (2) posts of Assistant Director in NCST is being filled up by promotion of eligible Research Officer. A proposal was submitted to UPSC for conducting Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for promotion of these 2 posts. Now UPSC vide email dated 20.04.2022 has informed that DoP&T has issued an OM No. 36-12/16/2019-Estt.(Res.) dated 12th April 2022 and the same is under consideration of the Commission. Till a final decision is taken in the matter, the submission of the DPC proposal for promotion to the post of Assistant Director under Single Window System is deferred.

One post of Assistant Director in NCST is to be filled by direct recruitment. NCST has been requested to submit the proposal as per proforma prescribed by UPSC. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is making utmost efforts to fill up the vacant positions in NCST. For the posts of Group 'B' and 'C', the administrative control and strength of NCST have been delegated to the commission vide Ministry's O.M. No.20025/09/2018-NCST dated 27.08.2018

Status on Recruitment Rules:

At present, the process of framing of fresh RR for the post of Group A, B and C in NCST is under consideration in the Ministry. The RR for the post of LDC and UDC Group C in NCST has been notified in the Gazette Notification dated 17th May, 2019.

Status on Annual Reports of NCST:

Three (3) Annual Reports (9th, 10th & 11th) of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes have been laid in the Parliament since 2018 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Presently finalization of 12th, 13th & 14th Annual Reports of NCST for the Year 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19 and Two Special Reports (1) Special Report on Indira Sagar Polavaram Project Affected Tribal People and (2) Special Report on the status of Rourkela Steel Plant on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Displaced Tribals are under process in the Ministry. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has initiated necessary action for preparation of Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations of NCST contained in these Annual Reports and both special reports. The concerned Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UTs have been requested by the Ministry to Action Taken Report on the recommendations. Significant progress has been made in this regard. However, preparation of Explanatory Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations of NCST involves compilation of the replies from Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UTs which takes time causing delay at times. However, the Ministry is sincerely following up the matter requesting the concerned to expedite sending replies through written communication as well as review meetings. Necessary follow up with all the concerned Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UTs will be taken with utmost priority to avoid delay in future. Attempts are being made to ensure that these inputs are received as early as possible.

Status of budgetary allocation for the Commission

Regarding Allocation of Annual Budget, Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance issues guidelines on formulation of Budget Estimates from time to time. This Ministry submits the proposal for Annual Budget for the Ministry as well as NCST as and when such proposals are invited by the Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance. The proposal for Annual Budget for NCST is prepared by the Ministry as per the demand raised by the NCST and also keeping in view the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance. The proposed Budget Estimates of the Ministry and NCST is considered by the Ministry of Finance, which allocates the Budget to the Ministry and NCST which may be the same or less than the projected estimates. Accordingly, allocation of Annual Budget to NCST is made for its smooth functioning.”

15. Noting with concern several vacant posts in National Commission of Scheduled Tribes despite its setting up way back in 2004 as well as the delay in presentation of its Annual Reports in Parliament since 2018, the Committee had recommended that necessary action should be urgently taken. The Committee had also desired that budgetary allocation for the Commission may be reviewed so that its functioning is not made to suffer for lack of funds. The Committee, however, found in the action taken reply that despite taking several efforts by the Ministry to fill the vacancies, the process is taking too long and that the vacancies still exist in the Commission. The reasons attributed for delay in finalization of Annual Reports are also not convincing since preparation of Special reports and Action taken thereon should be expedited, if Annual Reports are dependent on the same, which is the responsibility of the Ministry. As regard to the budgetary allocation, the concern of the Committee were to underline the fact that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) needs to have adequate funds for its effective functioning. The Committee would therefore desire to know whether the Ministry have reviewed the fund position of NCST and found it adequate.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation Para No. 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 ₹7,355.76 crore to ₹5,472.50 and in 2021-22 it was reduced from ₹7,484.07 crore to ₹6,126.46 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 ₹13,208.52 crore, was granted ₹8,406.92 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 ₹5,000 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.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has been able to spend the entire amount allocated under Revised Estimates (RE) during 2020-21 under the erstwhile Scheme 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)' and RE allocation during 2021-22 under the revamped scheme of 'Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)'. During the year 2022-23, Ministry is fully prepared to utilize all the Budgetary Allocation under the scheme of 'PMAAGY'.

Budgetary provisions under the Scheme of Development of PVTGs during the current year as per BE 2022-23 is Rs.252.00 crore. It is expected that this amount shall be fully utilized through releasing it to States/UT during the FY 2022-23.

In the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, there is no significant reduction in the budget of Scholarship Scheme: -

RE 2020-21- ₹2,207.76 Cr
RE 2021-22- ₹2,782.67 Cr
BE-2022-23- ₹2,533.00 Cr

As per Para 2.11,2.12 & 2.13as observation of the Committee regarding utilization of funds allotted is concerned, it is to mention that out of RE of ₹6,181.30 crore, this Ministry has utilized an amount of ₹6,177.79 crore for welfare of STs which amounts to 99.94% of the available budget during the FY 2021-22. As far as allocation and expenditure for EMRS is concerned, during the year 2021-22, an amount of ₹756 crore was spent on capital works of construction, which was 100% of the RE allocation. During the year 2022-23, a provision of ₹2,000 crore has been made for the EMRS scheme. After incurring expenditure of available grants, if needed, the Ministry will submit proposal for Supplementary Grants.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

(Recommendation Para No. 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 emphasized 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.

Reply of the Government

The income ceiling under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme was revised from ₹2.00 lakhs to ₹2.50 lakhs in April 2020.

The present income limit under the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship is on par with the limit existing in other similar Ministries like Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. This issue of increasing annual income limit has got considerable

financial and budgetary implications, since it is an open-ended and demand-driven scheme. Therefore, any decision in this matter will need wider consultation.

The Ministry has taken note of the evaluation-study of the scheme, and continuous efforts are being made to make the scheme more efficient with better coverage.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs accords great importance to education of ST students. In particular, it is very much desirable to improve the participation of ST students in higher studies. In this regard, scholarship to study abroad for doing higher specialization in the selected domain through National Overseas Scholarship is a very important scheme. It is submitted that under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme 20 awards are approved each year. Total 96 Students have been awarded NOS scholarship during last 5 years. The selected students are issued

Provisional Award letters and are given two years time to obtain offer letter from foreign universities/institutes and join the courses aboard. In case a student does not join in 2 years, the un-availed seat will be carried forward to the next year. Under this scheme, 100 students will be given scholarship in next 5 years. Further, it is submitted that an amount of ₹4.95 crore available as per RE 2021-22 is completely utilized under NOS scheme. The Ministry is in regular touch with Indian Embassies, and has been resolving the grievances of these students so that they can get gainful employment after the research is complete, and also become role models for other ST students. As advised by the Hon'ble Committee, the Ministry will do the exercise of examining income criteria in this regard, in constitution with other Ministries/Departments.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

(Recommendation Para No. 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 31st 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.

Reply of the Government

A total budget of ₹160.00 crore as per Revised Estimated (RE 2021-22) under the Scheme of Development of PVTGs has been fully released to States/UT during FY 2021-22. Hence, there is nounder-utilization of the allocated funds. The reasons why funds were not released during the year 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 to some of the States like - Bihar, Manipur and Uttar Pradesh and the UT of A&N Islands include non-submission of the requisite Utilization Certificate (UC) by these states against the funds released during the previous years and non-submission of proposals to the Ministry on time for consideration of the Project Appraisal Committee. Further, it is also submitted that population surveys of the PVTGs have been carried out by almost all the States, except Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. It is hoped that the PVTG population survey

will be completed by these States also. Meaningful works are being sanctioned for the development and welfare of the PVTG.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been providing funds to States / TRIs for organizing tribal festival/yatras for promotion of their unique cultural heritage, tourism and organization of exchange visits by tribals. The Committee has been apprised earlier that Ministry has sanctioned cultural activities to States under the scheme 'Support to TRIs' which has been noted in the report vide para 7.6 (c). With regard to completion of construction work of TRIs, it is submitted that Ministry has been insisting upon the States during review meetings for timely completion of TRI infrastructure. Further, during the visit of

Ministry of Tribal Affairs officers in the States/UTs, construction sites of the TRIs are visited to expedite the construction activities.

Ministry actively participated in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations across country, conducting various events built on the theme of freedom fighters, education, development initiatives of the ministry skill India; digital India; and showcasing the tribal culture across states. The events started on 12th March, 2021 and involved whole of government approach Jan Bhagidari, use of technology and low-cost initiatives. There has been enthusiastic participation from all states across the country organising 176 events on diverse themes.

Ministry was assigned iconic week from 15th November to 22nd November, 2021. The Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the celebration on 15th November by paying floral tribute at the statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda in the Parliament Complex, New Delhi. The Hon'ble PM then virtually inaugurated the "Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Park cum Freedom Fighter Museum" at Ranchi. Along with Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the museum will also highlight other tribal freedom fighters associated with different movements such as Shahid Budhu Bhagat, Sidhu-Kanhu, Nilambar-Pitambar, Diwa-Kisun, Telanga Khadiya, Gaya Munda, Jatra Bhagat, Poto Ho, Bhagirath Manjhi, Ganga Narayan Singh. Museum will contain a 25 feet statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and 9 feet statues of other freedom fighters of the region as well. It will serve as a tribute to his sacrifice for the nation and tribal communities. The museum will play an important role in preserving and promoting tribal culture and history. It will also demonstrate the way the tribals struggled for protecting their forests, land rights, their culture and would show their valour and sacrifices, vital for nation building. Smriti Udyan has been developed by the State Government in neighbouring 25 acres and it will have a musical fountain, food court, children park and garden and other facilities.

Hon'ble PM then participated in the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Mahasammeln at Bhopal and virtually laid the foundation stone of 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country. Total 133 events were conducted during Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah (15 -22 Nov 2021) across different states. Foundation stone of Rani Gaidinliu Museum in Tamenglong, Manipur was laid by Hon'ble Home Minister. More than 100 events have been organized across country since 12th March. The details can be seen at the web site of Ministry of Culture, which is the nodal Ministry of organization of the events of azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Details of VDVVs sanctioned since inception of Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram *i.e.* in the last three years as already mentioned in reply to Point No. 2.11 above.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) seeks to achieve livelihood driven tribal development by providing forward and backward linkages to existing Van Dhan Karyakram. An amount of ₹1,612 cr. has been approved under PMJVM and Rs. 145 cr. under Logistics and Marketing of tribal products for N.E. The TRIFED would be central nodal implementing agency. 100% Grant-in-Aid will be given to TRIFED for carrying out proposed activities under the Scheme as implementing agency including provision of revolving funds and infrastructure development for livelihood activities. Grants to states, State Corporations and Implementing agencies would also be routed through TRIFED. There is provision of setting up 200 Vandhan Producer Organisations,

3000 Haat Bazars, 600 Warehouses, and tertiary processing units and large TRIFOOD Food parks. The scheme has been conceptualized based on recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) for “Skill development and Employment generation”, chaired by Shri. Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, in their Final Report dated 22nd Oct 2020, has recommended the launch of an umbrella program with convergences viz., “Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) – Further as per Cabinet Observation OBS/2039 ‘it was advised that forests produce is covered under the scheme for setting up new FPOs and the benefits of quality input, technology, credit and better marketing access etc. reach the tribal community’. The Scheme will be implemented across country covering 27 states. Under PMJVM, Ministry has set a target of setting up of 500 VDVKs, which are comprised out of 7500 VDSHG during F.Y. 2022-23.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

CHAPTER- III

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

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has always respected the guidance received from time to time from the Hon'ble Committee. Ministry has launched the revamped scheme of Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) for the development of tribals in sectors such as drinking water, health, agriculture, watershed management, education etc. with the aim to provide basic infrastructure facilities to STs provide them basic facilities and utilize their inherent potential to the fullest. In this context, the Ministry has made a plan of integrated village development on convergence model for 36,428 villages with ST population of 500 and 50%. During 2021-22, an amount of ₹78,152.21 lakh has been released to 17 States for development of 7669 villages (@ the rate of ₹20.38 lakhs per village and 50% allocation). Ministry has written to States on 05.04.2022 sharing the list of districts and number of villages selected to be taken up against the funds released during 2021-22 under PMAAGY and has requested the State Governments to expedite the process of formulating Village Development Plans (VDP) in accordance with the PMAAGY Guidelines.

2. Under the scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission' (PMJVM), Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides funds to TRIFED for various activities which includes institutional support for marketing of their artifacts and products including skill development to tribal artisans, procurement of minor forest produce (MFP) with minimum support price and setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) which aims at employment generation for tribals by harnessing the wealth of forest *i.e.*, Van Dhan in a sustainable and remunerative manner.

Details of VDKs sanctioned since inception of Van Dhan Vikas Karyakrami.e., in the last three years. Details of funds sanctioned to TRIFED under PMJVM during 2021-22. The Ministry has also finalized the indicators for Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework for the year 2022-23 in consultation with NITI Aayog. The same is reproduced below for perusal:

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (₹ in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2022-23			OUTCOMES 2022-23		
	2022-23	Output	Indicators	Targets 2022-23	Outcome	Indicators
499.00	Comprehensive Support for people belonging to various Tribes	1.1. No. of Artisans in the festival exhibition or organized by TRIFED	4500	Increased economic activity and livelihood generation activities for the tribal groups	1.1 No. of households whose financial income increased with the said support	8,00,000
	Marketing of Tribal Handicraft & Handloom	2. 2.1. Total sale value of Goods (Rs Crore)	50			
		2.2. Fund utilized for the purchased by ST person or tribals (Rs Crore)	45			

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

(Recommendation Para No. 2.12)

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 ₹6,126.46 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 ₹4,070.04 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 Janjatiya 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.

Reply of the Government

During the financial year 2021-22, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has made continues reviews with State Government so that expenditure picks up, which had been affected during the year 2020-21, as noted by the Hon'ble Committee, Ministry of Tribal Affairs achieved 99.94% of the RE allocation for the year 2021-22. The total expenditure of ₹6,177 crore achieved in 2021-22 was 12% more than the expenditure increased in 2020-21. In particular, during the year 2021-22, Ministry achieved 100% of capital expenditure of RE, 2021-22.

Ministry is proactively working with the State Governments for implementation of the newly launched scheme of 'PMAAGY'. Ministry has released an amount of ₹78,152.21 lakh to 17 States for development of 7669 villages (@ the rate of ₹20.38 lakhs per village and 50% allocation) during 2021-22. Further, Ministry has written to States to expedite the process of formulating Village Development Plans (VDP) in accordance with the PMAAGY Guidelines. Ministry is also following up with the State Governments for timely submission of pending Utilization Certificates (UCs) and Physical Progress Report (PPR) so that funds for the year 2022-23 and balance 50% of the amount for the year 2021-22 could be released on time.

2. The livelihood-oriented schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs namely MSP for MFP and Institutional Support, before merger and revamping into PMJVM, contained State components wherein funds were directly disbursed to State Governments on the basis of proposals received from them. There have been administrative and monitoring issues with operationalization of these two schemes including inadequate backward and forward linkages. Hence, the Ministry decided to implement both the above components under PMJVM through Central Nodal Agency *i.e.* TRIFED, who already has state level presence in the form of their Regional Offices, which are directly implementing the scheme activities at the ground level. The Regional Offices of TRIFED are in direct contact with the State Departments and the intended beneficiaries of the scheme. This will eventually achieve better coordination among the various stakeholders of PMJVM and better utilization of the funds and timely receipt of UCs by Ministry of Tribal Affairs from States is expected.

3. The RE of the PVTG Scheme was spent fully by December, 2021, except for a small amount of ₹16.97 crore, which was utilized by February, 2022

4. As far as Scholarship Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is concerned, fund utilization was 100% of the RE (2021-22) in the entire scheme. The details of budget allocation and expenditure under scholarship schemes are given in **Annexure-3**

Also, it may kindly be noted that the budget of scholarship Scheme has seen overall increase of ₹236.67 Cr at the RE stage in FY 2021-22.

5. Under the Scheme of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, rigorously follows up with States / implementing agencies for timely implementation of projects and utilization of funds. Support is also provided to them for resolving PFMS related issues.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

(Recommendation Para No. 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 realize 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.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been giving attention to encourage greater participation of ST students in higher education. The number of slots under the fellowship was revised from 667 to 750 in 2017-18. Every year, 750 scholars get selected, with the objective of ensuring quality of research and providing opportunities of get gainful employment. Apart from this scheme by our Ministry, there are other fellowship schemes of UGC and DST, where ST student are awarded fellowship.

In order to get connected 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 Government of India for their welfare, MoTA has chalked out a unique initiative of Tribal Talent Pool with Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). Tribal Talent Pool initiative of MoTA aims at 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.

Given the number of applications received and the availability of funds, limit of 750 has been kept to ensure quality of research. To ensure quality, the Fellowship scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs is made merit based where merit list is prepared and top 750 applicants are given fellowship award. The Ministry is giving lot of emphasis on

quality of research rather than quantity. The analysis of research reports submitted by these fellows, it has been observed that the quality of research needs to be improved further so that students completing PhD get gainful employment.

The number of applications received from 2017-18 to 2021-22 may be seen below: -

Year	Application received	Slots
2017-18	2632	750
2018-19	2302	750
2019-20	2515	750
2020-21	1996	750
2021-22	2350	750

Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has substantially increased the scholarship rates and has brought it at par with the JRF and SRF granted by the UGC in the EFC for continuation of schemes for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

CHAPTER-IV

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

Recommendation (Para 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.

Reply of the Government

The Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship is open ended and there is no limit on number of eligible students for availing the benefit of the Scheme.

The Ministry with the help of States has been making continuous efforts to reach out to eligible students and provide them the scholarship so that more number of ST students can join higher classes. The Ministry has also taken steps to identify duplicate numbers in the list of beneficiaries.

It is further stated that except for Maharashtra, all other states including Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh had unspent funds or did not furnish UC, therefore funds could not be released to them. These States have been reminded, and as and when their utilization is reported,

Ministry will release further grants to them. State of Maharashtra has not opted for Pre-Matric Scholarship of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It is implementing Pre-Matric scholarship with its own funds. The Ministry is constantly persuading all State Governments for on boarding on the scheme and expanding the coverage of scheme by mass awareness programs through States and social media also.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.9 of Chapter-I of the Report)

(Recommendation Para 3.23)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants Post-matric Scholarship ranging from ₹230 per month to ₹12,000 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 20,60,508 beneficiaries whereas in 2020-21 this number got reduced to 18,27,864. Further, the funds released during 2019- 20 and 2020-21 were ₹1,862.64 crore(approx.) and ₹1,929.08 crore(approx.) respectively and ₹1,891.45 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.

Reply of the Government

The Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship is open ended and there is no limit on number of eligible students for availing the benefit of the Scheme. As the scheme is demand-driver, more numbers of ST students can be given scholarship, if eligible. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs accords top priority to the educational schemes for ST students. Efforts are being made to improve utilisation of funds for scholarship. During the financial year 2021-22, an amount of ₹2,257 crore was released for Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students. Which was ₹264 crore more than the BE for 2021-22. Ministry also does regular follow up with the States so that utilization certificates can be expedited for further releases.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.9 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para 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 31st 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.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has been able to spend the entire amount allocated under Revised Estimates during 2020-21 under the erstwhile Scheme 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)'. The reasons for the reduction in budgetary allocation in RE was that due to Covid-19 epidemic situation, State Governments were not able to implement some projects and due to this could not submit Utilization Certificate (UC) / Physical Progress Report (PPR) of previous years releases. In the absence of pending UCs, the allocated amount due to some states could not be released and this led to reduction in the budgetary allocation during RE stage during 2020-21.

The scheme of 'SCA to TSS' was under process for revamping into a transformed scheme of 'Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)' during the year 2021-22 and was due for approval of Cabinet which was received in January 2022. This led to reduction in the budgetary allocation during RE stage during 2021-22. However, the Ministry was able to expend the complete amount allocated at RE stage during 2021-22 under the new scheme of PMAAGY.

Regarding observation of the Hon'ble Committee 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, it is humbly submitted that the funds are released to the State Governments keeping in view the fund availability in the respective scheme, schematic norms, submission of utilization certificate (UC) and physical progress report (PPR) by the States and other relevant financial instructions in vogue. The reason for release of less funds to some of North Eastern States is pendency of UC / PPR on the part of State Governments for the previous years' releases. Further, 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. The details of the funds released to the North Eastern States during 2014-15 to 2021-22 is as under:

(₹ in lakh)

S. No.	States	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
		Release	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release
1	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2211.83	9224.29	7015.50	733.68
2	Assam	1788.59	5844.00	3407.80	0.00	0.00	2710.08	4578.76	8743.02
3	Manipur	1118.00	1100.00	2260.00	3790.38	5442.48	1434.02	0.00	427.98
4	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2739.20	3788.00	328.25	0.00
5	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1220.00	3140.00	1236.22	580.83
6	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3225.00	2951.12	2846.14	886.53
7	Sikkim	520.25	353.00	1497.62	5986.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Tripura	1183.94	2400.07	1345.76	1649.77	1294.38	1362.97	1173.30	631.78
	Total	4610.78	9697.07	8511.18	11426.15	16132.89	24610.48	17178.17	12003.82

In so far as the observation of the Hon'ble Committee regarding less expenditure in some sectors such as drinking water, Irrigation and watershed, road connectivity, etc., is concerned, it is submitted informed that under the scheme of 'SCA to TSS', the funds were provided to the State Governments based on the proposals submitted by them with the approval of Chief Secretary concerned, as per the priority defined by the concerned State Government. As there are separate schemes of Government of India for drinking water, Irrigation and watershed, road connectivity being implemented by Jal Shakti Mantralya, Department of Rural Development and Ministry of Telecommunications, the SCA to TSS had a gap filling nature and the scheme was demand driven.

Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) is a revamped form of the scheme of 'SCA to TSS' for the development of tribals in sectors such as drinking water, health, agriculture, watershed management, education etc. The scheme of 'PMAAGY' aims to

provide basic infrastructure facilities to enable them lead a dignified life and utilize their inherent potential to the fullest. While the scheme endeavors to mitigate existing gaps in various sectors of development, the objective of the scheme is to decentralize the process of village development through preparation of Village Development Plans at the village level, based on the needs, potential, and aspirations of the tribal communities. Hence, the focus of the scheme has shifted from sectoral development to integrated development of the identified 36,428 tribal villages through appropriate convergence of resources in State Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Schedule Tribe Component (STC) with Central Line Ministries, Corporate Social Responsibility funds, District Mineral Funds etc. Priority will be given to the sectors having direct bearing on the socio-economic development such as

- Road connectivity (Internal and Inter-village /block)
- Telecom connectivity (Mobile /internet)
- School
- Anganwadi Centres
- Health Sub-Centre
- Drinking water facility
- Drainage and solid waste management; etc

Monitoring Mechanism for the scheme of PMAAGY for its effective implementation:

e. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will carry out concurrent monitoring through physical and financial reports and visits by officers of the Ministry to review the implementation status. The scheme will be evaluated by Ministry of Tribal Affairs before the end of 2025-26.

f. There will be a centralized web enabled MIS with software engineered data to make all information transparently available regarding release of funds and expenditure against each scheme/programme, physical progress, etc.

g. The States/UTs shall make their nodal departments responsible for ensuring transparency and accountability at all levels in the implementation of PMAAGY and for updating information relating to schemes/programmes, allocation, expenditure, physical achievements and utilisation certificates in respect of VDP

h. The State Nodal Department shall:

(i) Co-ordinate progress of various schemes / programmes and design a comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators covering fund allocation, release and expenditure, service delivery standards as well as outcomes in consultation with Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(ii). Ensure follow up of the schemes implemented and maintenance of proper records on assets created under VDP.

(iii). Ensure regular review of progress under Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner.

- (iv). Conduct Social Audit Programme with the involvement of elected representatives, beneficiaries and reputed voluntary organizations in a transparent and effective manner.
- (v). Integrate with the centralized web enabled MIS with software engineered data.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)
Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.12 of Chapter-I of the Report)

(Recommendation Para 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.

Reply of the Government

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution of India through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003. By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely- (i) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and (ii) The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) *w.e.f.* 19 February, 2004.

The total number of Posts sanctioned to NCST is 124, out of which 51 posts are filled up and 73 are vacant.

Earlier the cadre controlling authority for the Joint cadre posts of Group A posts of NCSC & NCST was Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E).

Subsequently MoSJ & Evide letter no 42018/53/2009-Estt-I dated 16.08.2017 transferred the 11 Joint cadre posts viz. 4 posts of Director (GP-₹7,600/-), 2 posts of Deputy Director (GP-₹6,600/-) and 5 posts of Assistant Director (GP-₹5,400/-) to the administrative control and strength of Ministry of Tribal Affairs which is effective from 1.08.2017. For the posts of Group "B" and "C", the administrative control and strength of NCST have been delegated to the Commission vide Ministry's O.M No.20025/09/2018-NCST dated 27.08.2018. In this regard, to strengthen the Commission, necessary steps have been taken by the Ministry for filling up the vacant posts of NCST.

Director (04) post, NCST:

These posts are to be filled by deputation as none of the officer in the feeder cadre *i.e.* Deputy Director is presently eligible for promotion as Director in NCST. Hence, Ministry of Tribal Affairs released advertisement for filling up of these posts by deputation in the year 2018 and again in the year 2019. It may be noted that one such attempt became infructuous as none of the candidate was found eligible in the year 2018. In the second attempt in the year 2019, only one candidate was found eligible out of 11 applications received in the Ministry. However, the same was also cancelled as the candidate was found ineligible by UPSC. Hence, the second attempt also became infructuous.

Now the Ministry has again initiated fresh process to fill up these posts on deputation basis after ascertaining the vacancies from NCST. The matter of filling up of two (2) posts of Director in NCST is under process.

Deputy Director (02) post, NCST:

Two Posts of Deputy Director in NCST has been filled up on the basis of Promotion of two eligible Assistant Directors.

Assistant Director (05) posts, NCST:

Presently total Sanctioned Posts of Assistant Directors in NCST are 5. Out of this, 02 posts are presently filled. Consequent upon the promotion of two Assistant Directors to the post of Deputy Director *w.e.f.* 01.08.2017 and after joining the promotional posts in NCST on 24.06.2021, two posts of Assistant Directors became vacant in NCST. Thus, total 3 posts of ADs are vacant in NCST as on date.

Two (2) posts of Assistant Director in NCST is being filled up by promotion of eligible Research Officer. A proposal was submitted to UPSC for conducting Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for promotion of these 2 posts. Now UPSC vide email dated 20.04.2022 has informed that DoP&T has issued an OM No. 36-12/16/2019-Estt.(Res.) dated 12th April 2022 and the same is under consideration of the Commission. Till a final decision is taken in the matter, the submission of the DPC

proposal for promotion to the post of Assistant Director under Single Window System is deferred.

One post of Assistant Director in NCST is to be filled by direct recruitment. NCST has been requested to submit the proposal as per proforma prescribed by UPSC.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is making utmost efforts to fill up the vacant positions in NCST.

For the posts of Group 'B' and 'C', the administrative control and strength of NCST have been delegated to the commission vide Ministry's O.M. No.20025/09/2018-NCST dated 27.08.2018

Status on Recruitment Rules:

At present, the process of framing of fresh RR for the post of Group A, B and C in NCST is under consideration in the Ministry. The RR for the post of LDC and UDC Group C in NCST has been notified in the Gazette Notification dated 17th May, 2019.

Status on Annual Reports of NCST:

Three (3) Annual Reports (9th, 10th & 11th) of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes have been laid in the Parliament since 2018 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Presently finalization of 12th, 13th & 14th Annual Reports of NCST for the Year 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19 and Two Special Reports (1) Special Report on Indira Sagar Polavaram Project Affected Tribal People and (2) Special Report on the status of Rourkela Steel Plant on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Displaced Tribals are under process in the Ministry. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has initiated necessary action for preparation of Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations of NCST contained in these Annual Reports and both special reports. The concerned Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UTs have been requested by the Ministry to Action Taken Report on the recommendations. Significant progress has been made in this regard. However, preparation of Explanatory Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations of NCST involves compilation of the replies from Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UTs which takes time causing delay at times. However, the Ministry is sincerely following up the matter requesting the concerned to expedite sending replies through written communication as well as review meetings. Necessary follow up with all the concerned Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UTs will be taken with utmost priority to avoid delay in future. Attempts are being made to ensure that these inputs are received as early as possible.

Status of budgetary allocation for the Commission

Regarding Allocation of Annual Budget, Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance issues guidelines on formulation of Budget Estimates from time to time. This Ministry submits the proposal for Annual Budget for the Ministry as well as NCST as and when such proposals are invited by the Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance. The proposal for Annual Budget for NCST is prepared by the Ministry as per the demand raised by the NCST and also keeping in view the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance. The proposed Budget Estimates of the Ministry and NCST is considered by the Ministry of Finance, which allocates the Budget to the Ministry and NCST which may be the same or less than the projected estimates. Accordingly, allocation of Annual Budget to NCST is made for its smooth functioning.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.15 of Chapter-I of the Report)

CHAPTER-V

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

(Recommendation Para No.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.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been impressing upon the States where Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums (TFFMs) have been sanctioned to complete the project in a time bound manner. Regular National Level Committee meetings and review meeting are held with the State Government stressing upon the early completion of the Museums. Land for construction of the Museums is identified and provided by the concerned State Government. There are certain challenges being faced with regard to identification of land for the museums. In the case of a few States it has been observed that the land allocated by the state governments is below the minimum requirement needed for developing a decent museum or the land identification has not been done yet. This has led to some delay in initiation of the construction of the museums.

The officers of the Ministry also visit the states for inspection of the project site and for persuading the agencies for timely completion of the museum.

The progress of these museums is being monitored by National Level Committee (NLC) and the current status of TFFMs as reported by States is tabulated below:

S. N.	State	Location	Project Cost	Ministry of Tribal Affairs Commitment	Fund Released	Tentative date of completion
1	Gujarat	Rajpipla	102.55/137.01 (revised)	50.00	50.00	December , 2023

2	Jharkhand	Ranchi	36.66	25.00	25.00	15.11.2021 (inaugurated)
3	Andhra Pradesh	Lambasingi	35.00	15.00	7.50	March, 2023
4	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	25.66	15.00	4.65	August, 2023
5	Kerala	Kozhikode	16.16	15.00	7.50	December, 2022
6	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara	38.26	15.00	11.77	December, 2022
7	Telangana	Hyderabad	18.00	15.00	1.00	-
8	Manipur	Tamenglong	51.38	15.00	1.00	-
9.	Mizoram	Kelsih	15.00	15.00	12.00	-
10.	Goa	Ponda	30.00	15.00	0.10	-
Total			195.00	120.52		

With regard to setting up of tribal Museums particularly from where proposals have not been received, it is submitted that initially Ministry had held a series of consultations with all States, and Ministry duly considered proposals received from States.

Recently a workshop was conducted on 7th and 8th April, 2022 in Bhopal to review the progress of National Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Rajpipla, Gujarat and other Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum across the country wherein after detailed deliberations it was viewed that states, other than the above 10 states, having significant contribution to Freedom Struggle will be asked to submit proposal for establishment of similar museums. If such proposal would be received in complete shape (including identification of land and a Draft DPR) from the remaining states then Ministry of Tribal Affairs would consider the same for its approval as per the extant guidelines.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs F. No. 16015/03/2022-PC dated 15.06.2022)

NEW DELHI;

02 August, 2022

11 Sravana, 1944 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI

Chairperson,

Standing Committee on

Social Justice and

Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2021-22) HELD ON TUESDAY, 2nd AUGUST, 2022

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, Parliament House Annex, Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
4. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
5. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
6. Shri Y. Devendrappa
7. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
8. Smt. Geeta Kora
9. Shri Vijay Kumar
10. Shri Akshaibar Lal
11. Smt. Supriya Sule

RAJYA SABHA

12. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
13. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
14. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
15. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
16. Shri Narayan Koragappa

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Additional Secretary
2. Shri T.S. Rangarajan - Joint Secretary
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
4. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary

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

(i) XX XX XX XX XX

(ii) XX XX XX XX XX

(iii) 37th Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

3. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Report was adopted by the Committee without any modifications.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Report in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Report and to present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

XX Does not pertain to this Report

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTIETH REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2022-23) OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS'

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	14	
II. Observations/ Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:- Rec. Para No.2.13, 3.22, 5.12, 6.7, 7.11 & 8.16	06	43%
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:- Rec. Para No. 2.11,2.12, 4.7	03	21%
IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:- Rec. Para No. 3.21,3.23,9.17 & 10.9	04	29%
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:- Rec. Para No. 7.12	01	7%
		100%