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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2004-2005)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations
contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice
and Empowerment on Demands for Grants-2004-2005 of the Ministry of Tribal
Affairs**

SIXTH REPORT

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.3.2005
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 22.3.2005**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
March, 2005/ Phalguna, 1926 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2004-2005)**

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
*LOK SABHA***

2. Shri M. Appadurai
3. Shri Ashok Argal
4. Smt. Sushmita Bauri
5. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
6. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
7. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
8. Shri Kailash Meghwal
9. Shri Rupchand Murmu
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12. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
13. Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy
14. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
15. Shri R. Senthil
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17. Smt. Pratibha Singh
18. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
19. Smt. Krishna Tirath
20. Smt. Usha Verma
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25. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
26. Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee
27. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
28. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu
29. Smt. Savita Sharda
30. Shri Tarlochan Singh
31. Shri Veer Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P.D.T Achary . - Secretary
2. Dr.(Smt) P.K Sandhu - Joint Secretary
3. Shri R.K. Saxena - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Under Secretary
5. Km. M. Tunlut - Sr. Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants-2004-2005 relating to Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 18 August, 2004. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 2 December, 2004. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 18 March, 2005.

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

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

5. The Committee place on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

New Delhi:
18 March, 2005
27 Phalgun, 1926 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2004-2005 relating to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

1.2 The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 18 August, 2004. It contained 15 recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the recommendations have been examined and are categorised as under: -

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government:
Paragraph Sl. Nos. 1, 4, 9, 12, 14 and 15.

(Total 6 - Chapter II)

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:
Paragraph Sl. Nos. 2, 10 and 13.

(Total 3 - Chapter III)

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter I:
Paragraph Sl. Nos. 3, 6, 7 and 8.

(Total 4 - Chapter IV)

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:
Paragraph Sl. Nos. 5 and 11.

(Total 2 - Chapter V)

1.3 The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken notes in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter -V of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of the Report.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken replies of the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

A. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO TRIBAL SUB – PLAN

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para 2.23)

1.5 The Committee had noted with regret that States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Chattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Assam have not been allocating funds for Tribal Sub-Plan during the last several years. In some of the States, the rate of flow of TSP was less than the population percentage of STs in the States. The Committee had further noted that only 17 Central Ministries/Departments have segregated their Plan outlays for TSP. The Committee had opined that a focused approach towards the development of STs is possible only if the States and Central Ministries earmarked the TSP component separately and implement the same in consultation with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee, had therefore, urged the Ministry to pursue the matter with the Planning Commission and concerned States/Central Ministries/Departments to earmark funds for TSP at least in proportion to the population percentage of STs in the case of the States and 8% of the total budget in the case of Central Ministries/Departments.

1.6 In their action taken note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have stated that they have been pursuing the matter with the State Governments for earmarking of TSP funds at least proportionate to the tribal population of the State and also with Central Ministries to earmark at least 8% of their plan allocation as TSP component. The Planning Commission vide order dated 4.8.2004 had constituted a Task Group on development of SCs/STs. The Task Group had further set up 4 Sub-Groups to examine implementation of some selected Agenda items of National Common Minimum Programme. One of the Sub-Groups (Sub-Group 4) headed by Secretary, Tribal Affairs was entrusted to look into various aspects of Scheduled Tribes. The Sub-Group has already submitted its report to the Planning Commission with regard to earmarking of fund for tribal areas. The recommendation of the Sub-Group is:

“Pooling of TSP component available with Central Ministries as non-divisible and non-lapsable funds has to be ensured. For instance, the pooled funds of Rs. 5,322 crore worked out for 2004-05 available as TSP

component with various Central Ministries could be used in a concerted manner to provide the basic facilities, instead of each Ministry/Department working in isolation which does not create any measurable impact on the ground. Once the pooled funds and the State TSP funds are used, the Government would be able to improve the education, health, drinking water and nutrition levels as first priority. We could then tackle housing, roads and irrigation facilities, so that conspicuous dent is made in a given frame work of time.”

1.7 The reply of the Ministry that they have been pursuing the State Governments to earmark TSP funds at least in proportion to the tribal population in the States and 8% of their plan allocation in the case of Central Ministries is not satisfactory as no progress has been reported in this regard. However, one of the Sub-Groups constituted by the Planning Commission in August, 2004 had recommended pooling of TSP component available with Central Ministries as once the pooled funds and State TSP funds are used, the Government would be able to improve the education, health, drinking water and nutrition level of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee had also recommended, in their earlier Report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003), that the TSP component should be put in a separate major Head to be operated in consultation with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs so that an integrated and convergent approach could be made for the development of the tribals. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge the Ministry to step up their efforts to persuade the States and Central Ministries to make available funds for TSP, at least in proportion to the population percentage of STs in the States and 8% of the plan allocation in the case of Central Ministries which may be pooled under a separate

head and operated in consultation with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs so that a remarkable dent is made in the development of the Scheduled Tribes.

B. DIRECT RELEASE OF FUNDS TO INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (ITDPs)/INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (ITDAs)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para 2.26)

1.8 The Committee had noted that from the year 2003-2004, the Ministry had started earmarking funds for each of the ITDPs/ITDAs and States had been requested to implement programmes accordingly in each of the ITDPs/ITDAs. However, in order to ensure that benefits of the allocations percolate to the tribals living in remote and hilly areas, the Committee were of the view that funds should be released to ITDPs/ITDAs directly on the pattern of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) under the Ministry of Rural Development. The Committee, had therefore urged the Ministry to pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for early concurrence.

1.9 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their action taken note have stated that they had requested concurrence from the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission, for direct release of funds to the ITDPs/ITDAs but the proposal was not agreed to. However, the issue will again be taken up for reconsideration.

1.10 The Committee note with deep regret that the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission had not concurred to the request of the Ministry for direct release of funds to the ITDPs/ITDAs as is done in the case of DRDAs under the Ministry of Rural Development. In order to ensure that the benefits of huge allocations made every year percolate to the tribals living in hilly and remote areas, the Committee are of the firm opinion that funds should be channelised to the lowest level i.e. the grass root field agencies and direct release of funds to ITDPs/ITDAs would facilitate this process. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to strongly take up the issue with the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission again for concurrence.

C. HOSTEL FACILITIES FOR ST BOYS AND GIRLS

Recommendation (Sl. No 7, Para 2.34)

1.11 The Committee had noted that the Ministry had been releasing funds to States/UTs/institutions for construction of Boys and Girls Hostels every year but many of the hostels sanctioned since 2001-2002 were still under various stages of construction. The Committee had been informed that the time-limit for construction of the hostels was a maximum of five years from the date of release of Central assistance. Keeping in view the fact that delay in construction work was leading to high escalation in costs besides depriving the tribal students of the benefits, the Committee had desired that the States/UTs/institutions should be persuaded to ensure that all construction works were completed at the earliest and the maximum limit of five years for construction of the hostel was strictly adhered to by them.

1.12 In their action taken note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have stated that it is specifically mentioned in sanction orders that the escalation cost of construction due to delay in construction work will be borne by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. Further, it is also mentioned in the sanction orders that hostels may be completed in earliest possible time. In spite of this, State Governments fail to complete the works timely probably due to delayed mobilization of their 50% share. The matter is also discussed in the review meetings convened in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs every year with the Secretaries of the State Governments and it is emphasized that hostels sanctioned to State Governments should be completed in earliest possible time.

1.13 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry that State Governments/UT Administrations have failed to complete construction of Boys and Girls Hostels for STs sanctioned by the Ministry within the maximum limit of five years due to delay in mobilization of their 50% share. The Committee view the situation seriously and desire that States/UTs should not be allowed to shirk their responsibilities of providing their matching share in the case of Centrally Sponsored Schemes like 'Boys and Girls Hostels for STs, etc. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take up the matter at regular intervals with the highest State Government Authorities and impress upon them to complete construction of all the Hostels sanctioned at the earliest or at least within the maximum limit of five years from the date of release of central assistance.

D. MAINTENANCE OF HOSTELS

Recommendation (SI. No. 8, Para No. 2.35)

1.14 The Committee had noted that the maintenance of hostels was the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs and for that purpose, funds had to be utilized out of their own annual plans. The Committee, had opined that a substantial amount would be involved as recurring expenditure for maintaining and running the hostels. The States/UTs were not giving proper attention to the maintenance of hostels. The Committee, therefore, had recommended that while revising the scheme some amount might be earmarked under the scheme for maintenance of the hostels to enable the State Governments and UT Administrations to run the hostels effectively.

1.15 In their action taken note the Ministry has stated that it has been noted for compliance at the stage of revision of the Scheme of Boys/Girls Hostels for STs in near future.

1.16 During their on the spot visit to some States, the Committee had observed that the hostels there were in worst condition and in stark negligence. There were no facilities of proper bedding, furniture and the quality of food served there was very poor. In the reply, the Ministry have stated that the recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance at the stage of revision of the scheme in near future. The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry. The Committee are of the view that the matter of proper maintenance of hostels warrants urgent attention and the situation cannot be left in uncertainty. Considering the lack of basic facilities and poor maintenance of hostels, the Committee desire that the Scheme of Boys/Girls Hostels for STs should be taken up on urgent basis and while revising the scheme, some amount might be earmarked for proper maintenance of the hostels for ensuring basic facilities there.

CHAPTER - II**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN
ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT****Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para 2.6)**

2.1 The Committee note that over the years the budgetary allocations of the Ministry had always been reduced at the Revised Estimate stage, which resulted in less funds for the upliftment of the poor tribals. During the year 2003-04, the budgetary allocation has been reduced from Rs. 1087 crore to Rs. 900 crore. The Committee are well aware that cuts in budgetary allocations are effected by the Ministry of Finance at the Revised Estimate stage based on the expenditure incurred during the first six months of the financial year on pro rata basis. However, keeping in view the specific needs of the tribals living in the remote and inaccessible areas, the Committee desire that funds for development of the tribals should not undergo any reduction during the year. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the Ministry of Finance to take a lenient view in the matter so that drastic cut is avoided at the Revised Estimate stage for effective implementation of schemes for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes.

Reply of the Government

2.2 During the year, the Ministry had made all out efforts not only to avoid cuts at R.E. stage but has also sought additional funds. As per decision taken in the Pre-Budget meeting with Secretary (Expenditure) on 9 November 2004, there would be no cut for the year 2004-05 at R.E Stage considering the good expenditure performance.

**(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated
2.12.2004)**

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para 2.24)

2.3 The Committee note with concern that though the scheme of SCA to TSP, starting from the Fifth Five Year Plan specifically aims at increasing the income of ST families living below the poverty line, no assessment has been made about the exact number of ST families who

have crossed the poverty line. Fixation of targets for assisting the ST families/Self Help Groups/Community based workers has also been left to the State Governments. Keeping in view the fact that a sizeable chunk of the budgetary allocation of the Ministry is for SCA to TSP and that over the years, nearly 100% utilization of RE allocation had always taken place, the Committee desire that monitoring and evaluation of the scheme should be conducted to assess the impact of the scheme on the tribals and determine the number of ST families who have actually crossed the poverty line. This may be entrusted with the Planning Commission or a designated agency appointed at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

2.4 The Ministry has already entrusted the Planning Commission's Program Evaluation Organization to evaluate the schemes of SCA to TSP and Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para 2.46)

2.5 The Committee note that the scheme of Village Grain Banks had been launched during the year 1996-1997 with the main objective of providing safeguard against the non-availability of food grains in remote tribal areas. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, the scheme was proposed to be revised by extending it to all endemic drought and migration prone areas and is now in the process of finalization as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Keeping in view the fact that enough and complete proposals have not come from the States during the year 2003-2004 on the existing scheme, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should spruce up its coordination with the States/UTs and ensure that the scheme is made more fruitful as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.6 The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. However, all the States have been requested to send their complete proposals along with the Utilisation Certificates for the grants already released to them at the beginning of the financial year. Thereafter the defaulting States are continuously reminded to send their proposal. Besides, the Ministry calls for meetings of the Tribal Welfare Secretaries at Delhi from time to time and requests them to expedite their proposals. So far as the revised

Scheme is concerned, the State governments have been requested to send their comments/approval regarding sharing of transportation cost on 50:50 basis.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para 2.55)

2.7 The Committee express deep concern over the irregularities noticed in the disbursement of scholarships to the ST students in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh during the year 2001-2002. In Madhya Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 1,67,19,827 have been disbursed illegally to 30 institutions while two bogus colleges have drawn an amount of Rs. 20,54,540 in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Committee view the situation seriously and urge the Ministry to ensure that such irregularities in the disbursement of scholarships do not recur in future. State Governments and UT Administrations may be persuaded to observe strict monitoring over the sanction and withdrawal of scholarships on a regular basis. Action taken in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

2.8 All the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised regarding strict monitoring in sanctioning and withdrawal of the Post Matric Scholarships to institutions so that any irregularity may be avoided and transparency in sanctioning of the scholarships may be ensured. The responsibility of disbursement of the scholarships on time and as per the provisions of the scheme and monitoring of the financial and procedural correctness, however, lies with the State Governments.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14, Para 2.64)

2.9 The Committee note that the National Overseas Scholarships Scheme for Scheduled Tribes has been under revision since the year 2001 but so far the continuation/renewal of the scheme has not been finalized.

The Committee are unhappy to note that abnormal delay has occurred in the finalization of the scheme and express their serious concern that only 5 candidates have been sent abroad during the last five years. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should finalise the revised scheme without further delay and till such time, the benefits of the existing scheme should continue to the ST students.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The scheme has now been revised and the process of notification is on.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para 2.70)

2.11 The Committee note that the Ministry have been carrying out inspections of each project of NGOs on an annual basis and have also inspected some organizations on random basis. A few of the organizations have been blacklisted due to their poor performance. The Committee also desire that while carrying out inspections the Ministry should ensure that NGOs working in plain areas are not registered as working in tribal areas. The Committee further desire that whenever funds are released to NGOs for some projects, the concerned public representatives should be informed so that he may monitor the progress of work of the project.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The observation has been noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

CHAPTER - III**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE
DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT****Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para 2.7)**

3.1 The Committee note with concern that grants were not released to the States of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Bihar, Kerala and Uttaranchal under various schemes due to non-submission of utilisation certificates which reflects poor monitoring and coordination of the Ministry with the States. The Ministry have contended that they could not conduct extensive tours as is done by the Rural Development Ministry as they have the strength of only 69 Personnel excluding Group 'D' Staff. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should approach the concerned Ministry/Departments for sanction and posting of adequate staff so that efficient monitoring of schemes could be carried out and the benefits of the huge allocations made every year percolate to the poor tribal people living in remote and hilly areas.

Reply of the Government

3.2 The Ministry has been strengthened during 2004-05 with the posting of two new Deputy Secretaries and one Under Secretary besides promoting two Under Secretary level officers of the Ministry to the level of Deputy Secretary but there remains acute shortage of staff at lower levels. With the posting of these officers, it is expected that monitoring mechanism in the Ministry would be strengthened.

**(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated
2.12.2004)**

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10, Para 2.47)

3.3 The Committee are concerned to note that the rate of interest on loan under the Grain Bank Scheme is very high i.e. 5% for the period up to 3 months and 10% beyond that and up to 6 months. In the event of non-payment beyond six months the membership of the individual is liable to lapse. Keeping in view the fact that the borrowers belong to the poorest of

the poor in the Society, the Committee desire that only minimal rate of interest should be charged from the beneficiaries. The Committee, further, recommended that the period of repayment of the loan may also be made more flexible so that the poor tribals are not harassed by the authorities.

Reply of the Government

3.4 The matter has already been taken into account while revising the existing Grain Bank Scheme. It has already been provided in the revised scheme that the interest "to be charged will be in the form of similar grain taken on loan and will be decided by the Committee or SHG (Self Help Group) such that it is self sustaining". Thus the revised Scheme has left the issue open to the beneficiary groups to decide about the rate of interest.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para 2.56)

3.5 The Committee note that though the Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships is being implemented in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, no such scheme is being implemented for the Scheduled Tribe students. The stand of the Ministry is that primary education is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Committee, however, feel that in the absence of Pre-Matric scholarships for Scheduled Tribe students, it is difficult for them to go for higher education and hence the Post-Matric scholarships also become meaningless. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter should be examined thoroughly and the Scheme of Pre-Matric scholarships be introduced.

Reply of the Government

3.6 The Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is an occupation-based scheme under which scholarships is paid to students whose parents are engaged in unclean occupations i.e. scavenging, tanning and flaying. This Pre-Matric Scheme covers all the categories like SCs, STs & OBCs etc. This scheme is not implemented only for SC students but for all the categories whose parents are engaged in unclean occupations.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

CHAPTER -IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND HAVE BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE IN CHAPTER I

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para 2.23)

4.1 The Committee regret to note that States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Chattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Assam have not been allocating funds for Tribal Sub-Plan during the last several years. In some of the States, the rate of flow of TSP is less than the population percentage of STs in the States. The Committee further note that only 17 Central Ministries/Departments have segregated their Plan outlays for TSP. In the opinion of the Committee, a focused approach towards the development of STs is possible only if the States and Central Ministries earmark the TSP component separately and implement the same in consultation with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the matter with the Planning Commission and concerned States/Central Ministries/Departments to earmark funds for TSP at least in proportion to the population percentage of STs in the case of the States and 8% of the Total budget in the case of Central Ministries/Departments.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The Ministry has been pursuing the matter with the State Governments for earmarking of TSP funds at least proportionate to the tribal population of the State and also with Central Ministries to earmark at least 8% of their plan allocation as TSP component. The Planning Commission vide order dated 4.8.2004 had constituted a Task Group on development of SCs/STs. The Task Group had further set up 4 Sub-Groups to examine implementation of some selected Agenda items of National Common Minimum Programme. One of the Sub-Groups (Sub-Group 4) headed by Secretary, Tribal Affairs was entrusted to look into various aspects of Scheduled Tribes. The Sub-Group has already submitted its report to the Planning Commission with regard to earmarking of fund for tribal areas. The recommendation of the Sub-Group is:

“Pooling of TSP component available with Central Ministries as non-divisible and non-lapsable funds has to be ensured. For instance, the pooled funds of Rs. 5,322 crore worked out for 2004-05 available as TSP component with various Central Ministries could be used in a concerted manner to provide the basic facilities, instead of each Ministry/Department working in isolation which does not create any measurable impact on the ground. Once the pooled funds and the State TSP funds are used, the Government would be able to improve the education, health, drinking water and nutrition levels as first priority. We could then tackle housing, roads and irrigation facilities so that conspicuous dent is made in a given frame work of time.”

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para 2.26)

4.3 The Committee note that from the year 2003-2004, the Ministry have started earmarking funds for each of the ITDPs/ITDAs and States have been requested to implement programmes accordingly in each of the ITDPs/ITDAs. However, in order to ensure that benefits of the allocations percolated to the tribals living in remote and hilly areas, the Committee are of the view that funds should be released to ITDPs/ITDAs directly on the pattern of DRDAs under the Ministry of Rural Development. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for early concurrence.

Reply of the Government

4.4 The Ministry had requested for concurrence from the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission for direct release of funds to the ITDAs/ITDPs, but the proposal was not agreed to. However, the issue will again be taken up for reconsideration.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para 2.34)

4.5 The Committee note that the Ministry have been releasing funds to States/UTs/Institutions for construction of Boys and Girls Hostels every year but many of the hostels sanctioned since 2001-2002 are still under various stages of construction. The Committee have been informed that the time-limit for construction of the hostels is a maximum of five years from the date of release of central assistance. Keeping in view the fact that delay in construction work is leading to high escalation in costs besides depriving the tribal students of the benefits, the Committee desire that the States/UTs/Institutions should be persuaded to ensure that all construction work are completed at the earliest and the maximum limit of five years for construction of the hostel is strictly adhered to by them.

Reply of the Government

4.6 It is specifically mentioned in sanction orders that the escalation cost of construction due to delay in construction work will be borne by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. Further, it is also mentioned in the sanction orders that hostels may be completed in earliest possible time. In spite of this, State Governments fail to complete the works timely probably due to delayed mobilization of their 50% share. The matter is also discussed in the review meetings convened in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs every year with the Secretaries of the State Governments and it is emphasized that hostels sanctioned to State Governments should be completed in earliest possible time.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated 2.12.2004)

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para 2.35)

4.7 The Committee further note that the maintenance of hostels is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs and for that purpose funds have to be utilized out of their own annual plans. In the opinion of the Committee, a substantial amount will be involved as recurring expenditure for maintaining and running the hostels. The States/UTs are not giving proper attention to the maintenance of hostels. The Committee, therefore, recommend that while revising the scheme some amount may be earmarked under the scheme for maintenance of the hostels to enable the State Governments and UT administrations to run the hostels effectively.

Reply of the Government

4.8 Noted for compliance at the stage of revision of the Scheme of Boys/Girls Hostels for STs in near future.

**(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated
2.12.2004)**

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER - V**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH
REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE****Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para 2.25)**

5.1 The Committee also note that though there has been an improvement in terms of human development indices of the Scheduled Tribes, many of them are still living below the poverty line. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should coordinate with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments in order to address the main area of concern pertaining to the upliftment of STs, i.e. improvement of HDI and focus their programmes on priority sectors like education, health, drinking water, agriculture, self-employment opportunities, rights of the tribals in forests, etc.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The Ministry had been sanctioning the projects covering focus areas as indicated by the Committee under various schemes of the Ministry but this constitutes only a tiny segment of total funds being spent by Government of India through various Ministries and State Governments plan funds. Though the Ministry had been pursuing with the Central Ministries and State Governments for proportionate allocation of their plan funds for TSP areas but only a little success has been achieved. The recommendation of Sub-Group 4 of the Task Group constituted by the Planning Commission vide their orders dated 4.8.2004 as referred to in Reply to para 2.23, if accepted by Government of India will certainly raise the Human Development Indices (HDI) level in respect of Scheduled Tribes.

**(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated
2.12.2004)**

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para 2.54)

5.3 The Committee note with concern that funds allocated under Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Tribe students have not been adequate.

Moreover, the maintenance allowance applicable under the scheme has been revised from Rs. 235 to 740 per month for hostellers and from Rs. 140 to Rs. 330 per month for day scholars and the income ceiling under the scheme has been enhanced up to Rs. 1 lakhs from April, 2003. The Committee feel that the budgetary allocation of Rs. 65.49 crore for 2004-2005 should be enhanced to meet the requirement of ST students pursuing post matriculation courses. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take up with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance the case for grant of additional funds at the earliest so that the poor ST students are not deprived of the benefits of the scheme.

Reply of the Government

5.4 The Ministry has requested the Planning Commission for additional allotment of funds under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for ST students in view of increase in various provisions under the scheme.

**(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M. No. 16015/2/04 PC & V Vol. IV dated
2.12.2004)**

New Delhi:
18 March, 2005
27 Phalguna, 1926 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson
**Standing Committee on Social Justice and
Empowerment**

ANNEXURE

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH SITTING ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 18TH MARCH, 2005.**

The Committee met from 14.00 hrs. to 15.15 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

MEMBERS**LOK SABHA**

2. Smt. Susmita Bauri
3. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
4. Shri Eknath M.Gaikwad
5. Shri Rupchand Murmu
6. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
7. Dr. R. Senthil
8. Mohd. Sahid Akhlaque
9. Smt. Pratibha Singh
10. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
11. Smt. Usha Verma

RAJYA SABHA

12. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
13. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
14. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
15. Shri Tarlochan Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. (Smt.) P.K. Sandhu - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Under Secretary

2.	XX	XX	XX	XX
3.	XX	XX	XX	XX
4.	XX	XX	XX	XX
5.	XX	XX	XX	XX
6.	XX	XX	XX	XX

7. The Committee then took up the draft Sixth Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Second Report of the Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2004-05' and adopted the same without any amendment.

8. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present the same to Parliament on their behalf.

9. The Committee then placed on record their deep appreciation and thanks to the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their hard work and valuable assistance rendered by them to facilitate the work of the Committee in preparing their draft Reports within the limited time.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE SECOND
REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	15	
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government (Sl. Nos. 1, 4, 9, 12, 14, and 15)	6	40%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government (Sl. Nos. 2, 10 and 13)	3	20%
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee (Sl. Nos. 3, 6, 7 and 8)	4	26.67%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are interim in nature (Sl. Nos. 5 and 11)	2	13.33%

