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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2024-25)**

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2024-25)**

THIRD REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2024/ Pausha, 1946 (Saka)

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(2024-25)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.2024

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2024



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25*)**

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS
Lok Sabha

2. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Smt. Vijaylakshmi Devi
5. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
6. Km.Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi
7. Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi
8. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
9. Shri Murari Lal Meena
10. Smt. Bag Mitali
11. Shri Bhojraj Nag
12. Shri Godam Nagesh
13. Shri Gajendra Singh Patel
14. Shri Rajkumar Roat
15. Shri Matheswaran V. S.
16. Adv. Priya Saroj
17. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
18. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki
19. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
20. Dr. Lata Wankhede
21. Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
23. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
24. Shri Narayana Koragappa
25. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
26. Shri Ramji
27. Shri Rameswar Teli
28. Smt. Mamata Thakur
29. Smt. P. T. Usha
30. Shri Abdul Wahab
- #31. Shri Niranjana Bishi

***Constituted w.e.f. 26.09.2024 vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part – II para no. 847 dated 26.09.2024.**

Nominated w.e.f 21.11.2024

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2024-25) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Third Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25' pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which were laid on the Table of the House on 1st August, 2024. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 6th November, 2024. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 16.12.2024.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for tendering oral evidence and placing before them the detailed written notes and post evidence information as desired by the Committee in connection with the examination of the 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)'.

4. For ease of reference observations/ recommendations/ comments of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

New Delhi
18 December, 2024
27 Pausha, 1946 (Saka)

SHRI P.C MOHAN
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Justice
and Empowerment

REPORT
CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTORY

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes besides a Special Area Programme, *viz.* Grants-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to contribute the overall efforts for development of tribal people in the country. The list of schemes implemented by the Ministry are as under.

A. Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)

1. Pre-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes
2. Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes
3. Support to Tribal Research Institutes
4. Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) / Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)
5. Pradhan Mantri Adi Adrash Gram Yojna –PMAAGY (previously known as Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme - SCA to TSS)
6. Administrative Cost to States / UTs.

B. Central Sector Schemes (CS)

1. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
2. National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students
3. Scholarship to the ST Students for studies abroad
4. Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes
5. Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)
6. Tribal Research Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)
7. Monitoring, Evaluation, Survey and Social Audit (MESSA)
8. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes
9. Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North Eastern Region

1.2 The Ministry had proposed an amount of ₹12433.32 crore in Budgetary Estimate 2024-25 under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes to the Ministry of Finance against the proposed amount, the Ministry has provided ₹12938.33 crore. The details of Budget Estimates under these Schemes are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	BE 2024-25 provided by the MoF
Centrally Sponsored Schemes		
1	Pre-Matric Scholarship	440.36
2	Post Matric Scholarship	2432.68
3	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)	20.00
4	Support to Tribal Research Institutes	111.00
5	Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)	1000.00
6	Administrative Cost to States/UTs.	55.96
7	Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)	240.00
Central Sector Schemes		
8	Monitoring, Evaluation, Survey, Social Audit (MESSA)	20.00
9	Tribal Research information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)	32.00
10	Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)	25.00
11	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students	165.00
12	National Overseas Scholarship Scheme	6.00
13	Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes	160.00
14	Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)	6399.00
15	Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)	152.32
16	Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes	30.00
17	Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from North Eastern Region	107.52
Other Grants / Transfers		
18	Grants under proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution (Charged)	1541.47
19	Grant to Assam Government under Clause A of the Second Provision to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	0.01
Grand Total		12938.32

1.3 An overview in respect of some of the important schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is as under:-

Empowerment through Education

1.4 The Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), as a Central Sector Scheme, was started in the year 2018-19 to provide quality education to the tribal children in their own environment. In the Union Budget of 2018-19, the Government of India announced that EMRS school will be established in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). The Scheme was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 17.12.2018 for establishing 452 new schools based on population criteria. These EMRSs are to be established at par with Navodaya Vidyalayas with special facilities for providing training in sports and skill development. The EMRSs were initially funded under the programme of “Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution”, which are being upgraded as per the new model. Cumulatively, 740 EMRSs have been identified to be established.

1.5 A Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for eligible Scheduled Tribe children studying in classes IX and X was introduced with effect from 01.7.2012. The Scheme is aimed at supporting tribal students so that the incidence of drop out, especially in transition from the elementary to secondary stage of education is minimized. With improved participation and performance, they have a better chance of progressing to Post-Matric stage of education. Rates of scholarship under the scheme have been revised *w.e.f.* academic session 2019-20 (01.12.2019). The Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship is aimed to grant scholarship to eligible ST students for pursuing higher education starting from class XI to Post Graduation courses in India.

1.6 Other than these 2 Centrally Sponsored Schemes, three Central Sector Scholarship Schemes for ST students, *viz* National Fellowship Scheme, National Scholarship (Top Class) called “National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students” and National Overseas Scholarship are implemented by the Ministry. As per revised guidelines from 1.4.2021, scholarship is given to all the eligible ST students who have taken admission in the notified 265 Institutes like IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, NITs. Further, under National Fellowship Scheme every year 750 students are provided scholarship for pursuing MPhil and PhD for a period up to 5 years. The scholarship will be given at par with UGC rates. Under, National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance to 20 students every year for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post-Graduation, Ph. D and Post-Doctoral research programmes in top 1000 QS World Ranking Universities abroad. The guidelines of the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme have also been revised *w.e.f.* 01.04.2021.

1.7 Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements Scheme of 'Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes' mainly in education, health and livelihood sector. Revised guidelines of the scheme were issued on 23.01.2023. The prime objective of the scheme is to enhance the reach of welfare schemes of the Government and fill the gaps in service deficient tribal areas in the sectors such as education and health covering residential schools, non-residential schools, hostels, mobile dispensaries, ten or more bedded hospitals etc. through the efforts of voluntary organizations and to provide favourable environment for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). Grants are provided to non-governmental organizations on online application portal, in a prescribed format, duly recommended by the State Governments / UT Administrations of the concerned State/ UT. The grants are also provided for strengthening education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts with the aim to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women and is meant exclusively for ST Girls. Ministry gives grants to the States under the programme, "Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution". It also provides grants under Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY).

1.8 Government has reoriented the earlier Scheme of 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) and named it as 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana' (PMAAGY) for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26. The aim is to provide basic amenities in villages with significant tribal population in a phased manner. A total of 36,428 villages having at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs will be taken up during 2021-22 to 2025-26. The main objective of this scheme is to achieve integrated socio-economic development of selected villages through convergence approach. Under the programme of Proviso to Article 275(1) of Constitution, grants are released to States, having ST population for raising the level of administration in Scheduled Areas and for the welfare of tribal people. Funds are released to States based on proposals received from the State Governments depending on the felt needs of ST population to bridge the gap in infrastructure activities in sectors like education, health and livelihood. This includes the approach of Special Area Programme.

1.9 There are about 75 tribal groups, which are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The PVTGs, like other tribal groups, are eligible for the benefits of all the schemes of the Government of India and State Governments that are available to the general population, as well as schemes under STC of States and Central Government. Besides, recognizing their special needs and for a community/area driven approach to the development of the PVTGs, the Government of India provides for a scheme especially directed towards the Development of the PVTGs to 18 States and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands with

PVTG populations for implementation of prioritized activities as per approved “Conservation - cum - Development (CCD) Plans” in the sectors of education, health & sanitation, nutrition, livelihoods, conservation of culture & heritage and recognition of habitat rights. Support under the scheme is essentially in the nature of gap filling interventions.

Promoting Tribal Livelihood

1.10 The Ministry is implementing the scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)’ through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) which envisions to strengthen tribal entrepreneurship initiatives and to facilitate livelihood opportunities by promoting more efficient, equitable, self-managed, optimum use of natural resources, agriculture / minor Forest Produce (MFPs) / non-farm produce. Under the scheme, financial support is provided to the State Governments for setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) which are the centres of value addition activities of MFPs/Non-MFPs. TRIFED also provides backward & forward linkages to tribal artisans / suppliers for marketing of tribal products of various categories like metal craft, textile, jewellery, painting, cane & bamboo, terracotta & pottery, organic & natural food products etc. through online and offline platforms. In addition, TRIFED also organizes and participates in festivals, melas etc. to provide platforms to the tribal artisans to showcase their products and connect them to the potential buyers giving thereby an opportunity to enhance their entrepreneurship activities.

Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Culture and Heritage

1.11 Ministry is implementing the schemes of “Support to Tribal Research Institute” and “Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events” to conserve and protect the tribal culture, tradition and customs. Ministry extends support to the State and UT Governments through the centrally sponsored Scheme “Support to Tribal Research Institutes” (TRI) to strengthen Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in their infrastructural needs, research & documentation activities and training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and for promoting tourism and organisation of exchange visits by tribals, so that the tribal cultural practices, languages and ritual are preserved and disseminated and also for setting up Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum to acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal people who struggled against the colonial rule and dedicated their life to the nation. There are 28 TRIs across the country.

1.12 The scheme ‘Tribal Research Information, Education, communication and Events (TRI-ECE)’ is aimed at promotion of rich tribal cultural heritage,

dissemination of information and creation of awareness, including organization of tribal craft & food festivals, sports, music, dance & photo competitions, science, art & craft expos, workshops, seminars, production of documentary films by the Ministry & States, bringing out publications highlighting significant studies, documenting historical facets of tribal communities, achievements of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs & State Departments besides other necessary publicity at regular intervals. Financial support under the scheme is given to State Governments, academic and research institutes in public and private sector, organizations of Union/State/UT governments, non- government organizations, not-for-profit private organizations, and Centres of Excellence (COE) in research and development. It is envisaged that such organizations would play an important role in building knowledge bank and complementing efforts of Tribal Research Institutes in the States for devising appropriate strategies for tribal development by the Union and State Government

PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)

1.13 Government has recently launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) with financial outlay of around ₹24,000 crores that aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. PM-JANMAN focuses on 11 critical interventions to cover all the eligible PVTG beneficiaries / PVTG villages & habitations based on the existing gaps being captured through mobile app developed for the purpose.

Implementation of Forest Rights Act:

1.14 The Government enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which is commonly known as Forest Rights Act (FRA) as notified on 31.12.2007. The Act came into operation with the notification of Rules on 01.01.2008 for carrying out the provisions of the Act. The Act also empowers the forest rights holders, Gram Sabhas and village level institutions with the right to protect the wild life, forest and biodiversity.

1.15 The implementation of some of the Schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are dealt in subsequent chapters in details.

CHAPTER-II
BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

The Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2024-25 are given under Demand No.100. The detailed Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were laid on the table of the House on 1st August, 2024.

2.2 The Ministry of Finance allocated ₹12,938.32 crore against the proposed demand of Ministry of Tribal Affairs of ₹12,433.32 crore for the year 2024-25. The details of the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs of each Schemes/ Programmes for the last three years alongwith the Budget Estimates for 2024-25 for each Programmes/ Schemes of the Ministry is as follows:-

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No	Name of the scheme/ project/ programme	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
		B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	BE
1.	Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes	110.00	90.00	89.25	110.00	110.00	109.25	140	149.95	149.95	160.00
2	Support to TRIs	120.00	60.00	60.00	121.00	58.50	12.40	118.64	50.00	43.53	111.00
3	Tribal Research Information, Education, communication and Events (TRI-ECE)	30.00	18.00	14.63	15.00	18.00	15.47	25.00	45.00	33.00	20.00
4	Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	1350.00	923.24	923.24	1350.00	976.49	976.49	1472.10	1172.10	1172.10	
5	Development of PVTGs	250.00	160.00	160.00	252.00	137.179	137.179	256.14	0.00	0.00	
6	PM JANMAN (MPCs)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	100.00	99.99	

7	EMRS	1418.04	1057.74	1057.74	2000.00	2000.00	1999.98	5943.00	2471.81	2447.61	6399.00
8	Post Matric Scholarship for STs	1993.00	2257.72	2257.72	1965.00	1965.00	1965.00	1970.77	2371.01	2668.83	2374.15
9.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	400.00	400.00	394.14	419.00	357.30	357.30	411.63	411.63	308.60	440.36
10	National Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme	150.00	120.00	120.00	145.00	140.00	145.00	145.00	230.00	230.00	165.00
11	National Overseas Scholarship for ST students	3.00	4.95	4.95	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	7.00	7.00	6.00
12	PMAAGY	1350	785	784.99	1354.38	1354.38	1354.37	1485	375	149.93	1000

2.3 On being enquired about the reasons due to which funds allocated could not be utilised in 2022-23 and 2023-24, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“The schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs are demand-driven. Project Appraisal Committee(s) (PAC) constituted for different schemes examines and approves the activities/projects submitted by the State Governments. PAC approves the grants on the basis of the past performance of the States, the unspent balance available with States, Utilization Certificates and SNA balance. As per the revised procedure for release of funds for Central Sector Schemes/Centrally Sponsored Schemes, funds can be released after only utilization of 75% of previous releases (Center and State share together). During the FY 2022-23, entire funds provisioned under BE/RE of many schemes were released to States, however in the next FY 2023-24 funds could not be released due to huge SNA balance under some schemes. Pace of financial progress was slower due to non-receipt of Utilisation Certificates from some of the States and the technical issues experienced by States in PFMS system. Most of the schemes of the Ministry are infrastructural development-oriented schemes. Acquisition of land, finalization of DPR, clearance from various departments of States takes time, due to which States could not submit the proposals in time. During 3rd Quarter of FY 2023-24, Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTGs) scheme was converted into PM-JANMAN Mission and it was recommended by EFC to discontinue Development of PVTGs Scheme from FY 2024-25. Only committed liabilities already created under the scheme Development of PVTGs were to be funded during FY 2024-25. In view of this, funds of the scheme which can be utilized in the remaining period of FY 2023-24 were diverted to the new scheme.”

2.4 As regards to the reasons due to which Revised Estimates could not be spent even after substantial reduction in the financial year 2022-23, 2023-24 and how does the Ministry intend to utilize the budgeted amount in the financial year 2024-25, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“There is expenditure of ₹7,278.77 crore (99.70%) and ₹7,545.23 (99.21%) crore against the provision of ₹7,301.00 crore and ₹7,605.00 crore under RE 2022-23 and RE 2023-24 respectively. Nominal funds could not be utilized due to failure of payment in TSA module in PFMS at fag end of the financial year. As on 30.09.2024, 34.06% of BE has been utilized which is approximately 6% less behind the targeted MEP/QEP of 40%. Keeping in view the UCs are being received from States and SNA balance are being cleared, the Ministry is hopeful to utilize the remaining allocation.”

2.5 As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the physical targets and achievements for the last three years and the target fixed for the year 2024-25 under various Schemes is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme/ project/ programme	Division	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		% of achievements for the last three yrs.	2024-25 Targets
			Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement		
1.	Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of scheduled tribes including grants released for Girls in Low Literacy Districts	NGO-TA 1. Residential School/Non-Residential School/Hostels/ot hers	65,000 Beneficiaries-provisional	48715 Beneficiaries (221 projects)	65,000 Beneficiaries	43534 [#] Beneficiaries (181 projects)	65,000 Beneficiaries	30554 Beneficiaries (83 projects)	(2021-22) 74.95% (2022-23) 66.97% (2023-24) 47.00%	65,000 Beneficiaries
		2. 10-Bedded Hospitals/Mobile Dispensaries	08.50 lakh	09.56 lakh Beneficiaries (89 projects)	08.50 lakh	07.92 lakh [#] Beneficiaries (67 projects)	08.50 lakh	02.81* lakh Beneficiaries (24 projects)	(2021-22) 112.47% (2022-23) 93.17% (2023-24) 33.06%	
2	PMJVM	Livelihood**	500 VDVks	1009 (201.80%)	500 VDVks	330 (60%)	500 VDVks	403 (80.06%)	116%	500 VDVks
3	EMRS	EMRS	(i) Establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs, Conduct of Capacity Building Programmes like NISHTHA in EMRSs for School Heads and Teachers to be undertaken (ii) At least 35 EMRSs are to be affiliated under	Fulfilled	CBSE affiliation of 25 EMRSs and capacity building programme of teachers and Principals of EMRSs.	Fulfilled	CBSE affiliation of 40 EMRSs	Affiliation of 45 EMRSs done during the FY 2023-24	100%	

			CBSE (iii) Digital and Technologi cal initiatives in EMRSs in post COVID time to be undertaken .							
4	Support to TRIs	No. of research and evaluation studies received	70	84	100	25	50	60		50
		No. of proposal received for museum / memorial	1	2	2	10	----	----		Indicator is removed from FY 2024-25
5	Tribal Research Information, Education, Communica tion and Events (TRI-ECE)	No. of proposal received for Seminar/workshop s	30	37	15	18	10	30		25
		No. of Projects given to CoEs during the year In FY 2024-25 Indicator is No. of Organisation/Institu tions supported	Targets were not fixed till FY 2021-22 and FY 2022- 23. However, targets was fixed from FY 2023-24.				15	10		05
6	Post Matric Scholarship for ST students.	Scholarship Division	19.76 lakhs students	22.32 Lakhs students	22 lakhs	21 lakhs	22 lakhs students	16.45lakhs students	(2021-22) 100% (2022-23) 95.45% (2023-24) 74.77%	22.0 lakhs students
7	Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students		13.70 lakhs students	12.94 Lakhs students	14.00 Lakhs	9.10 lakhs	14 lakhs students	7.06 lakhs students	(2021-22) 94.45% (2022-23) 65% (2023-24) 50.42%	13.0 lakhs students
8	National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Studies for ST students									
	(i)National Scholarship (Top class Education) for ST students		1000 + renewal	2751	1800+ renewal	2828	5000	5429	(2021-22) 100% (2022-23) 100% (2023-24) 100%	5000 + renewal
	ii)National Fellowship for ST Students		750 + renewal	2693	750 + renewal	2938	750 + renewal	2975	(2021-22) 100% (2022-23) 100% (2023-24) 100%	750 + renewal
9	National Overseas Scholarship		20 students	20 students	20 students	20 students	20 students	20 students	(2021-22) 100%	20 students

	for ST candidates								(2022-23) 100%		(2023-24) 100%	
10	Grants under Article 27 5(1) of the Constitution	Grants	The grants are being of gap filling nature and not confined to any specific kind of quantifiable measures. Priority for the activities to be taken up is decided by respective State Govts. as per needs from time to time. Targets are actually not fixed by the Ministry, nor are feasible for the Ministry to indicate physical targets / achievements.	The grants are being of gap filling nature and not confined to any specific kind of quantifiable measures. Priority for the activities to be taken up is decided by respective State Govts. as per needs from time to time. Targets are actually not fixed by the Ministry, nor are feasible for the Ministry to indicate physical targets / achievements.	The grants are being of gap filling nature and not confined to any specific kind of quantifiable measures. Priority for the activities to be taken up is decided by respective State Govts. as per needs from time to time. Targets are actually not fixed by the Ministry, nor are feasible for the Ministry to indicate physical targets / achievements.				Not applicable	Same as for 2021-22		
11	Development of PVTGs	PVTG	Under the scheme for Development of PVTGs, support to States and UT is in the nature of Gap filling intervention and are not confined to any specific kind of quantifiable measures. Priority for the activities to be taken is decided by respective State Governments as per the need arising from time to time. Physical targets are actually not fixed by the Ministry nor it is feasible for the Ministry to indicate physical targets / achievements.	Under the scheme for Development of PVTGs, support to States and UT is in the nature of Gap filling intervention and are not confined to any specific kind of quantifiable measures. Priority for the activities to be taken is decided by respective State Governments as per the need arising from time to time. Physical targets are actually not fixed by the Ministry nor it is feasible for the Ministry to indicate physical targets / achievements	Under the scheme for Development of PVTGs, support to States and UT is in the nature of Gap filling intervention and are not confined to any specific kind of quantifiable measures. Priority for the activities to be taken is decided by respective State Governments as per the need arising from time to time. Physical targets are actually not fixed by the Ministry nor it is feasible for the Ministry to indicate physical targets / achievements.				Not applicable	As above		
12	PM JANMAN (MPCs)	PVTG	-	-	Total 822 MPCs approved during 2023-24					PM JANMAN has target of 1000 MPCs. MoTA will consider remaining MPCs based on the performance of States of already sanctioned MPCs		

2.6 During the deliberation with the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Secretary of the Ministry deposed before the Committee with regard to the budgetary allocation and expenditure of the Ministry that:

“अभी जो करंट फाइनैस साइकिल चल रहा है, वह 2021-2026 वाला है, उसमें हमने 14 स्कीम्स अप्रेज की हैं और कैबिनेट की अप्रूवल ली है। हमारा 55,000 करोड़ रुपये का अप्रूवल हुआ है। उसके अलावा हम आर्टिकल 275 में सारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को पैसा देते हैं, ग्रांट्स के रूप में पैसा देते हैं। *That is around Rs. 7500 crore.* नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न रीजन के लिए हमारी अलग से एक स्कीम थी, जो कि 150 करोड़ रुपये की स्कीम थी। इस अप्रेजल के बाद 14 स्कीम्स की कैबिनेट से अप्रूवल हुई थी। उसके बाद हमने दो स्कीम्स और इंट्रोड्यूस की हैं। हमने एक स्कीम पिछले साल इंट्रोड्यूस की थी, जिसका नाम पीएम जनमन है। वह स्कीम 24 हजार करोड़ रुपये के आस-पास की स्कीम है। इस साल बजट अनाउंसमेंट के बाद एक न्यू स्कीम इंट्रोड्यूस हुई है, जिसका नाम धरती आबा जनजातीय ग्राम उत्कर्ष अभियान है और वह 80 हजार करोड़ रुपये के आस-पास की स्कीम है। हम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स, एनजीओज़ को पैसा देते हैं। इस स्कीम के तहत वह एजुकेशन, लाइवलीहुड और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के ऊपर आता है। अगर एजुकेशन की बात करे तो इस साल का हमारा बजट 13 हजार करोड़ रुपये का बजट है, जिसमें से 9500 करोड़ रुपये एजुकेशन के लिए ही जा रहा है। स्कॉलरशिप के लिए लगभग 3100-3200 करोड़ रुपये जा रहा है और एकलव्य मॉडल रेजिडेंशियल स्कूल के लिए करीब 96 हजार करोड़ रुपये जा रहा है।

सर, इस स्लाइड में पिछले पांच साल का ट्रेंड दिखाया गया है। वर्ष 2019-20 में हमारा बजट लगभग 7 हजार करोड़ रुपये होता था। *Now, it has increased to Rs. 12000 crore and in the current year, it is Rs. 13000 crore.* हमें फाइनैस मिनिस्ट्री के द्वारा जो आरई दी जाती है, उसका हम 100 परसेंट ऑलमोस्ट एक्सपेंडिचर कर देते हैं। कुछ परसेंटेज का एक्सपेंडिचर रहता है। हमारे पास जो भी रिवाइज्ड ऐस्टिमेंट होते हैं, हम उसको कम्पलीटली खर्च करते हैं।”

2.7 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been allocated ₹12,938.32 crore by the Ministry of Finance against the proposed demand of ₹ 12,433.22 crore for the year 2024-25. This indicates the efforts and commitment of the Central Government for overall development of tribal people in the country. The Committee also note that a new Scheme Dharti Abba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) have been launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs after the announcement of Budget. The Committee are, however, little apprehensive about the trend of expenditure incurred by the Ministry during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 as the actual expenditure during three years was much less in comparison to the Budgetary Estimates. The Committee strongly view that the purpose of the Schemes implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be defeated if funds are not fruitfully utilized. The Committee believe that with the introduction of the Single Nodal Account (SNA) system for the release of funds to the States/UTs, the responsibility of the Implementing Agencies in the States has been increased to utilize 75 per cent of released funds and if they are not able to spend it timely, the funds available with the Government of India will not remain idle and can be fruitfully utilized by diverting to other Schemes. The Committee are satisfied with the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to resolve the hurdles in implementation of various schemes such as non-submission of UCs by States/UTs/ Implementing Agencies, adoption of SNA system by State/UT Governments, technical issues of PFMS would make the implementation of schemes flawless. In view of the above, the Committee expect that the Budget Estimates of 2024-25 would be utilized fully for the effective implementation of all the Schemes and will achieve the targets laid down by the Ministry for the overall welfare/development of the tribal community. Since, the State/UT Governments have been found to be lacking in their approach, the Committee therefore desire that the State/UT Governments should be regularly pursued for delay and appropriately guided so that the

financial and physical targets set by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are achieved without any failure.

CHAPTER-III

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS

In order to prevent dropout of the tribal students and for promoting higher education, there are five Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry such as:

- i. Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students
- ii. Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students
- iii. National Fellowship for ST students
- iv. National Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students and
- v. National Overseas Scholarship for ST students

under which financial assistance is provided to eligible students for pursuing studies/higher education in India and abroad.

A. Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented since 2012-13 through respective State/UT administrations. This is an open-ended Scheme covering all ST students studying in IXth & Xth, whose annual parental income is upto ₹2.50 lakhs. The contribution from Government of India is 75% and the State contribution is 25%. In respect of North East States and hilly States, the contribution from Government of India is 90% and the State contribution is 10%. In case of UTs like Andaman & Nicobar without Legislative Assembly and own grants, Government of India's contribution is 100%. The inviting of applications, processing/verification of applications and disbursement of scholarship is the primary responsibility of respective State/UT. The Ministry releases funds to State/UT after examining the physical and financial performance in the proposal received.

B. Post Matric Scholarship for ST students is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented since 1944-45 through respective State/UT administrations. This is an open-ended Scheme covering all ST students studying in class XI and above, whose annual parental income is upto ₹2.50 lakhs. The contribution from Government of India is 75% and the state contribution is 25%. In respect of North East states and hilly states, the contribution from Government of India is 90% and the state contribution is 10%. In case of UTs like Andaman & Nicobar without Legislative Assembly and own grants, Government of India's contribution is 100%. The inviting of applications,

processing/verification of applications and disbursement of scholarship is the primary responsibility of respective State/UT. The Ministry releases funds after examining the physical and financial performance in the proposal received.

C. National Fellowship, Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students and National Overseas Scholarship are Central Sector Schemes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The scheme has two sub-Schemes, *viz*:

(i) National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students (earlier known as Top Class Scholarship Scheme). Scholarship is provided for pursuing Graduate/Post Graduate courses in the selected top-class Government and Non-Government Institutes in professional fields such as Management, Medicine, Engineering, Information Technology, Law etc. All the ST students, with annual parental income not exceeding ₹6.0 lakhs and studying in the 265 notified institutes by the Ministry, are eligible to receive scholarship. This scheme started in 2007-08.

(ii) National Fellowship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students: Scholarship is granted to meritorious ST students for pursuing Ph.D in India after completion of Master degree. This scheme started in 2005-06. The total number of fresh fellowships for Ph.D every year are 750. ST students with a minimum of 55% marks in Master Degree up to the age of 36 years are eligible to apply for fellowship under the Scheme. The value of fellowship is at par with UGC rates. There is no income limit.

(iii). National Overseas Scholarship for ST students: 20 scholarships are given every year to the meritorious Schedule Tribe (ST) students for pursuing higher education in top 1000 ranked (as per latest QS world ranking) Institutes/Universities abroad. This scheme started in 1954-55. The Scheme is implemented through the Indian Embassies/Missions abroad, Ministry of External Affairs. The eligibility criteria is annual family income not exceeding ₹6.0 lakhs and 1 child from one family.

3.2 As per the information provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Budgetary Estimate, Revised Estimate, Actual Expenditure for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 alongwith Budgetary Estimate for 2024-25 each for the Scheme is as follows:-

(₹ in crore)

Name of the scheme/ project/ programme	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
	B.E.	R.E.	AE	B.E.	R.E.	AE	B.E.	R.E.	AE	BE
Pre-Matric Scholarship	400.00	400.00	394.14	419.00	357.30	357.30	411.63	411.63	308.60	440.36
National Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme	150.00	120.00	120.00	145.00	140.00	145.00	145.00	230.00	230.00	165.00
National Overseas Scholarship for ST students	3.00	4.95	4.95	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	7.00	7.00	6.00

3.3 On being asked, whether the Ministry intends to revisit the 2.5 lakh per annum income limit prescribed under Post Matric Scholarship scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:

“The harmonization of scholarship scheme is under process where M/o Tribal Affairs has recommended to increase the annual income limit from ₹2.5 lakhs to ₹4.5 lakhs. The revision in income limit will be implemented based on the outcome of harmonization exercise.”

3.4 On being enquired about the number of persons benefitted under the scheme in the last three financial years and how far the target set by Ministry has achieved, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:

“The details of beneficiaries during last three years under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme are given below: -

Number of Beneficiaries		
F.Y. 2021-22	F.Y. 2022-23	F.Y. 2023-24
2340873	2088340	2406596

The target set by Ministry was achieved and there were no shortfalls.”

3.5 As regards to the tuition fee paid/reimbursed to the tribal students under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:-

“The reimbursement of tuition fee component is decided by the State Level Fee Fixation Committee of the State. In case of students studying in private sector institutes there will be a ceiling of ₹2.50 lakhs per annum per student for Engineering Courses and ₹6.00 lakh per annum for MBBS/ MS/ MD courses and ₹1.00 lakh per annum for other courses as far as support of Government of India is concerned. However, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is free to provide scholarship over and above the limit specified above to students studying in private sector institutes.”

3.6 On being asked about the steps being taken by the Ministry to create awareness about the Post Matric Scholarship scheme among the eligible students, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:

“The scheme is advertised in national Newspapers and the website of the Ministry. Also, advertisement is done in vernacular/local language by the respective States/UTs.”

3.7 The Financial and physical achievement for the year 2023-24 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ project/ programme	Financial Achievement for the year 2023-24		Physical Achievement for the year 2023-24	
		% of the Financial Achievement for the year 2023-24	Shortfall, if any indicating reasons in brief	% of the Physical Achievement for the year 2023-24	Shortfall, if any indicating reasons in brief
Umbrella scheme for ST Students					
1	Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for ST students	126.38% (as per BE)	No short fall	78.08%	Release of scholarship fund for AY 2023-24 is still under process and actual beneficiaries' details are under submission by States
2	Pre-matric scholarship for ST students	86.47% (as per BE)	Shortfall due to non-receipt of complete	77.67%	Release of scholarship fund for AY 2023-24 is

			proposals from States/UTs due to unutilized fund released during previous year/s.		still under process and actual beneficiaries' details are under submission by States
3.	National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Studies for ST students				
(i)	Scholarship (Top class Education)	153% (as per BE)	No shortfall	100%	No shortfall
(ii)	Fellowship (RGNF)			100%	No shortfall
4.	Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for ST students	175.00% (as per BE)	No shortfall	100%	No shortfall

3.8 With regard to the steps taken taken to improve the implementation of the scheme, the Ministry submitted in their written reply:

- “1. Emphasis on ensuring timely disbursement of scholarship to eligible students. For this, it is necessary that State/UTs submit physical and financial progress through submission of Utilization Certificates, transfer and utilize funds available in SNA account and share requisite data with Ministry;
2. Regular review meeting with States/UTs, Manthan Shivir;
3. Visit of officers to States;
4. Conducting of Evaluation & Monitoring studies to assess the impact of these schemes;
5. Grievance Redressal and online DBT-Portal (dbtribal.nic.in) for smooth correspondence with DBT, share beneficiary data of Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship schemes for ST students;
6. Regular capacity building of States, Nodal Officer of Universities, Institutes and colleges; and
7. Monitoring of progress of PhD students, release of funds through Canara Bank Portal (for PhD students);

8. Additionally, Integration of Universities and colleges with National Fellowship Portal for online verification of documents submitted by students and Regular monitoring on CP-GRAMS”

3.9 During the Manthan Shivar, organised on 18th and 19th July, 2024 various issues with regard to Scholarships to tribal students was discussed and the following issues were made part of next six months action plan:

- a. Bio-authentication of all Institutes in Non NSP states-through CSC
- b. Empanelment of all Private Institutes-through NABET/QCI
- c. One Time registration-by NSP
- d. Uniformity of format for inviting application for all Portals
- e. Sharing of Data on NSP before release of funds
- f. Direct DBT
- g. Fee Capping
- h. Dedicated PMU and Aadhar Linked bank account.

3.10 With regard to deal with the fraudulent use of Scholarship funds, the Ministry submitted that in case of fraudulent use of funds is detected, it would be the responsibility of the State/UT to get an enquiry conducted within a specific time limit. The State/UT will share the outcome of the enquiry to MOTA. The State will provide necessary support including provision of data, beneficiary details to monitoring Agency engaged by Evaluation and Monitoring division of MoTA, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) division of NITI Aayog or any other central Agency required to review Output-Outcome or performance of the scheme.

3.11 The Committee note that five Scholarship Schemes viz Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, National Fellowship, National Scholarship for Higher Studies and National Overseas Scholarship are being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the Educational Empowerment of the Tribal Students. The Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes are Centrally Sponsored open ended Scheme and National Fellowship, National Scholarship for Higher Education and Overseas Scholarship are Central Sector Schemes. The Committee find that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs contribute a certain percentage to State/ UTs in Centrally Sponsored Schemes and in Central Sector Schemes are 100 per cent funded by the Union Government. The Committee, however, note that the actual expenditure under Centrally Sponsored Schemes is much less than the Budgetary Allocation in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 whereas under Central Sector Schemes, the actual expenditure is almost equal to Revised Estimate. Similarly, in case of Centrally Sponsored Scheme there is shortfall in physical achievement and there was 100 per cent physical achievements in Central Sector Schemes during these years. The Committee feel that the income eligibility criteria and delay in submission of beneficiaries data by the States/UTs may have restricted the number of applicants under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Committee are happy to note that harmonization of Scholarship Scheme is under process and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have recommended to increase the annual income limit from ₹2.5 lakhs to ₹ 4.5 lakhs for Centrally Sponsored Schemes i.e Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes. The Committee also note that several other measures are being taken to enhance the implementation of educational empowerment Schemes such as timely disbursement of scholarship to eligible students, regular review meetings with States/UTs, regular capacity building of all the stakeholders, etc. The Committee believe that the initiatives taken up and the action plan drawn by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Manthan Shivir would yield the desired results. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable mechanism should be developed so that the

decisions taken at Manthan Shivir is implemented in a time bound manner. The Committee would appreciate, if they, are apprised of the action taken in this regard.

CHAPTER-IV

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (EMRS)

In order to provide quality education to the tribal children in their own environment, Government of India announced in the Union Budget of 2018-19 to establish EMRS school in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). These EMRSs would be at par with Navodaya Vidyalayas with special facilities for providing training in sports and skill development. Prior to launch of the revamped scheme, a total of 288 EMRS were sanctioned under Grants under Article 275(1) since 1998, out of which 200 schools were functional. Since, there was no uniformity, almost every aspect of the school including construction, academics, sports & co-curricular, teaching & non teaching staff, and the management of the schools required overhauling to transform the EMRSs into institutions of quality education for holistic development of tribal students.

4.2 A statement showing details of plan outlays and expenditure during the last three years and Budgetary Estimate for 2024-25 is as follows:-

2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	BE
1418.04	1057.74	1057.74	2000.00	2000.00	1999.98	5943.00	2471.81	2447.61	6399.00

4.3 Under the new scheme, 452 new EMRS are to be set up across the country. With 288 schools already sanctioned under the old scheme, the total number of schools to be set up. In addition, fifteen centre of Excellence for sports are to be set up with state of art infrastructure (buildings, equipment etc.) and facilities for two identified sports (including one group sport and one individual sport) to promote sports amongst tribal.

4.4 A statement showing the physical and achievement for the last three years and target for 2024-25 is as follows:-

2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 Targets
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
(i) Establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs, Conduct of Capacity Building Programmes like NISHTHA in EMRSs for School Heads and Teachers to be undertaken (ii) At least 35 EMRSs are to be affiliated under CBSE (iii) Digital and Technological initiatives in EMRSs in post COVID time to be undertaken.	Fulfilled	CBSE affiliation of 25 EMRSs and capacity building programme of teachers and Principals of EMRSs.	Fulfilled	CBSE affiliation of 40 EMRSs	Affiliation of 45 EMRSs done during the FY 2023-24	--

4.5 As per the norms 60 students per class divided into two sections with 30 students each from class VI to Class X and 90 students per class in three sections with 30 students each in the streams of Science, Commerce and Humanities in Class XI and XII are to be admitted. During the year 2023-24, 9 new schools have been sanctioned in identified blocks in lines with the budget announcement of 2018-19. Cumulatively, 713 schools have been sanctioned, out of these 423 have been sanctioned under the new scheme since 2019. 476 EMRSs are reported to be functional as on 30.09.2024.

4.6 State wise details of the schools approved, and their functional status is as follows:-

Sl. No	State/UT	Sanctioned EMRS	Functional EMRSs
1	Andhra Pradesh	28	28
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10	5
3	Assam	16	1
4	Bihar	3	0
5	Chhattisgarh	75	74
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1	1
7	Gujarat	47	38
8	Himachal Pradesh	4	4
9	Jammu & Kashmir	6	6
10	Jharkhand	89	7
11	Karnataka	12	12
12	Kerala	4	4
13	Ladakh	3	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	71	63
15	Maharashtra	37	37
16	Manipur	21	3

17	Meghalaya	36	0
18	Mizoram	17	11
19	Nagaland	22	3
20	Odisha	108	40
21	Rajasthan	31	30
22	Sikkim	4	4
23	Tamil Nadu	8	8
24	Telangana	23	23
25	Tripura	21	6
26	Uttar Pradesh	4	3
27	Uttarakhand	4	4
28	West Bengal	8	8
		713	423

4.7 Many schools out of 288 EMRSs sanctioned under Grants under Article 275(1) have been running without basic facilities and required infrastructure such as compound wall, labs, sports facility, additional classrooms, staff quarter, hostel blocks, furniture etc. To provide minimum required infrastructural facilities, a need was felt to upgrade the operational schools within the approved fund of ₹5 crores per school. Therefore, a detailed survey of such schools was carried out based on the checklist and 211 EMRSs were identified for upgradation. Upgradation proposals for 167 EMRSs have been approved till date. The details of these Schools is as follows:

Sl.No	State	No. of EMRS A/A & E/S Approved	Construction Agency
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	State Govt./CPWD
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	State Govt.
3.	Assam	3	State Govt.
4.	Bihar	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	CPWD
6.	Gujarat	22	CPWD
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	State Govt.
9.	Jharkhand	-	-
10.	Karnataka	9	CPWD
11.	Kerala	2	CPWD
12.	Ladakh	-	-

13.	Madhya Pradesh	8	CPWD
14.	Maharashtra	15	CPWD
15.	Manipur	3	State Govt.
16.	Meghalaya	2	State Govt.
17.	Mizoram	4	State Govt.
18.	Nagaland	-	-
19.	Odisha	27	CPWD
20.	Rajasthan	9	CPWD
21.	Sikkim	3	State Govt.
22.	Tamil Nadu	7	State Govt./CPWD
23.	Telangana	5	CPWD
24.	Tripura	7	State Govt.
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2	State Govt.
26.	Uttarakhand	2	State Govt.
27.	West Bengal	1	State Govt.
Grand Total		167	

4.8 The Committee found in the documents furnished by the Ministry, a meeting was held on 10 November, 2023 to discuss the challenges being faced by Construction Agencies (PSUs) in construction of EMRs. During the meeting, the following challenges were identified with the Construction Agency:

1. Land Issues

- (a) Hindrance due to encroachment;
- (b) Forest issues;
- (c) Non-availability of approach road;
- (d) Security of ground water level;
- (e) Passing of HT village katcha road;
- (f) Rock land, hard road
- (g) Large number of trees;
- (h) Land in remote areas;
- (i) Conditional nature of donated land;
- (j) Claim by private party; and
- (k) Hindrance by locals

2. Non-availability of electricity supply,
3. Change of location after work award or during the pre-construction stage,
4. Unavailability of construction material due to State Government policy,
5. Challenges of construction of EMRs in EWE areas,

6. Quoting of low percentage of tender by contractor,
7. Heavy rain falls, strike,
8. High court index; and
9. Handling over of the site to construction agency.

4.9 National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) an autonomous society under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 is mandated to plan, construct, establish, endow and administer the schools and do all the acts and things necessary for or conducive to tribal education. The NESTS function through an Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Tribal Affairs and is guided by Standing Committee headed by Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs. Each and every State/UT, having an EMRS and eligible to set up EMRS, also sets up an EMRS Society at State/UT Level, duly registered under the Societies Registration Act. Accordingly, State/UT Level EMRS Society has been established in 27 out of 28 States/UTs. Efforts are being taken to ensure that the Society is in place in the remaining State (Bihar) at the earliest.

4.10 To bring the States onboard for the revamped scheme of EMRS, it was decided to enter into an MoU with the State/UT EMRS Society by NESTS. State/UT EMRS Societies will be responsible for the overall implementation/ management/ administration of Schools sanctioned/established in the State/UT in accordance with the norms and guidelines laid down by the NESTS. Till date, 25 States have signed MoU with NESTS. In view of approval of 38,480 posts for EMRSs by Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance and directions of DoE to fill these posts, MoU has been revised for centralized recruitment. The MoU has been shared with States/UTs. So far 9 States have signed the revised MoU.

4.11 As regards to the proposal for management of EMRs, it is found from the minutes of the meeting held 02.04.2023 that Commissioner, NESTS, informed in the meeting that State NESTS Societies are presently managing EMRS Schools. As NESTS is moving towards central model of teacher recruitment, the NESTS had sent proposal to Department of Expenditure for functioning 9 Regional Offices and strengthening of NESTs Headquarter on the line of NVS. While DOE approved the necessary number of posts of teachers and staff, the proposal for establishment of Regional offices of NESTS and strengthening of NESTS Headquarter was not approved by DOE. The Department of Expenditure has advised Ministry to explore the possibility of managing EMRs through ROs of NVS in association with the Department of School Education and Literacy (DOESL). However, the discussion in this regard could not be reached in the meeting.

Smart classroom and CBSE affiliation of Schools

4.12 The project “Establishment of intelligent educational Infrastructure (Smart) in Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRSs)” is a collaborative programme with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) and funded/supported by Meity, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) & National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS). ERNET India, an autonomous Scientific Society under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India which is the implementing agency to execute the smart class project. Smart class enablement and internet connectivity has been targeted in 175 EMRSs across the country in phase manner. In phase 1, smart class infrastructure has been enabled in 48 EMRSs and teaching and learning processes have been initiated in these 48 schools. Enablement shall be done in remaining 127 EMRSs in second phase. Concerted efforts have been made to encourage EMRSs to apply for CBSE Affiliation under different categories. The matter with respect to CBSE affiliation of EMRSs is being managed centrally by NESTS and the schools are encouraged and facilitated at each step to apply for Affiliation. There are total of 322 EMRSs affiliated to CBSE so far, 34 are affiliated under State Boards and the remaining 48 applied/to be applied.

Centre of Excellence for Sports in EMRS

4.13 Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Sports in EMRSs is a dedicated infrastructure for sports with all related infrastructure (buildings, equipment's etc.) for specialized state-of-the-art facilities for one identified individual sport and one group sport shall be set up in 15 EMRS with an objective of promoting sports and enhancing physical efficiency among tribal students. These CoEs for Sports will have the state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and scientifically backed specialized training, as per norms of Sports Authority of India. For establishment of CoEs for Sports in EMRS, Ministry had allocated ₹5 crore for each centre which includes construction on multi-purpose hall, procurement of sports equipment, improvement, and maintenance of field of play etc. The National Education Society for Tribal Students had identified 15 EMRS and sports disciplines for establishing Centre of Excellence for Sports. The first phase of programme will be launched in 5 EMRS schools and a district level talent hunt in Phase-1 CoE for Sports is proposed to be launched as a Khelo India. MoU between Sports Authority of India and National Education Society for Tribal Students is signed for obtaining effective technical assistance in respect of implementation mechanism and project management & execution. The various issues were discussed regarding setting up of Centre of Excellence for sports in the meeting held on 11th October, 2023 under the joint Chairmanship of

Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Secretary, Department of Sports. It is revealed that the timelines for operationalisation of Centre of Sports Excellence in EMRS sports schools were reviewed in collaboration with Sports Authority of India: The revised timelines set are as follows:-

Sl.No	Particulars	Responsibility	Timeline
1.	Finalisation of draft MOU document	NESTS+SAI	25 November, 2023
2.	Signing of MOU	NESTS+SAI	30 November, 2023
3.	Finalisation of Schools and Mapping of Sports	NESTS+SAI	30 November, 2023
4.	Share necessary guidelines/norms/ best practices	SAI	5 December, 2023
5.	Conducting feasibility study of identified schools	SAI	15 December, 2023
6.	Finalisation of tender/ RFP for equipment procurement*	NESTS	20 December, 2023
7.	Finalisation of advertisement for hiring of manpower*	NESTS	20 December, 2023
8.	Talent induction advertisement*	NESTS	20 December, 2023
9.	Readiness Field of play/ Infrastructure	NESTS	31 December, 2023
10.	Finalisation of expenditure norms*	NESTS	5 January, 2024
11.	Finalising hiring of coaches & support staff*	NESTS	15 January, 2024
12.	Finalise induction /selection of student athletes (sportspersons)	NESTS	20 January, 2024
13.	Conducting on-site/off-site trainings/workshops for PETs/coaches	SAI	June, 2024
14.	Commencement of training	NESTS	July, 2024

Recruitment of Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff for EMRS

4.14 On being asked during the course of oral evidence of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with regard to increase in number of EMRS over and above the sanctioned EMRS, the Secretary informed the Committee that:

“we have requested that 100 more EMRS may be granted. What has happened is that this is based on population in 2011. So, many of them have now increased the blocks and the population would have changed. Second, many of the erstwhile districts are divided. So, new blocks have been created which satisfy this criteria.”

4.15 In the Manthan Shivir held on 18 and 19 July, 2024, following suggestions decisions were taken for effective implementation of EMRS Scheme:

(i) It was suggested that states should try to provide land preferably in approved block. The proposal to shift school to alternate block should be sent

only if suitable land is available in that block and land can be immediately handed over for construction.

(ii) Commissioner NESTS conveyed that wherein there is lack of 15 acres land, minimum 8-10 acres land can be considered for the establishment of EMRSs.

(iii) EMRSs construction is being taken by PSUs/CPWD and respective State Government needs to involve in ensuring quality of construction as various initiatives have been taken by NESTS.TPQAA had been signed between NESTS PSUs and TPQA agencies *i.e.*, IIT/CBRI/NITs.

(iv) States to take up the following action urgently:

(a) Regular visit and supervision by nodal engineer at district level.

(a) To ensure the establishment of labs at site for check quality material.

(b) Block level committee to be constituted under chairmanship of BDO/Local administrative Officer/ representative to sort out local issues including land issues.

(c) If the EMRS is functional then the school Principal should be involved in selection of land and quality of construction.

(d) State Tribal Welfare Department Officials need to visit EMRSs construction site regularly.

(e) Major and Minor Repairs

(i) The construction agency should maintain the assets for atleast three years.

(ii) Quarterly certificate of quality to be taken from the principal concerned.

(iii) At present 20 lakhs every 5 years provided as maintenance. This should be enhanced to 20 lakhs per year. The repairs should be in consultation with Principal.

(iv) Special Provision for major repairs due to natural calamity/ emergency.

4.16 Department of Expenditure has approved the recruitment of 38480 staff (52 teaching and non- teaching staff x 740 schools) in phase wise manner by the year 2026-27 for EMRS. The recruitment process is to be carried out in phase wise manner depending on the subsequent increase in number of functional EMRSs. NESTS has initiated the Phase-I centralized recruitment for teaching and non-teaching staff in EMRSs.

Total requirement for the first phase of recruitment (2023-24) is as follows:-

Sl.No	Post	Total Vacancies
1.	Principal	303
2.	PGT	2266
3.	TGT	5660

4.	Hostel Warden	669
5.	Jr. Secretariat Asst.	759
6.	Accountant	361
7.	Lab Attendant	373
Total		10391

The last date of online applications was 18.08.2023. Recruitment tests for the above-mentioned posts were held on the 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th of December, 2023, the results of which were declared on 22nd January and 24th January, 2024.

4.17 The Committee note that as per the announcement in 2018-19 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are to be established in every block having more than 50 per cent ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. Accordingly, 452 new EMRS are to be established along with the existing 288 EMRS sanctioned under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution since 1988. The Committee, however, find that out of 452 new EMRS sanctioned 223 are functional and 211 out of 288 old EMRS have been identified for upgradation. The Committee also find that several challenges such as availability of appropriate land, non-availability of construction material due to State Government policy, extreme weather conditions, non-availability of electricity supply etc. are being faced by the construction agencies in constructions of EMRS. The Committee note that 9 new EMRS have been sanctioned in 2023-24 and 100 more new EMRS have been requested to the Government of India to meet the present requirement since the 452 EMRS sanctioned till date were based on 2011 census. The Committee find that several decisions were taken for effective implementation of EMRS scheme in Manthan Shivir held on 18-19 July, 2024 including to consider minimum 8-10 acres of land where 15 acres of land is not available for construction of EMRS. The Committee believe that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will take suitable steps to ensure that the hindrances coming in the execution of the Scheme would be carefully resolved in a time bound manner. The Committee desire that all the old schools are upgraded in a time bound manner and new schools sanctioned

are made functional if possible in their own building within the given time frame. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the requisite funds and necessary guidance is provided to the Executing agencies and suitable steps are taken so that the Scheme does not face shortage of funds at any stage.

4.18 The Committee note that National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) established as an Autonomous Society is mandated to plan, construct, establish, endow and administer the schools and do all the acts and things necessary for or conducive to tribal education. Similarly, EMRS society is to be established in each State/UT and these Societies are responsible for the overall implementation/ administration of schools sanctioned/ established in the State/UT. As per the norms, each State/ UT EMRS society is to sign a MoU with NESTS. The Committee, however, note that EMRS society is yet to be established in Bihar and MOU with NESTS have been signed with 25 States till date. The Committee are satisfied with the progress made in the establishment of EMRS as targets set up for establishing ATAL Tinkering Labs, affiliation of schools to CBSE and digitization and technological initiatives during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 were achieved. Since the requisite system has been set up for the establishment and functioning of EMRS, the Committee expect that timely action will be taken with regard to establish smart class rooms, affiliation of all EMRSs with CBSE and recruitment of adequate number of teachers/ staff for providing quality education in schools so that education of the students is not compromised. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in this direction.

4.19 The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs propose to set up Centre of Excellence for Sports in 15 identified EMRS. However, the Committee are worried with regard to the time likely to be consumed in setting up of Centre of Excellence for Sports as out of 15 identified EMRS only 5 have been finalized in first phase. The Committee believe that the engagement of students in sports activities in schools is very essential for their physical development, hence they should be set up

at priority in a time bound manner. The Committee also believe that the revised timelines fixed for operationalization of Centre of Excellence for Sports will be adhered. The Committee, therefore, desire that strict timelines should be laid down to set up all the 15 Centre of Excellence for Sports. The Committee may be apprised in this regard.

CHAPTER-V

GRANT-IN-AID TO VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING FOR THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED TRIBES.

5.1 Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has been continuing its endeavor for socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes (STs) through supporting schemes in education, health, infrastructure, livelihood, skill development, etc in tribal areas. Though these interventions have led to improvement in the socio-economic conditions of STs over the years, there is a continuing need for supplementary efforts of the NGOs for better results. In this backdrop, the role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/ Voluntary Organisations (VOs) with their local roots, dedication to work in difficult and remote areas with flexibility in their systems is important. Focus to this, Ministry of tribal Affairs has been implementing a scheme namely “Grant -in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes” in partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations to cater to the needs of tribal population, where direct outreach of Government services through its institutional mechanism has not been adequate. The prime objective of the scheme is to enhance the reach of welfare schemes of Government and fill the gaps in service-deficient tribal areas, in the sectors such as education and health through the efforts of voluntary organizations, and to provide favourable environment for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). Any livelihood generation activities for STs as per the guidelines may also be considered through voluntary efforts. The grants are provided to the non-governmental organizations on application, in a prescribed format, duly recommended by the State Government/UT Administration of the concerned State/UT. The grants are also provided for strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts aiming to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women and are meant exclusively for ST Girls.

5.2 The scheme-wise budget allocation for last three years and for 2024-25 is as follows:-

2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
BE	RE	(Actual Expenditure/ release)	BE	RE	(Actual Expenditure/ Release)	BE	RE	(Actual Expenditure/Release)	
110.00	90.00	89.25	110	110	109.25	140	149.95	149.95	160.00

5.3 Sector-wise category of projects for which grants-in-aid are considered under the scheme is as follows:

S. N.	Sectors	Category of Projects (Running & Maintenance)
I	Education	Residential School
		Residential School (Low Literacy District specially for ST Girls) (This was earlier named as Strengthening of Education in low literacy districts specially for ST Girls)
		Non – Residential School
		Hostel
		Hostel - (Low Literacy District specially for ST Girls)
		Sponsoring tribal girls from the North Eastern States viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and from Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep for study in reputed educational institutions.
II	Health	10 Bedded Hospitals
		Mobile Dispensary
III.	Livelihood	Enhancement of livelihood and income generation opportunities through infrastructure support and capacity building in the sector like agriculture, fishery, dairy and animal husbandry, water conservation, organic /natural farming.

5.4 MoTA is funding around 190 NGOs for approx. 320 projects in service deficient areas, LWE affected areas and Border areas in mainly Health and Education sectors. In order to bring transparency and efficiency in processing and release of funds to NGOs, the entire process from inviting of applications, verification and release of funds is now done through a dedicated NGO portal (<https://ngo.tribal.gov.in>) where the NGOs can even track their application. In order to ensure that the NGOs utilize funds only for the purpose for which they were sanctioned, funds are released and monitored in line with the directions issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time. The NGO portal has also included a Communication Module which enables NGOs to upload queries, documents and their grievances and receive replies/clarifications.

5.5 The physical targets and achievements for the last three years and the target fixed for 2024-25 under the Scheme is as follows:

Division	2021-22		2022-23			2023-24			% of achievements for the last three yrs.	2024-25 Targets			
	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement	Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief	Target	Achievement			Shortfall if any indicating reasons in brief		
NGO-TA	65,000	48715	Scheme is demand-driven., Grant-in-aid was released based upon the projects recommended by State Government s, non-compliance of PFMS REAT module was an issue.	65,000	43534 [#]	Scheme is demand-driven., Grant-in-aid was released based upon the projects recommended by State Government s, non-compliance of PFMS REAT module was an issue.	65,000	30554	-	(2021-22)	65,000		
1. Residential School/Non-Residential School/Hostels/others	Beneficiaries-provisional	Beneficiaries (221 projects)		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries (181 projects)		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries (83 projects)				74.95%	Beneficiaries
												66.97%	
										(2023-24)			
										47.00%			
2. 10-Bedded Hospitals/Mobile Dispensaries	08.50 lakh	09.56 lakh	Scheme is demand-driven., Grant-in-aid was released based upon the projects recommended by State Government s, non-compliance of PFMS REAT module was an issue.	08.50 lakh	07.92 lakh [#]	Scheme is demand-driven., Grant-in-aid was released based upon the projects recommended by State Government s, non-compliance of PFMS REAT module was an issue.	08.50 lakh	02.81*	-	(2021-22)	08.50 lakh		
		Beneficiaries lakh (89 projects)		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries (67 projects)		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries (24 projects)				112.47%	Beneficiaries
												93.17%	
										(2023-24)			
										33.06%			

5.6 On being enquired about the number of projects sanctioned in Health and Education Sectors for Tribals alongwith number of beneficiaries during the last three years and the reasons due to which actual expenditure exceed budget estimates for 2023-24, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“Number of tribal benefitted in Health and Education Sector projects during the last 3 years is as below: -

Year	Education Sector		Health Sector	
	No. of Sanctioned projects	Beneficiaries for the year *	No. of Sanctioned projects	Beneficiaries for the year *
2023-24	83	30554	24	281165
2022-23	180	43454	67	792874
2021-22	216	47869	89	956603

* provisional

“Revised Scheme Guideline were issued and there is an upward revision in financial norms of the projects. In addition, NGO portal for inviting proposals was opened for new as well as ongoing projects. Further, along with the committed liability of 2022-23, funds/grants for 2023-24 with increased financial norms was required to be released. Therefore, the Ministry exceeded its budget estimates for the scheme in the financial year 2023-24.”

5.7 With regard to the NGOs or Voluntary organisations that had been provided with the highest Grant in aid during the last 03 financial years along with criteria followed in allocating grants to the NGOs, VOs, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“Name of NGO which received highest Grants in Aid during last 3 years is as below:-

Year	Name of NGO	State	Amount in Cr.	Remarks
2023-24	Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences	Odisha	30.96	For 2 projects of Residential School for approx 10,000 ST beneficiaries. (Remaining amount of ₹1,07,440,220/- for 2022-23 as 2nd & final instalment and Advance amount of ₹2,02,215,424/- for 2023-24 as 1st and 2nd instalment)
2022-23	Ramakrishna Mission AshramaCherapunjee	Meghalaya	21.12	For 2 projects of Non- Residential School for approx 8,000 ST beneficiaries, 2 projects of Hostel for approx 150 beneficiaries, 12 project of Mobile Dispensary and 1 project of 10 or more bedded hospital. (Remaining amount of ₹1,16,195,486/- for 2021-22 as 2nd & final instalment and ₹95,022,514/- for 2022-23 as advance instalment)

2021-22	Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences	Odisha	17.36	For 2 projects of Residential School for approx 10,000 ST beneficiaries. (Remaining amount of Rs.69006274/- for 2020-21 as 2nd & final instalment and ₹104575049/- for 2021-22 as advance instalment)
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Release of Grants is prepared after verifying the recommended number of ongoing projects by State Government for a particular year, adding committed liabilities of previous years, adding other committed liabilities, number of beneficiaries subject to availability of funds etc.

In addition to above, the location of the project *i.e.* whether the projects are in scheduled area, low literacy district, number of beneficiaries in recommended project, state and district recommendation, whether a similar project is located nearby and if so, its distance from the project etc. are criteria in releasing grants to the NGO.”

5.8 On being asked, whether any survey was conducted to ascertain the gaps in education services in the tribal areas before granting Aid to NGOs working in these areas, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“Ministry ensures that the District Authority conduct mandatory physical inspection of the projects and forward the report in prescribed format with recommendation of concerned District Collector. In the format, some of the questions pertains to gaps in services *i.e.* the name of the scheduled tribes, the name of the PVTG communities benefitted, the name of ST villages, whether the project is in scheduled area, ITDP Area/TSP Area, population of ST boys/ girls, literacy rate of ST male/ female as per latest census, distance to the nearest similar project(s), the Necessity/suitability/viability of the project keeping in view the problems and services available in that particular area, the capability of the organization to run the project, the financial position of the organization etc. As per the comments of the Inspecting team, the recommendation of the concerned District Collector, State/ UT Government. In the recommendations, State Government/ District Authority may state that performance of the NGO running the projects is satisfactory and the Grant in Aid may be released as per the guidelines.

The Ministry did not conduct survey to ascertain the gaps in education services. However, the Ministry releases Grants in Aid as per the norms of the scheme guidelines (including above said activities), the procedures laid down in GFR 2017 and the time to time directions from Ministry of Finance.”

5.9 With regard to the steps taken/proposed to be taken and the suggestions received for the improvement in the implementation of the scheme, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“The following steps have been taken for the improvement in the implementation of scheme:-

(i) Since the year 2017-18, in order to bring transparency and efficiency in processing and release of funds to NGOs, the entire process from inviting of applications, submission of inspection report and recommendation of district authority, recommendation of States, seeking documents from the NGOs, verification, seeking concurrence from internal finance Division, release of funds is being made through a dedicated NGO portal (<https://ngo.tribal.gov.in>) where the NGOs can even track the status of their applications. The NGO portal has also included a communication module which enables NGOs to upload queries, and their grievances and receive replies/clarifications. From the Financial year 2019-20, financial norms of various projects under the scheme got revised by 1.5 times of previous financial norms.

(ii) In order to ensure that the NGOs utilize funds only for the purpose for which they were sanctioned, funds are released and monitored in line with the directions issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time. Filing of expenditure by aided NGOs / VOs on PFMS Receipt Expenditure Advance Transfer (REAT) module.

(iii) Mandatory Annual inspection and recommendation by District Authority.

(iv) Scrutiny and recommendation by State Government/ UT.

(v) Mandatory submission of annual audited accounts and utilization certificate by NGOs/VOs.

(vi) Provision for Digital/Smart class under educational projects

(vii) A mechanism has been designed on NGO Grant portal to collect data of patients/ beneficiaries being treated in the hospitals and mobile dispensaries on regular basis.

(viii) Format of Physical Inspection Report has been modified to get more relevant information about the project. District has been requested to submit complete information in prescribed format of Physical Inspection Report.

(viii) Provision for third party evaluation.”

5.10 On being enquired about the evaluation study conducted, the Committee were *inter-alia* informed vide written reply that:

“Ministry had conducted an evaluation study of the scheme in 2020-21 through Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF), an autonomous Organisation of the Department of Rural Development, Government of India, for its continuation in the

current financial cycle. Some of the important recommendations and action taken thereon are as follows:

S.No.	Recommendation	ATR
1.	The Budget for the grant system be revised – 5 % of the cumulative budget is earmarked for funding NGOs / VOs, which would result in a three-fold increase in the budget allocation for financing various interventions. By increasing the grants, NGOs/VOs could have better access to qualified staff and improve the infrastructure that enables tribal beneficiaries to receive high-quality education and close the literacy gap with other social groups. Increasing the program’s budget will also improve health outcomes by increasing beds for 10-bed hospital units and mobile units for tribal communities.	During the last EFC and CCEA approval the total budget for 5 years was increased to 5.5 times. Accordingly, the allocation under the NGO scheme for year 2023-24 (BE) has been enhanced to Rs. 140.00 crore, which is about 30 percent increase in allocation than that of last financial year.
2.	In collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource and Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the state’s education and health departments, initiate mapping work to identify infrastructure requirements in schedule 5 and 6 states. Once the mapping is complete, the central and state governments will be better placed to build infrastructure that meets the need of tribal communities in the long-term.	Government is implementing Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) now known as Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) as a strategy for the development of Scheduled Tribes and areas having tribal concentration. Besides Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 41 Ministries/Departments are allocating certain percentage of their total scheme budget every year for tribal development under DAPST for various tribal development projects relating to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, electrification, employment generation, skill development, etc. NITI Aayog issues guidelines including norm for earmarking of funds for welfare of STs by the obligated central Ministries/Departments from time to time. Allocation for Welfare of STs of obligated Ministries/Departments and Union Territories was Rs. 24598.39 crore in 2013-14 which has now been proposed to Rs. 119509.87 crore in 2023-24 (BE) which is about five time increase in allocation. Further, Government of India in Budget 2023-24 has announced that PradhanMantri PVTG Development Mission will be launched to improve socio-economic conditions of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs). This will saturate PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and

		telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. An amount of Rs. 15.000 crore will be made available to implement the Mission in the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.
3.	The Ministry should develop the capacity of existing organisations to identify funding opportunities within state or CSR funding, to write and submit funding applications that gradually reduce the dependence of older grantees on funding from the Ministry.	The NGO are operating in the State. Therefore, State Governments are in a better position to guide and supervise them. State and district administration are providing hand holding to them as required in consultation with MOTTA. Further, provision is kept in the revised guidelines for onsite hand holding support to the partner Organisation/NGOs for perspective and capacity building by third party to be engaged by the Ministry. The Independent Agency/third party will work as interface in between Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the partners organization, it will also facilitate the regular communication and develop better coordination mechanism between organization and Ministry for smooth implementation of the project.

In addition to above, Ministry has constituted a committee including member of NITI Aayog to finalize modalities for Evaluation/ review of the performance of ongoing projects under the scheme of ‘Grants in Aid to voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of STs’ receiving Grants in Aid from MoTA from more than 10 years.”

5.11 The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have funded 190 NGOs for approximately 320 projects in education, health and livelihood sectors and successfully spent the funds allocated under the Scheme during 2022-23 and 2023-24. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in achieving 112.47 per cent and 93.17 per cent of the target fixed for the projects related to 10 bedded hospitals/mobile dispensaries during 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively. The Committee are, however, little worried about the low percentage of achievement under some projects as 47 per cent target could only be achieved for Residential/non-residential schools and 33.06 per cent fixed

for 10 bedded hospitals/mobile dispensaries during 2023-24. The Committee have no doubt about the efficiency and competency of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs but the role of State /UT Governments is significant as the projects are to be recommended/ executed by them. The Committee are convinced with the steps taken for the improvement in implementation of the Scheme such as mandatory annual Inspection, recommendation by District Authority, submission of annual audited accounts by NGOs/ VOs, communication module in the portal for NGOs to resolve their grievances/ clarifications etc. will yield the desired results. The Committee would like to be apprised of the observations of the committee set up by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for finalization of modalities for evaluation/ review of the performance of the ongoing projects under the scheme and the action taken thereon.

CHAPTER-VI

PRADHAN MANTRI AADI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA (PMAAGY)

During the year 2019-20, Ministry of Tribal Affairs conducted a gap analysis using the Census 2011 data and Mission Antyodaya data as maintained by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Through the analysis it was found that there are about 145000 tribal villages in India with ST population $\geq 25\%$, where gaps exist in various sectors of development including health, education, livelihood, housing, road connectivity, mobile internet connectivity, vocational training, drinking water, electric supply etc. It was felt that long-term planning would be required to saturate these tribal villages with requisite infrastructure and other basic services. It was thus decided as a part of policy decision that the focus of the scheme of 'SCA to TSS' be shifted to integrated Village Development by way of appropriate convergence. Thus, the Ministry revamped the existing Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) into 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)' with the aim of integrated development of 36428 villages with significant tribal population having at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs in a phased manner by bridging gaps in various sectors of development. The main objective of this scheme is to achieve integrated socio-economic development of selected villages through convergence approach. The scheme of PMAAGY includes the following components:

- i. Preparing Village Development Plan based on the needs, potential, and aspirations;
- ii. Maximizing the coverage of individual / family benefit schemes of the Central / State Governments;
- iii. Improving the infrastructure in vital sectors like health, education, connectivity and livelihood;

6.2 The scheme of PMAAGY envisions to mitigate gaps prominently in 8 sectors of development viz. 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. A sum of ₹20.38 lakh per village as 'Gap-filling' has been provisioned for approved activities including administrative expenses under PMAAGY. Besides States / UTs are encouraged for convergence of resources as Central / State Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) funds and other financial resources available with them for saturation of gaps in the villages identified under PMAAGY.

6.3 The details with regard to the Budgetary Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure for the last three years and the Budgetary Estimate for 2024-25 under the Scheme are as follows:

(₹ in crore)

2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	B.E.	R.E.	Actual Expd.	BE
1350	785	784.99	1354.38	1354.38	1354.37	1485	375	149.93	1000

6.4 On being enquired about the reasons due to which ₹149.93 crore could be spent against budgeted ₹1485 crore under the scheme in 2023-24, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“Under the scheme of “Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana” (PMAAGY), there is provision of ₹20.38 lakhs per village for making a village development plan and to be utilized as ‘Gap-filling’ to supplement the financial resources garnered by the State through convergence of various Central and State Government’s Schemes applicable for development of village. At the rate of 20.38 lakhs for 36,428 villages, funds of ₹,7276 cr. were approved under the scheme.

In last 3 years, 17656 Village Development Plans have been approved and funds of ₹2,321 cr (₹781 cr 2021-22, ₹1,351cr in 2022-23, ₹149 cr in 2023-24 and ₹38.27 cr till date in 2024-25) has been released. As these are mostly Infrastructure projects, average time taken by States is one and half year. The States have spent about ₹700 cr in last 2 years and an amount of ₹1,600 cr is available with the States.

In 2023-24, with requirement of Single Nodal Agency (SNA 49 compliance), further funds can be released to States only when they are able to spend 75% of amount released. Therefore, despite the availability of funds, the Ministry could not release the funds.”

6.5 It is seen from the information submitted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs that during 2021-22, Ministry has revamped the existing Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) into ‘Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)’ with the aim of integrated development of 36428 villages with significant tribal population having at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs in a phased manner by bridging gaps in various sectors of development. The main

objective of this scheme is to achieve integrated socio-economic development of selected villages through convergence approach. A gap filling fund of ₹20.38 lakh per village is provided to the States for villages identified under the scheme of PMAAGY. Priority for the activities to be taken is decided by respective State Governments as per the needs related to 8 sectors of development viz. Road connectivity (Internal and Intervillage /block), Telecom connectivity (Mobile /internet), School, Anganwadi Centres, Health Sub-Centre, Drinking water facility, Drainage and solid waste management. During 2021-22 to 2023-24, a total of 15989 village Development Plan have been approved by the Ministry and an amount of ₹2283.32 Crore has been released to the States under the PMAAGY scheme for implementation of Village Development Plan.

6.6 On being enquired about the goals and timelines fixed to provide the basic services in the villages not yet saturated and will the Ministry be able to achieve the set goals, the Department submitted as under:

“the basic purpose of PMAAGY was to have integrated development with funds available under different schemes of GOI and State Government under Development Action Plan for STs (Central STC and State TSP) with additional funding of @₹20.38 lakh per village as ‘Gap-filling’ under PMAAGY through preparation of Village development Plans. Though about 17500 village development plans have been approved, however the desired convergence at the central and state level through STC and TSP funds& bottom up collaboration could not happen. In the absence of appropriate convergence, the meagre amount of ₹20.38 lacs was used for taking up petty works of upgradation in school, construction Anganwadi or for construction of drains, short CC streets, augmenting water supply, opening ration shop etc. As per the VDPs approved by PAC, the total amount approved between 2021- 22 to 2023 – 24 the utilization of funds for some of the sectors is as under.

- Health Sub-Centre: ₹145.88 crore (5.16% of total approved amount)
- School: ₹348.06 crore (12.31% of total approved amount)
- Internal Road Connectivity: ₹555.18 crore (19.63% of total approved amount)

The Ministry had detailed deliberations with States and Line Ministries for convergence of DAPST funds available with Central and State Govts. Based on learning from the success of PM JANMAN, Dhari Abba Janjatiya Gram UtkarshAbhiyan (DA-JGUA) has been launched which will cover more than 63000 villages including 36,428 villages covered under PMAAGY. The details of the villages covered under DA-JGUA is as follows:

DA-JGUA is more structured version of PMAAAGY with dedicated convergence of funds and saturation for critical interventions from line Ministries and States down. It envisages providing dedicated funds for multi-sectoral interventions through convergence of specific schemes of line Ministries/Departments. Attempt has been made to remove the difficulties and challenges faced in PMAAGY as mentioned below:

Sl.No	Ministry Name	Intervention	Target
1	Ministry of Rural Development(MoRD)	Pucca houses- (PMAY)- Gramin	20 lakhs houses
		Connecting Road – (PMGSY)	25000 km road
2	Ministry of JalShakti	(i).WaterSupply-JalJeevanMission (JJM)-FHTC	(i). Every HH as per the norms of JJM.
		(ii). Community water tap	(ii). Hamlets ≤ 20HH
3	Ministry of Power	House Electrification-(Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS))	Every unelectrified HH and unconnected public institutions (~ 2.35 lakh)
4	MinistryofNewandRenewable Energy	NewSolarPowerScheme(Off-grid Solar)	(i). Every unelectrified HH and public institutions not covered through grid.
5	Ministry of Health and family Welfare	Mobile Medical Units-(NationalHealthMission)	Up to 1000 MMU for providing health facilities in villages where health facility is available beyond 5 km in Hilly areas and 10 km in plain areas
		Ayushman Card – PradhanMantriJanArogyaYojana (PMJAY)-NHA	Every eligible HH covered under the Abhiyan
6	MinistryofPetroleum& Natural Gas	LPGConnections-(PM UjjwalaYojana)	25 Lakhs HH (subject to approval of targets and funds)
7	MinistryofWomenand Child Development	EstablishmentofAnganwadiCentres-PoshanAbhiyan	8000 (2000 New Saksham AWC) & 6000 upgradation to Saksham AWC)
8	Ministry of Education	Construction of Hostels-SamagraShikshaAbhiyan (SSA)	1000 hostels
9	Ministry of AYUSH	PoshanVatikas-National AYUSH Mission	700 PoshanVatikas
10	Department of Telecom	Universal Service Obligation Fund/BharatNet (DoT-MoC)	5000 Villages
11	Ministry of Skill and Entrepreneurship	Skill India Mission (Existing Schemes)/propose	Skilling Centre in tribal districts
			1000 VDVKs, Tribal Groups etc
12	MinistryofElectronics & Information Technology	Digital Initiatives	As applicable
13	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer welfare	Promotionofsustainableagriculture - Multiple Schemes of DoAFW	FRA Pattaholders (~2 lakhs beneficiaries)

Sl.No	Ministry Name	Intervention	Target
14	Department of Fisheries	Fish culture support-Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	10,000 community and 1,00,000 individual beneficiaries
	Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying	Livestock rearing-National Livestock Mission	8500 Individual/Group beneficiaries
15	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Capacity building-Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)	All Gram Sabhas and concerned officers at Subdivision, District and State level dealing with FRA
16	Ministry of Tourism	Tribal Home Stays-Swadesh Darshan	1000 Tribal Home Stays with support of upto ₹5 lakh per unit (for new construction), upto ₹3 lakhs (renovation) and ₹5 lakh for village community requirement.
17	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	PMAAGY	Enhancing the scope of SCA to Tribal Development / PMAAGY by including other interventions#
#100 Tribal Multi-purpose Marketing Centres, improving infrastructure of Ashram Schools, Hostels, Govt./State Tribal Residential schools, Centre of Competencies for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and counselling support, Support for FRA & CFR Management interventions, setting up of FRA Cells, and project management funds with incentives for top performing tribal districts.			

With launch of this Mission, the interventions which could not be undertaken under PMAAGY are possible under DA-JGUA (revamped PMAAGY).”

6.7 As regards to the role of villagers in the village developed, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“Based on the PMAAGY guideline, States and UTs are responsible for preparation of VDP. As per the guideline the process of preparation and approval of Village Development Plan should be prepared in active consultation with the villagers and be adopted by the Gram Sabha/ Panchayat/Village Council. Thereafter District Level Committee headed by the District Magistrate/ Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat/ Project Officer, Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP)/Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), as prescribed by the State/UT will give approval to the Village Development Plans.”

6.8 On being asked about the mechanism has been adopted by the Ministry for ensure monitoring of the ongoing projects, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

“Under PMAAGY, the SNA system of PFMS tracks expenditures and the funds released to every State is monitored. The next tranche of funds is released to State only when the amount previously released is fully utilized. In DA JGUA, Tribal villages covered under the Abhiyan have been mapped on the PM Gati Shakti Portal, with gaps identified by the Antyodaya Mission (2022-23). Each Ministry will also be responsible for linking its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan portal on the PM Gati Shakti platform, where both physical and financial progress will be regularly updated and tracked. This is compulsory for drawing money under the program.”

6.9 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs revamped the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme into ‘Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) with the aim of integrated development of 36428 villages and provisioned a sum of ₹ 20.38 lakh per village as ‘Gap Filling’. The Committee note that during the year 2023-24, Ministry of Tribal Affairs could release ₹149.65 crore from the revised allocation of ₹375.00 crore. The Committee further note that Dharti Abba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) has been launched under which more than 63000 villages including 36428 villages covered under PMAAGY would also be included. The Committee believe that with the launch of DA-JGUA, the difficulties and challenges faced in PMAAGY will be resolved. The Committee find that the role of Ministry of Tribal Affairs has since increased multiple times in implementation of DA-JGUA as multi-sectoral interventions through convergence of specific Schemes of several Ministries. The Committee, therefore, expect that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should coordinate with all the Ministries/Department so that the difficulties /challenges faced under PMAAGY do not arise. The Committee, therefore, desire that the PM Gatishakti Portal developed for monitoring and evaluation of physical and financial progress of all the projects on regular basis should be utilized so that the objectives of the DA-JGUA are fully achieved. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should draw an action plan so that 63000 villages identified under DA-JGUA can achieve

integrated socio-economic development of the tribal people as envisaged in the Abhiyan in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be apprised of the time schedule fixed for implementation of the Abhiyan and also the latest status of the achievement made in this regard after the implementation of DA-JGUA.

CHAPTER-VII

PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATIYA VIKAS MISSION (PMJVM)

The central sector scheme has been formulated with the merger of the two earlier schemes for promotion of tribal livelihood, i.e., “Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through “Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP” and “Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce”.

7.2 PMJVM has the vision to strengthen tribal entrepreneurship initiatives and seeks to support the theme of “Vocal for Local by Tribal” by promoting more efficient, equitable, self-managed, optimum use of natural resources, MFPs/non-MFPs, tribal product-based enterprises. A budget provision of ₹1612.27 Crore has been kept for implementing PMJVM from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

7.3 The details of funds released under PMJVM scheme by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs since its inception in 2021-22 are as under:

S. No.	Year	Funds released (Rs. in crores)
1	2021-22	219.90
2	2022-23	135.27
3	2023-24	151.28

7.4 Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is the central implementing agency of this scheme. The major activities supported under the scheme are as under:

- a. MSP Fixation and Procurement of non-nationalized, non-timber MFPs
- b. Infrastructure development / creation *viz.* Haat Bazars, Storage Godowns and other facilities including special projects
- c. Value addition to various MFPs, non-MFPs and other produce / products
- d. Setting up of Van DhanVikas Kendra (VDVK) and Van Dhan Producer Enterprises (VDPE)
- e. Sale & purchase of products made by VDVKs/VDPEs and other tribal products (ex. handloom, handicrafts etc.)

- f. Advertisement, Branding and Promotion of various tribal produces / products in the market through Organizing/Participation in various festivals / exhibitions / tribal artisan melas / Mahotsavas etc.
- g. Skill & Entrepreneurship Development
- h. Geo-tagging of VDVVs, VDPEs and other facilities/assets created under the scheme
- i. Geographical Indicators of tribal produce / products.
- j. Building/Upgradation of IT / e-commerce platforms, Digitization of Operations
- k. Survey of beneficiaries
- l. Research & Development

7.5 The scheme aims to provide fair prices to the tribal gatherers for their efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, transportation etc. of MFPs while ensuring sustainability of the resource base through provision of revolving funds for MFP procurement at MSP notified by the Ministry. The scheme currently covers a total 87 items and applicable to all States and UTs. The scheme also provides financial support for creation of infrastructure facilities such as Haat bazaars and storage godowns in the states. The Ministry has released an amount of ₹89.15 crore to various State Governments for creation of infrastructure facilities.

7.6 The State-wise details of revolving funds released and MFPs procured is as follows:-

Sl. No.	State	Revolving Funds released (₹ in lakhs)	MFP Procurement (₹ in lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	828.75	1033.19
2	Assam	66.94	34.79
3	Chhattisgarh	15,366.00	46305.95
4	Gujarat	622.00	1295.02
5	Jharkhand	4,672.00	1432.20
6	Karnataka	124.60	184.25
7	Kerala	59.74	160.63
8	Madhya Pradesh	3,489.00	1423.32
9	Maharashtra	500.00	312.50
10	Manipur	10.50	12.70

11	Mizoram	91.50	0.00
12	Nagaland	252.16	133.37
13	Odisha	4,991.00	13945.98
14	Rajasthan	20.00	48.34
15	Tamil Nadu	228.97	0.00
16	Tripura	200.66	74.68
17	Uttar Pradesh	240.00	1.67
18	West Bengal	201.72	98.96
	TOTAL	31,965.54	66,497.55

7.7 The scheme provides funds for setting up Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) which are primarily clusters of tribal SHGs formed to reap economies of scale through value addition and marketing of MFPs / non-MFPs. Each VDVK consists of around 15 Van Dhan SHGs and have up to 300 members. A maximum amount of ₹15.00 lakhs is provided to State Governments on receipt of proposals from them to set up a VDVK for incurring the expenditure on raw material, training and capacity building, tool kits and machinery, mentoring charges etc. Since the introduction of VDVKs in August, 2019, TRIFED has sanctioned 3958 Van DhanVikas Kendras amounting to ₹587.36 Crore, associated with 11.83 Lakhs beneficiaries in 25 States and 3 UTs.

7.8 The State-wise details of Van DhanVikas Kendra is as follows:-

Sl. No.	State	No. of VDVKS Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (In ₹. Lakhs)	No. of Van Dhan beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	415	6,162.90	123578
2	Arunachal Pradesh	106	1,590.00	32897
3	Assam	471	7,065.00	143309
4	Chhattisgarh	139	2,085.00	41700
5	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1	15.00	302
6	Goa	10	150.00	3000
7	Gujarat	200	2,895.65	57968
8	Himachal Pradesh	4	55.50	1110
9	Jammu & Kashmir	100	1,457.00	29791
10	Ladakh	10	150.00	3000
11	Jharkhand	146	2,174.70	43701
12	Karnataka	140	2,087.40	41748
13	Kerala	44	597.25	12038
14	Madhya Pradesh	126	1,890.00	37860

15	Maharashtra	264	3,960.00	79350
16	Manipur	200	2,996.80	60403
17	Meghalaya	169	2,534.10	50835
18	Mizoram	259	3,806.55	76168
19	Nagaland	284	4,259.90	85198
20	Odisha	170	2,479.25	50094
21	Rajasthan	479	7,135.60	144803
22	Sikkim	80	1,169.05	23381
23	Tamil Nadu	8	120.00	2400
24	Telangana	17	255.00	5100
25	Tripura	57	776.00	16116
26	Uttar Pradesh	25	359.55	7238
27	Uttarakhand	12	179.95	3605
28	West Bengal	22	329.35	6719
TOTAL		3958	58,736.50	1183412

7.9 TRIFED empanels tribal artisans for procurement of products produced by them. TRIFED has made institutional arrangements with like-minded Agencies for enhancing supplier base by leveraging the pool of tribal SHGs associated with different Organizations like Ministry of Rural Development (State Level Aajivika Mission/NRLM), Regional Offices of DC (Handicraft & Handloom), State Forest Departments, State Handicraft/Tribal Department, reputed NGOs etc., and bringing them in ambit of procurement operations of TRIFED for supply of good quality tribal products. The total number of suppliers/producers empaneled with TRIFED are 4666. TRIFED markets these procured tribal products through its own shops called “TRIBES India” & through Franchise Outlets and outlets of the state emporia on consignment basis. As on date, the total number of such outlets in the country is 118.

7.10 The details of procurement and sale of tribal products undertaken by TRIFED in the last five years is as follows:-

S. No.	Year	Purchase (₹ in Crore)	Sale (₹. in Crore)
1	2019-20	40.30	50.95
2	2020-2021	16.52	30.13
3	2021-2022	29.00	43.42
4	2022-2023	15.20	35.74

5	2023-2024	17.67	36.07
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7.11 TRIFED also markets tribal products through its own e-commerce portal 'tribesindia.com' and through other e-marketing channels like Amazon.com, Flipkart.com, Paytm, Snapdeal.com and GeM. The idea is to make these tribal products available to masses in India and abroad. However, TRIFED is also in process of onboarding its tribal products on ONDC platform. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.

7.12 TRIFED has initiated a concept of organizing Tribal Artisan Empanelment Mela (TAeM) at District/Tehsil level as an exercise to reach tribal located interior tribal areas and source tribal art and craft directly from the tribal from the tribal artisans/group of artisans. Under this initiative, TRIFED in association with State Govt./Organizations invites Tribal Artisans to an exhibition area where they display their art and craft items. TRIFED depute its merchandising team to these Melas to identify the new artisans and new products which can be marketed through its outlets. This initiative not only helps in sourcing tribal art and craft in its original form but also helps in spreading message about TRIFED's activities and ways and means for a tribal to avail the benefits of TRIFED's activities. During 2023-24 TRIFED organized 42 TAeMs.

7.13 On being enquired about the reasons due to which the funds released for the scheme were substantially reduced in the year 2022-23 in comparison to 2021-22, the Committee were informed vide written reply:

"During 2021-22, the erstwhile schemes of 'MSP for MFP' and 'Institutional Support for development and marketing of Tribal Produce / Products' were merged and revamped into PradhanMantriJanjatiyaVikas Mission (PMJVM). The process of obtaining budget approval for the newly formed scheme along with formulation of guidelines was undertaken during the financial year 2022-23 leading to reduction in expenditure in 2022-23.

7.14 On being asked the reasons for persistent decline in the value of tribal products purchases undertaken by TRIFED as TRIFED procured products worth ₹ 40.30 crore in 2019-20 while in 2022-23 and 2023-24 procured products worth only ₹ 15.20 crore and ₹17.67 crore respectively, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

"TRIFED is engaged in generating livelihood opportunities for tribal communities through marketing development of tribal products. As a part of scaling up of retail marketing activities which was made during 2019-2020, TRIFED had established a network of 120 outlets as on 31.3.2020 from 42 outlets as on 31.3.2017 and a procurement of tribal products worth ₹40.30 crores was accordingly made during

the year 2019-2020. Besides this, since the opening stock valuing ₹53.64 crores and ₹53.73 crores were already available during the year 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively, the focus was to liquidate the existing available stock. Concerted efforts were accordingly made to enhance the sales of existing stock and purchase of fresh stocks were made based on the demand of market.”

7.15 On being enquired about the initiative taken to enhance procurement and the challenges being faced in this direction, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“TRIFED has already initiated this exercise and made institutional arrangements with like-minded Agencies for seeking alliances and forging partnerships for optimization of resources, which includes enhancing supplier base by leveraging the pool of tribal SHGs associated with different Organizations like Ministry of Rural Development (State Level Aajivika Mission/NRLM), Regional Offices of DC (Handicraft & Handloom), State Forest Departments, State Handicraft/Tribal Department, reputed NGOs etc., by utilizing the tribal SHGs formed by them and bringing them in ambit of procurement operations of TRIFED for supply of good quality tribal products. The total number of suppliers/producers empanelled with TRIFED as on 31.07.2024 are 4990. Besides, TRIFED has initiated a concept of organizing Tribal Artisan Empanelment Mela (TAeM) at District/Tehsil level as an exercise to reach tribals located in interior tribal areas and source tribal art and craft directly from the tribal artisans/group of artisans. Under this initiative, TRIFED in association with State Govt./Organizations invites Tribal Artisans to an exhibition area where they display their art and craft items. TRIFED depute its merchandising team to these Melas to identify new artisans and the new products which can be marketed through its outlets. This initiative not only helps in sourcing tribal art and craft in its original form but also helps in spreading message about TRIFED’s activities and the ways and means for a tribal to avail the benefits of TRIFED’s activities. During 2023-24, TRIFED organized, 61 Teams at various parts of the country.”

7.16 As regards to the money spent by TRIFED to create cold chain infrastructure for perishable tribal in the last three years, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“In order to implement the scheme, necessary infrastructure such as storage facility/ godowns, modernization of Haats, Processing facilities cold storage etc. will be required for states which do not have adequate infrastructure facilities. As per the scheme guidelines, the State Implementing Agency (SIA), through their designated nodal departments, will submit the proposals related to infrastructure development/ creation to the TRIFED. During the last 3 years, TRIFED has not received any proposal from SIAs for creation of cold chain infrastructure, hence no sanctions have been made for this activity.”

7.17 On being asked about the periodic review of MSP of tribal product and the mechanism used for revision and initial estimation, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply:-

“The scheme for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) is reviewed from time to time on the recommendation of MFP Pricing Cell (MFPPC). As per the scheme guidelines, the Minimum Support Price is recommended by the MFP Pricing Cell (MFPPC) set up in TRIFED for fixation for MSP for MFP and then notification is issued by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Cell comprises members and expert in areas of price fixation, economics analysis, trade and marketing of MFPs. Presently, 87 MFPs/Commodities are covered under the scheme

7.18 In the Manthan Shivir held on 18 and 19 July, 2024 some of the proposals/ suggestions/ decision were as follows:

- (i) TRIFED has entered into an agreement with NIESBUD (MoSDE) for converging the Van Dhan Scheme with Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana of MoSDE. NESBUD has taken up the task of “Planning and capacity building” component of operationalization of JANMAN VDUKs.
- (ii) Under PM JANMAN, VDUKs are allowed to be formed with 50-300 beneficiaries. Smaller VDUKs may be allowed to be merged so that sufficient funds are sanctioned to them.
- (iii) convergence of Van Dhan Scheme with DAY-NRLM of MoRD proposed.
- (iv) Upscaling of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras under which best 50 VDUKs will be selected and formed into Van Dhan produces enterprise in collaboration with SFAC, MoAFW, through an MOU over the next two years under PMJVM

7.19 The Committee note that the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has been entrusted with the responsibility to develop a mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and development of value chain for MFP. The Committee find that 3950 Van Dhan Kendras have been set up in the States/ UTs but there are several States such as Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, etc. where the number of Van Dhan Kendras established is very less. The Committee also note that the procurement of Tribal produce by TRIFED was less in 2022-23 and 2023-24 as the TRIFED

already had existing stock, hence, they could not purchase new stock. The Committee feel that TRIFED requires to vigorously work to strengthen the system so that the procurement and sale of the Forest produce is enhanced. The Committee strongly believe that forest produce is the lifeline of tribal people in the country as it provides regular livelihood and income generating opportunities to them, hence, Ministry of Tribal Affairs/TRIFED should take suitable measures to resolve the issues that have been hampering the production and marketing of the forest produce. The Committee recommend that the necessary steps will be taken for setting up of Van Dhan Vikan Kendras, Haat Bazaars, storage godowns, skill and entrepreneurship, research and development, etc. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken and the progress achieved till date under Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission.

CHAPTER-VIII

DEVELOPMENT OF PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATI ADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN, (PM-JANMAN) {PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS (PVTGS)}

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a Scheme “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” with the objective of overall socio-economic development and welfare of these most vulnerable sections among tribal people. Funds are provided to the concerned State Government / UT on the basis of their proposals in diverse sectors *i.e.* education, housing, land development, agricultural development etc. with respect to these identified 75 PVTG communities in the nature of gap filling intervention. However, the scheme of Development of PVTGs has been discontinued from FY 2024-25 (only committed liabilities to be considered there under) and PM JANMAN has been launched in FY 2023-24 targeted at development of PVTGs.

8.2 The Budgetary Allocation, Revised Estimate and funds released for Development of PVTGs from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is as follows:

(₹ in crore)

“Development of PVTGs from 2019-20 to 2023-24”			
Year	Allocation (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Funds released
2019-20	250.00	250.00	249.99
2020-21	250.00	140.00	140.00
2021-22	250.00	160.00	160.00
2022-23	252.00	137.18	137.18
2023-24	256.14	0.00	0.00

8.3 State-wise funds released to States under Development of PVTGs during last three years is as follows:

Sl.No	Name of the State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Fund Released	Fund Released	Fund Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1829.60	1645.50	0.00
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	252.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	996.90	1500.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	761.80	1731.20	0.00
6.	Jharkhand	1696.93	0.00	0.00
7.	Karnataka	661.17	1439.42	0.00
8.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2888.69	0.00	0.00
10.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Odisha	1197.00	1796.75	0.00
13.	Rajasthan	706.17	1120.63	0.00
14.	Tamil Nadu	1967.81	907.70	0.00
15.	Telangana	1193.04	1508.13	0.00
16.	Tripura	1481.71	1402.65	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Uttarakhand	367.07	0.00	0.00
19.	West Bengal	0.00	665.95	0.00
Grand Total		16000.00	13717.93	0.00

8.4 Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) aims to enhance the socio-economic conditions of PVTG communities by providing them with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in a mission mode in 3 years with budgetary allocation of about ₹24,000 crore. These objectives are planned to be met through 11 interventions of 09 Ministries. PVTG Division, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is administering the intervention of multi-purpose centres (MPCs) under the Abhiyan.

“PM JANMAN (MPCs)”			
Year	Allocation (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Funds released
2023-24	0.00	100.00	99.99

8.5 The details of activities/ projects sanctioned as on 05 August, 2024 by each Ministry responsible for implementation is as follows:-

Name of Ministry	Activity	Scheme	Sanctioned details
M/o Rural Development	Provision of pucca houses	PradhanMantri AwasYojna-Gramin	236017 houses (26183 houses completed)
	Connecting roads	PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojna	2769.94 km road
M/o Health and Family Welfare	Mobile Medical Units	National Health Mission	578 MMUs
M/o Jal Shakti	Piped Water Supply	JalJeevan Mission (JJM)	7967 habitations saturated
M/o Women and Child Development	Construction and running of AnganwadiCentres	Anganwadi Services (AWCs)	1050 AWCs (589 Operational)
M/o Education	Construction and running of hostels	SamagraShiksha (hostels)	119 Hostels
M/o Communications	Installation of mobile towers	DoT (USOF)	Coverage of 860 villages/habitations
M/o Power	Energization of unelectrified HHs	Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)	129379 HHs
M/o New and Renewable Energy	Households sanctioned under New Solar Power Scheme		5067 Households sanctioned under New Solar Power Scheme
M/o Tribal Affairs	Multipurpose Centers		823 MPCs
	Setting up of VDVks		501 VDVks

8.6 Physical and Financial Progress under PM JANMAN is as follows:

Name of Ministry	Intervention	Mission Target (2023-2026)	Sanctions as of October 2024	Physical Achievements	Financial Sanctions (₹ in Crore)
M/o Rural Development	Pucca houses	~ 4.90 lakh pucca houses	330031 houses	50752 housescompleted.	2722.14
	Connecting roads	8000 Km road	3586.05 km road	10.56 Km roadcompleted	2799.2

M/o Health and Family Welfare	Mobile Medical Units (MMUs)	1000 MMU	616 MMUs	616 MMUs functional with more than 25 lakhs footfall.	208.7
D/o DW&S, M/o Jal Shakti	Piped Water Supply (FHTCs)	15309 Villages	6505 Villages 100% Saturated	6505 Villages 100% Saturated	344.35
M/o Women and Child Development	Anganwadi Centers (AWCs)	2500 AWCs	1799 AWCs	770 AWCs made operational.	303.76
D/o SE&L, M/o Education	Hostels	500 Hostels	119 Hostels	-	57.6
DoT, M/o Communications	Mobile towers	Coverage of 3959 habitations	1499 habitations	406 habitations covered	204.3
M/o Power	Energization of HHs	~ 2.65 lakh HHs	140440 HHs	87132 HHs Electrified	516.15
M/o New and Renewable Energy	Energization of HHs	All eligible and uncovered by MoP	9569 HHs	800 HHs Electrified	47.86
M/o Tribal Affairs	Multipurpose Centres (MPCs)	1000 MPCs	823 MPCs	Work started in 433 MPCs.	119.24
	Setting up of VDVks	500 VDVks	501 VDVks	135 VDVks operational & in 280 VDVks tool kit distributed	33.61 (including Rs. 12.20 Cr of M/o SD&E)
Total (₹. In Crore)				-	7356.91

8.7 As regards to the system of monitoring and control over the performance of the Schemes/programmes, the Committee were informed *vide* Background Note that:

“The monitoring mechanism put in place by the MoTA to monitor the utilization of funds allocated under the schemes of Ministry, is detailed below: -

- MoTA has developed an online portal “ADI-GRAMS” to ensure effective planning, management and implementation of Grants of MoTA i.e. “Grant under Article 275 (1) of the constitution, Development of PVTGs. The portal is functional on NIC platform at <https://grants.tribal.gov.in>. The

portal is meant to capture necessary data and information for monitoring of these schemes/grant.

- Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds as per the norms of GFR;
- Progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained
- Officers while visiting States/Uts also ascertain the progress of implementation of various schemes/ programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
- Meetings/ Conferences are convened at the Central level with State officials for ensuring timely submission of proposals, speeding up of implementation of the schemes/ programmes, and reviewing the physical and financial progress of the schemes.
- Under the Development of PVTGs and PM JANMAN (MPCs), State Governments are also required to designate a Single Nodal Agency in terms of revised procedure by Ministry of Finance for release of funds and monitoring.
- A common portal has been developed on PM Gatishakti portal for monitoring the progress under PM JANMAN.”

8.8 As regards to the implementation of PM-JANMAN, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed that the Committee during deliberation that:

“In PMAGY, we had one scheme in SCA TSS – Special Central Assistance to States. Under that scheme, we found that there are 36,428 villages which have population of more than 50 per cent. So, our Ministry give Rs. 20 lakhs with a mandate for one village that all the Ministries will be responsible for implementation of their respective schemes in that village. For example, road is not there, school is not there, housing facility is not there. अगर वहाँ पर पानी नहीं है, तो यह सभी मिनिस्ट्रीज के लिए मैनडेट था which was recognised by NITI Aayog and Expenditure Finance Committee. But unfortunately, we found that Rs.20 lakh is a very small amount for making a village a model village. Secondly, what was happening was लाइन मिनिस्ट्रीज की कंवर्जन डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल पर, विलेज लेवल पर नहीं हो पा रही थी।

Then hon. President was also of the view that जो पीवीटीजीज हैं, जो विशेष कर वल्लेरेबल 75 ट्राइबल ग्रुप्स हैं, वे इतने रिमोट एरियाज में रहते हैं कि उन तक न तो हमारी स्कीम्स पहुंच पाती है, न वे इतने परिपक्व होते हैं कि वे डिमांड करें। इसलिए मिनिस्ट्री का जो फोकस था, that we have to outreach with convergence and saturation. So, these were three main philosophies behind these two Missions.

Last year, we came out with a scheme of PM-JANMAN under which that every Ministry was given target with the budgetary allocation and details of the villages and targeted population. So, previously, PVTG had a budget of Rs.250 crore every year, which was increased to Rs.24,000crore in three years. This mission is called Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

Based on the success of that Mission, which was exclusively for 75 PVTGs, about 29,000 habitations, 17,000 villages, we have come out with Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.”

8.9 He further added:

अगर आपको लगता है कि आपके यहां कोई ऐसा विलेज है, कोई ऐसा एरिया है, जहां पांच किलोमीटर्स के अंदर सेकेंड्री स्कूल नहीं है, तो आप सब लोग भी हमें इनफॉर्मेशन दे सकते हैं या डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ स्कूल एजुकेशन को भी भेज सकते हैं। This is one target which we are finding it difficult to achieve because most of the States are saying that they do not have such gaps as these areas have schools. अतः धरती आबा और पीएम जनमन में यह ऐसा टार्गेट है, जिसके लिए अगर आपको लगता है कि कहीं भी, कहने को तो स्कूल है, लेकिन वहां टीचर्स नहीं जाते हैं आदि, तो वहां के लिए हम लोगों ने हॉस्टल का प्रोविजन रखा है। अभी भी हमारे पास पीएम जनमन में पीवीटीजी एरियाज़ के लिए 390 हॉस्टल्स का प्रोविजन है। इसमें हमने रिलैक्स किया है कि अगर कोई पीएम-श्री स्कूल है या सीएम-राइज़ स्कूल है या कोई ऐसा स्कूल है, जहां आपके पास लैंड एविलेबल है, तो इसमें हम लोग लगभग 2,75,00,000 रूपए 100 बच्चों के हॉस्टल्स के लिए दे रहे हैं। पीएम जनमन के तहत पीवीटीजीज़ के लिए लगभग 1,500 विलेजेज़ के लिए मोबाइल नेटवर्क के प्रोजेक्ट्स सैंक्शन हो गए हैं। कुछ ऐसे विलेजेज़ थे, जहां यह सब करने के बाद भी, जैसे आंगनवाड़ी का नॉर्म भी हमने 100 रिलैक्स करके करवाया था कि जहां भी 100 की पॉपुलेशन है, अगर वहां आंगनवाड़ी नहीं है, तो हम आंगनवाड़ी सैंक्शन करेंगे ।

सर, कुछ ऐसे पाड़े थे, which were very, very small, even less than 100. उसके लिए हमने मल्टीपरपज सेंटर, which is implemented by our Ministry. So, that multipurpose centre will have three facilities. One, there will be Anganwadi rooms. सेकेंडली, वन धन विकास केन्द्र के लिए कुछ हो जाएगा। थर्डली, एक ड्रग स्टोर ताकि वहाँ पर एक एएनएम दी जाए। First time, for these 1000 MPCs, जो आंगनवाड़ी वर्कर्स हैं और मल्टीपरपज सेंटर जो एएनएम है, उसकी फंडिंग भी केन्द्र सरकार ही कर रही है और यह 100 प्रतिशत यहाँ से फंडिड है। हम लोगों का यह अनुभव था कि स्टेट्स, क्योंकि उसमें 40 परसेंट उनको शेयर

करना पड़ता था तो वह आंगनवाड़ीज माँगती नहीं थीं। इसलिए हम लोग पूरा 12 का 12 लाख रुपया, इवेन धरती आबा में भी पीएम-जनमन में भी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के थ्रू फंड कर रहे हैं। हमारा वन धन विकास केन्द्र का 500 का टारगेट था, and we have sanctioned all the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. Almost 40 per cent of the kendras have also become operational.”

8.10 On being enquired about the progress of work done in PM-JANMAN, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs deposed before the Committee during deliberation that:

“जब हमने यह पीएम-जनमन शुरू किया था, तो सिर्फ 50 गाँव ऐसे थे, जिनमें 12 की 12 इंटरवेंशंस थीं। आज लगभग 2.5 हजार गाँव ऐसे हो चुके हैं, जहाँ पर हम लोग सारी स्कीम्स सैचुरेशन के लिए सैंक्शन कर चुके हैं। Our target is 31st March 2026 when PM-JANMAN will be saturated in all the 29,000 habitations.”

8.11 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has discontinued “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” Scheme from 2024-25 and have launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan from 2023-24 targeted at development of PVTGs. The Government of India intends to enhance the socio-economic conditions of PVTGs in a mission mode in three years with budgetary allocation of about ₹24,000 crore with the 11 interventions of 9 Ministries such as Rural Development, Health & Family Welfare, Power, Tribal Affairs, Women and Child Development, etc. The Committee note that during the period 2020-21 to 2022-23, the budgetary allocation made under Development of particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) was substantially reduced at revision stage. Further, the Committee also note that during 2022-23 no fund was released to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, etc. The Committee are unable to comprehend the reasons for not releasing funds to these States, particularly when large number of tribal population resides in these States and how did the work envisaged under development of PVTG Scheme was carried

out in the absence of funds. The Committee believe that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs must have gained experience from the execution of Development of PVTG Scheme and would be utilized in the implementation of PM-JANMAN Scheme so that there are no hurdles in the implementation of the Scheme. The Committee expect that the target fixed for three years for the enhancement of socio-economic conditions of PVTGs communities across the country would be completed in a time bound manner. The Committee certainly hope that with the involvement of nine Ministries, the objectives envisaged under the Scheme will be achieved if there is proper coordination amongst them and the monitoring mechanism developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is stringently applied.

New Delhi
18 December, 2024
27 Pausha, 1946 (Saka)

SHRI P.C. MOHAN
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Justice and
Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2024

The Committee met from 1130 hrs. to 1315 hrs. in Committee Room No. '1', Parliament House Annexe- Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
3. Kumari Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi
4. Shri Murari Lal Meena
5. Smt. Bag Mitali
6. Shri Matheswaran V.S
7. Adv. Priya Saroj
8. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki
9. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava

Rajya Sabha

10. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
11. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
12. Shri Narayan Koragappa
13. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
14. Shri Rameswar Teli
15. Smt. Mamata Thakur
16. Smt. P.T. Usha
17. Shri Abdul Wahab

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Vatsala Joshi | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Vibhu Nayar | Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. R. Jaya | Additional Secretary |
| 3. | Shri Naval Jit Kapoort | Additional Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Brij Nandan Prasad | Joint Secretary |
| 5. | Smt. Yatinder Prasad | Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Secretary and other officials representing Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the Committee meeting convened to discuss the 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)'. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson *inter-alia* pointed out low utilization of budget by the Ministry during 2022-23 and 2023-24 and the methodology adopted to address the issue of delay in submission of Utilization Certificates by States/UTs, SNA system so that the funds are fully utilized by the Ministry. The Chairperson also noted low utilization of funds under Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana in previous years. The Chairperson thereafter, enquired about the criteria followed in granting aid to voluntary organizations for educational schemes and also with regard to the revision of the annual quota for grant of National Overseas Scholarship Scheme.

3. Thereupon, the Chairperson drew the attention of the representatives of the Ministry to the 'Directions by the speaker of Lok Sabha' regarding maintaining confidentiality of Committee proceedings till the report is presented to the House. Before initiating the discussion on the Demand for Grants, the Chairperson asked the representatives of the Ministry to introduce themselves. Thereafter, the Officials introduced themselves.

4. Prior to the discussion, the Secretary gave a power point presentation highlighting overall performance of the Ministry including budgetary allocations, actual expenditure/physical targets achieved under various schemes/ programmes during

previous financial years. He also informed the Committee about the plan to achieve the targets fixed for the years 2024-25.

5. In the discussion that followed, the Committee *inter-alia* deliberated on the following issues:

- (i) Establishment of new Eklavya Model Residential Schools with the requisite infrastructure to cater to the increasing tribal population in the country;
- (ii) Assessment of requirement of Tribal Universities in the Country and their establishment;
- (iii) Progress made under Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY);
- (iv) Creation of Infrastructure under PM-JANMAN Yojana;
- (v) Implementation of Grant-in-Aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes;
- (vi) Health related intervention under Sickle Cell Mission;
- (vii) Addressing land related issues under the Forest Rights Act; and
- (viii) Timely disbursement of funds under educational scholarship schemes.

6. Before concluding the discussion, the Chairperson thanked the Secretary and other representatives of the Ministry for providing valuable inputs on the subject and also asked the Secretary to submit written replies on the issues which remained unanswered during the meeting by 11.11.2024.

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

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) HELD ON MONDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2024.

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, E-PHA, Block 'B', Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Smt. Vijaylakshmi Devi
5. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
6. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
7. Shri Murari Lal Meena
8. Smt. Bag Mitali
9. Shri Bhojraj Nag
10. Shri Godam Nagesh
11. Shri Matheswaran V.S
12. Adv. Priya Saroj

Rajya Sabha

13. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
14. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
15. Shri Narayan Koragappa
16. Shri Rameswar Teli
17. Smt. P.T. Usha
18. Shri Abdul Wahab

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

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

(i) XX XX XX

(ii) XX XX XX

(iii) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Tribal.

(iv) XX XX XX

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 and to present the same to both the Houses on 18.12.2024.

The Committee then adjourned.

XX Does not pertain to this Report

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl.No	Para No.	Observations/ Recommendations
1.	2.7	<p>The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been allocated ₹12,938.32 crore by the Ministry of Finance against the proposed demand of ₹ 12,433.22 crore for the year 2024-25. This indicates the efforts and commitment of the Central Government for overall development of tribal people in the country. The Committee also note that a new Scheme Dharti Abba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) have been launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs after the announcement of Budget. The Committee are, however, little apprehensive about the trend of expenditure incurred by the Ministry during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 as the actual expenditure during three years was much less in comparison to the Budgetary Estimates. The Committee strongly view that the purpose of the Schemes implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be defeated if funds are not fruitfully utilized. The Committee believe that with the introduction of the Single Nodal Account (SNA) system for the release of funds to the States/UTs, the responsibility of the Implementing Agencies in the States has been increased to utilize 75 per cent of released funds and if they are not able to spend it timely, the funds available with the Government of India will not remain idle and can be fruitfully utilized by diverting to other Schemes. The Committee are satisfied with the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to resolve the hurdles in implementation</p>

		<p>of various schemes such as non-submission of UCs by States/UTs/ Implementing Agencies, adoption of SNA system by State/UT Governments, technical issues of PFMS would make the implementation of schemes flawless. In view of the above, the Committee expect that the Budget Estimates of 2024-25 would be utilized fully for the effective implementation of all the Schemes and will achieve the targets laid down by the Ministry for the overall welfare/development of the tribal community. Since, the State/UT Governments have been found to be lacking in their approach, the Committee therefore desire that the State/UT Governments should be regularly pursued for delay and appropriately guided so that the financial and physical targets set by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are achieved without any failure.</p>
2.	3.11	<p>The Committee note that five Scholarship Schemes <i>viz</i> Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, National Fellowship, National Scholarship for Higher Studies and National Overseas Scholarship are being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the Educational Empowerment of the Tribal Students. The Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes are Centrally Sponsored open ended Scheme and National Fellowship, National Scholarship for Higher Education and Overseas Scholarship are Central Sector Schemes. The Committee find that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs contribute a certain percentage to State/ UTs in Centrally Sponsored Schemes and in Central Sector Schemes are 100 per cent funded by the Union Government. The Committee, however, note that the actual expenditure under</p>

Centrally Sponsored Schemes is much less than the Budgetary Allocation in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 whereas under Central Sector Schemes, the actual expenditure is almost equal to Revised Estimate. Similarly, in case of Centrally Sponsored Scheme there is shortfall in physical achievement and there was 100 per cent physical achievements in Central Sector Schemes during these years. The Committee feel that the income eligibility criteria and delay in submission of beneficiaries data by the States/UTs may have restricted the number of applicants under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Committee are happy to note that harmonization of Scholarship Scheme is under process and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have recommended to increase the annual income limit from ₹2.5 lakhs to ₹ 4.5 lakhs for Centrally Sponsored Schemes *i.e* Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes. The Committee also note that several other measures are being taken to enhance the implementation of educational empowerment Schemes such as timely disbursement of scholarship to eligible students, regular review meetings with States/UTs, regular capacity building of all the stakeholders, etc. The Committee believe that the initiatives taken up and the action plan drawn by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Manthan Shivir would yield the desired results. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable mechanism should be developed so that the decisions taken at Manthan Shivir is implemented in a time bound manner. The Committee would appreciate, if they, are apprised of the action taken in this regard.

3.	4.17	<p>The Committee note that as per the announcement in 2018-19 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are to be established in every block having more than 50 per cent ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. Accordingly, 452 new EMRS are to be established along with the existing 288 EMRS sanctioned under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution since 1988. The Committee, however, find that out of 452 new EMRS sanctioned 223 are functional and 211 out of 288 old EMRS have been identified for upgradation. The Committee also find that several challenges such as availability of appropriate land, non-availability of construction material due to State Government policy, extreme weather conditions, non-availability of electricity supply etc. are being faced by the construction agencies in constructions of EMRS. The Committee note that 9 new EMRS have been sanctioned in 2023-24 and 100 more new EMRS have been requested to the Government of India to meet the present requirement since the 452 EMRS sanctioned till date were based on 2011 census. The Committee find that several decisions were taken for effective implementation of EMRS scheme in Manthan Shivir held on 18-19 July, 2024 including to consider minimum 8-10 acres of land where 15 acres of land is not available for construction of EMRS. The Committee believe that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will take suitable steps to ensure that the hindrances coming in the execution of the Scheme would be carefully resolved in a time bound manner. The Committee desire that all</p>
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		<p>the old schools are upgraded in a time bound manner and new schools sanctioned are made functional if possible in their own building within the given time frame. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the requisite funds and necessary guidance is provided to the Executing agencies and suitable steps are taken so that the Scheme does not face shortage of funds at any stage.</p>
4.	4.18	<p>The Committee note that National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) established as an Autonomous Society is mandated to plan, construct, establish, endow and administer the schools and do all the acts and things necessary for or conducive to tribal education. Similarly, EMRS society is to be established in each State/UT and these Societies are responsible for the overall implementation/ administration of schools sanctioned/ established in the State/UT. As per the norms, each State/ UT EMRS society is to sign a MoU with NESTS. The Committee, however, note that EMRS society is yet to be established in Bihar and MOU with NESTS have been signed with 25 States till date. The Committee are satisfied with the progress made in the establishment of EMRS as targets set up for establishing ATAL Tinkering Labs, affiliation of schools to CBSE and digitization and technological initiatives during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 were achieved. Since the requisite system has been set up for the establishment and functioning of EMRS, the Committee expect that timely action will be taken with regard to establish smart class rooms, affiliation of all EMRSs with CBSE</p>

		<p>and recruitment of adequate number of teachers/ staff for providing quality education in schools so that education of the students is not compromised. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in this direction.</p>
5.	4.19	<p>The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs propose to set up Centre of Excellence for Sports in 15 identified EMRS. However, the Committee are worried with regard to the time likely to be consumed in setting up of Centre of Excellence for Sports as out of 15 identified EMRS only 5 have been finalized in first phase. The Committee believe that the engagement of students in sports activities in schools is very essential for their physical development, hence they should be set up at priority in a time bound manner. The Committee also believe that the revised timelines fixed for operationalization of Centre of Excellence for Sports will be adhered. The Committee, therefore, desire that strict timelines should be laid down to set up all the 15 Centre of Excellence for Sports. The Committee may be apprised in this regard.</p>
6.	5.11	<p>The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have funded 190 NGOs for approximately 320 projects in education, health and livelihood sectors and successfully spent the funds allocated under the Scheme during 2022-23 and 2023-24. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in achieving 112.47 per cent and 93.17 per cent</p>

		<p>of the target fixed for the projects related to 10 bedded hospitals/mobile dispensaries during 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively. The Committee are, however, little worried about the low percentage of achievement under some projects as 47 per cent target could only be achieved for Residential/non-residential schools and 33.06 per cent fixed for 10 bedded hospitals/mobile dispensaries during 2023-24. The Committee have no doubt about the efficiency and competency of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs but the role of State /UT Governments is significant as the projects are to be recommended/ executed by them. The Committee are convinced with the steps taken for the improvement in implementation of the Scheme such as mandatory annual Inspection, recommendation by District Authority, submission of annual audited accounts by NGOs/ VOs, communication module in the portal for NGOs to resolve their grievances/ clarifications etc. will yield the desired results. The Committee would like to be apprised of the observations of the committee set up by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for finalization of modalities for evaluation/ review of the performance of the ongoing projects under the scheme and the action taken thereon.</p>
7.	6.9	<p>The Ministry of Tribal Affairs revamped the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme into 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) with the aim of integrated development of 36428 villages and provisioned a sum of ₹ 20.38 lakh per village as 'Gap Filling'. The Committee note that during the year 2023-</p>

24, Ministry of Tribal Affairs could release ₹149.65 crore from the revised allocation of ₹375.00 crore. The Committee further note that Dharti Abba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) has been launched under which more than 63000 villages including 36428 villages covered under PMAAGY would also be included. The Committee believe that with the launch of DA-JGUA, the difficulties and challenges faced in PMAAGY will be resolved. The Committee find that the role of Ministry of Tribal Affairs has since increased multiple times in implementation of DA-JGUA as multi-sectoral interventions through convergence of specific Schemes of several Ministries. The Committee, therefore, expect that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should coordinate with all the Ministries/Department so that the difficulties /challenges faced under PMAAGY do not arise. The Committee, therefore, desire that the PM Gatishakti Portal developed for monitoring and evaluation of physical and financial progress of all the projects on regular basis should be utilized so that the objectives of the DA-JGUA are fully achieved. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should draw an action plan so that 63000 villages identified under DA-JGUA can achieve integrated socio-economic development of the tribal people as envisaged in the Abhiyan in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be apprised of the time schedule fixed for implementation of the Abhiyan and also the latest status of the achievement made in this regard after the implementation of DA-JGUA.

8.	7.19	<p>The Committee note that the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has been entrusted with the responsibility to develop a mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and development of value chain for MFP. The Committee find that 3950 Van Dhan Kendras have been set up in the States/ UTs but there are several States such as Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, etc. where the number of Van Dhan Kendras established is very less. The Committee also note that the procurement of Tribal produce by TRIFED was less in 2022-23 and 2023-24 as the TRIFED already had existing stock, hence, they could not purchase new stock. The Committee feel that TRIFED requires to vigorously work to strengthen the system so that the procurement and sale of the Forest produce is enhanced. The Committee strongly believe that forest produce is the lifeline of tribal people in the country as it provides regular livelihood and income generating opportunities to them, hence, Ministry of Tribal Affairs/TRIFED should take suitable measures to resolve the issues that have been hampering the production and marketing of the forest produce. The Committee recommend that the necessary steps will be taken for setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, Haat Bazaars, storage godowns, skill and entrepreneurship, research and development, etc. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken and the progress achieved till date under Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission.</p>
9.	8.11	<p>The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs</p>

		<p>has discontinued “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” Scheme from 2024-25 and have launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan from 2023-24 targeted at development of PVTGs. The Government of India intends to enhance the socio-economic conditions of PVTGs in a mission mode in three years with budgetary allocation of about ₹24,000 crore with the 11 interventions of 9 Ministries such as Rural Development, Health & Family Welfare, Power, Tribal Affairs, Women and Child Development, etc. The Committee note that during the period 2020-21 to 2022-23, the budgetary allocation made under Development of particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) was substantially reduced at revision stage. Further, the Committee also note that during 2022-23 no fund was released to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, etc. The Committee are unable to comprehend the reasons for not releasing funds to these States, particularly when large number of tribal population resides in these States and how did the work envisaged under development of PVTG Scheme was carried out in the absence of funds. The Committee believe that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs must have gained experience from the execution of Development of PVTG Scheme and would be utilized in the implementation of PM-JANMAN Scheme so that there are no hurdles in the implementation of the Scheme. The Committee expect that the target fixed for three years for the enhancement of socio-economic conditions of PVTGs</p>
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