

8

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT
(2004-05)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**EIGHTH REPORT
ON**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2005-06)**

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2005/Chaitra, 1927 (Saka)

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(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

(2005-06)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 21. 4. 2005

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21. 4. 2005



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 2005/ Chaitra, 1927 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT
(2004-05)**

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
10. Shri Jual Oram
11. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
12. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
13. Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy
14. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
15. Dr. R. Senthil
16. Shri Mohd. Shahid
17. Smt. Pratibha Singh
18. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
19. Smt. Krishna Tirath
20. Smt. Usha Verma
21. Shri K. Yerrannaidu

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
23. Shri Silvius Condpan
24. Shri R.S. Gavai
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. Tunglut - | Sr. Executive Assistant |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-2005) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eighth Report, of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Demands for Grants, 2005-2006.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the current year i.e. 2005-2006 which were laid on the Table of the House on March 24, 2005. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on March 30, 2005. The Committee considered and finalized the Report at their sitting held on April 19, 2005.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and furnishing the information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants and tendering evidence before the Committee.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;

19 April, 2005
29 Chaitra, 1927 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted in October, 1999 by bifurcation of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing a more focused attention on the integrated socio-economic development of the most under privileged section of the Indian society, the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in a coordinated and planned manner. During the period prior to the formation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, matters concerning tribal welfare and development were dealt with by different Ministries of the Government of India at different points of time as stated below:

- i) As a Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs known as the TD Division since Independence to September 1985.
- ii) Ministry of Welfare from September 1985 to May 1998.
- iii) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment from May 1998 to September 1999.

1.2 The Constitution of India does not define Scheduled Tribes as such. Article 366(25) refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. This Article says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification will be considered as Scheduled Tribes. Any further amendment in the list is through an Act of Parliament. The list of Scheduled Tribes is State specific and a community declared as scheduled tribe in a state need not be so in another state. The essential characteristics were first laid down by the Lokur Committee. For a community to be identified as Scheduled Tribe, required characteristics are - (a) Primitive traits (b) a distinctive culture (c) shyness of contact with the public at large (d) geographical isolation and (e) backwardness-social and economic. The inclusion of Scheduled Tribes is an ongoing process.

1.3 The Tribal population of the country as per the 2001 census is 84.51 million constituting 8.14% of the total population. The population of tribes had grown at the growth rate of 21.03 % during the period 1991-2001. More than half the Scheduled Tribes population is concentrated in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat.

1.4 Tribal communities live in about 15% of the country's areas, in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains, forests,

hills and inaccessible areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life at one end of the spectrum, there are 75 Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), at the other, who are characterized by - (a) pre-agriculture level of technology, (b) a stagnant or declining population, (c) extremely low literacy and (d) a subsistence level of economy.

1.5 There are over 500 tribes (with many overlapping communities in more than one State) as notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different States and Union Territories of the country, the largest number being in the State of Orissa, i.e. 62.

1.6 The main concentration of tribal population is in Central India and in the North-eastern States. However, they have their presence in all States and Union Territories except in the States/UTs of Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh. The predominant tribal populated States of the country (tribal population more than 50% of the total population) are; Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

1.7 According to the 1991 census, 42.02% of the Scheduled Tribes population were main workers of whom 54.50% were cultivators and 32.69% agricultural labourers. Thus, about 87% of the main workers from these communities were engaged in primary sector activities. The literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes was around 29.60% as against the national average of 52.20%(as per 1991 census). As per 2001 census, the literacy rate of ST is 47.10% against 65.38% national average. More than three quarters of Scheduled Tribes women are illiterate. The estimate of poverty made by Planning Commission for the year 1999-2000 shows that 51.92% Scheduled Tribes were still living below the poverty line, as against 37.3% of the total population living below the poverty line.

1.8 Socio-economic and political protection for the Scheduled Tribes are also guaranteed under various articles of the Constitution of India.

MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY

1.9 The following is the mandate of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs:

- i) Social security and social insurance with respect to STs
- ii) Tribal Welfare - Planning, Policy formulation, Research and Training
- iii) Tribal development including scholarships to STs
- iv) Promotion of voluntary efforts in the development of STs
- v) The Administrative Ministry with respect to matters concerning

- Scheduled Areas;
- Autonomous districts of Assam excluding roads and bridge works and ferries thereon;
- Regulations framed by Governors of States for Scheduled Areas and for Tribal Areas specified in part A of Table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution;
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes in so far as they relate to STs and
- Issue of directions regarding the drawing up and execution of schemes essential for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes

1.10 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for overall policy planning and coordination of programmes for development of Scheduled Tribes.

1.11 The Demands for Grants asked for by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are given under Demand No.94.

CHAPTER II

REPORT

A. GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

2.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates(BE), Revised Estimates(RE) and Actual Expenditure for the previous three years alongwith the Budget Estimates for the current year showing separately Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure.

PLAN

Year	Rs. (in crore)		
	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2002-2003	1090.00	1012.00	1005.10
2003-2004	1087.00	900.00	893.90
2004-2005	1146.00	1069.45	724.12*
2005-2006	1498.82		

*As on 31.1.2004

NON-PLAN

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2002-2003	6.38	6.39	5.85
2003-2004	10.70	11.30	7.98
2004-2005	13.00	12.50	7.82**
2005-2006	10.92		

** As on 1.1.2005

2.2 The Ministry have stated that in pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee made during 2004-2005, they have maintained satisfactory level of progressive expenditure throughout the year as a result of which there had been no budget cut at RE stage during 2004-2005. However, it may be observed from the above statement that the BE for 2004-2005 has been reduced by 76.55 crore at the RE stage. Also actual expenditure upto 31.1.2004 has been Rs. 724.12 crore only under Plan Head.

2.3 On being asked to state the reasons, the Ministry have informed that they had a budget provision of Rs.1146.00 crore (Plan) for 2004-05 at B.E. stage. During the pre-budget meeting held at the level of Secretary (Expenditure) on 9.11.2004, considering the expenditure position upto 30th September 2004 (48.58% of BE 2004-05), it was agreed to retain the R.E. 2004-05 (Plan) at the B.E. level i.e. Rs.1146.00 crore. However, keeping in view the instructions contained in Secretary (Expenditure)'s D.O. letter No.F.21 (1)-PD/2004 dated 1st January 2005, which states that only 33% of the budgeted expenditure would be

permissible in the last quarter of the financial year 2004-05, the expenditure during 2004-05 (Plan) had to be recalculated and restricted to Rs.1069.445 crore, as per details given below:

(In crore of Rupees)

Expenditure upto December 2004	691.265
33% of Rs.1146.00 crore to be incurred in the 4 th Quarter	378.18
TOTAL	1069.445

Such instructions were not imposed in the earlier years.

2.4 The Committee enquired of the Ministry how they would utilize the entire budgetary allocation during the year 2005-2006. The Ministry have informed that the Budget allocation (Plan) for the year 2005-06 as approved by the Planning Commission is Rs.1498.82 crore. With a view to regularly monitor the pace of expenditure and to speed up plan expenditure more evenly, the Ministry have been diligently pursuing with the State Governments for early submission of the proposals. Also, at the beginning of the financial year meetings are proposed to be held with Secretaries of State Tribal Welfare Departments so that State-wise and scheme-wise projects/proposals of various States can be firmed up and position of utilization of funds also reviewed. The officers of the Ministry would also visit the States to review the progress of the various schemes sanctioned in the year 2004-05 along with early finalization of the proposals for the year 2005-06.

2.5 Asked about the number of meetings held with the State Governments for early submission of proposals and review of utilization of funds during 2004-2005, it has been stated that the issue relating to timely submission of proposals, physical and financial progress, utilization certificate of the central share releases in previous years, etc. have been discussed with the State Government officials in the meetings held on 2nd-4th June, 10th September, 14th-15th September, 21st-22nd September, 2004 and 22nd February, 2005.

2.6 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the BE, RE and Actual Expenditure incurred under both Plan and Non-Plan schemes of the Ministry during 2004-2005 (upto February, 2005) along with the BE for 2005-2006 as under:-

Statement showing B.E./R.E., Expenditure upto February, 2005 and B.E, 2005-2006 in respect of Plan and Non-Plan schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs						
Plan					Rs. (in Crore)	
S. N	Name of the Scheme/ Items	Details of the Scheme/ Item	2004-05		Expenditure	
			B.E.	R.E.	As on 28.02.05	B.E 2005-06
1.	Grant-in-Aid to NGO for STs including Coaching and Allied and award for exemplary Service	Assistance to Vol. Organisations.	30.00	29.00	19.61	22.00
		Special Incentive to NGOs Coaching and Allied	0.50	0.50	--	0.35
			1.50	0.90	0.58	1.05
2.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas	8.50	4.50(States) 1.50(NGOs)	3.43 0.28	5.40
3.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets	Educational Complex	8.50	8.00	2.46	6.00
4.	Investment / Price Support to TRIFED	Price Support to TRIFED	6.00	6.00	6.00	4.00
		Investment in TRIFED	4.01	0.01	--	6.00
5.	Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Corps for MFPs	Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Corps for MFPs	18.00	8.00	4.44	10.80
6.	Village Grain Banks	Village Grain Banks	32.50	0.50	--	--
7.	Development of Primitive		21.50	21.50	21.07	24.75
8.	Support to National/ State ST Finance & Devp. Corporations	National ST Finance & Devp. Corp.	31.00	31.00	--	23.50
		State Tribal & Dev. Finance Corp.	4.50	4.50	--	3.50
9.	New Schemes	Construction of Adivasi Bhavan	7.00	0.01	--	0.01
		Promotion of Tribal Culture	1.50	0.02	--	1.00
10.	Scheme of PMS, Book Bank and Up-gradation of Merit of ST Students	Post Matric Scholarship	63.00	75.90	92.63	229.65
		Book Bank	1.50			
		Up-gradation of Merit of ST students	0.99	0.99	0.39	1.00
11.	Scheme of Hostels for ST Girls & Boys	Girls Hostels	13.00	13.00	6.04	--
		Boys Hostels	11.00			
12.	Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas	Establishment of Ashram Schools	14.00	6.00	3.00	--
13.	Research Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and Others	Research and Training-Grants in Aid to TRIs	4.00	2.50	--	2.60
		Supporting Projects of All-India nature or Inter-State nature for Scheduled Tribes	0.50	0.50	0.10	0.40
		Monitoring & Evaluation	0.50	0.20	--	0.30
		Information and Mass Media	1.50	1.50	0.15	0.75
		Organisation of Tribal Festivals	0.50	0.01	--	0.30
		Exchange of visits by Tribals	0.50	0.50	--	0.75
		Information Technology		0.06	0.055	0.75
14.	Lumpsum provision for North East	Lumpsum provision for North East	32.00	25.25	--	39.00
15.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	497.00	497.00	346.78	727.01
16.	Grant-in-aid under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution	Grant-in-aid under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution	330.00	330.00	234.20	380.00
17.	New Scheme Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students		-	-	-	7.95
	TOTAL		1146.00	1069.45	741.21	1498.82
					69.30%	

Non-Plan

(Rs in Lakhs)

S. No	Head	2004-05			BE 2005-06
		BE	RE	Expenditure (as on 28.2.2005)	
1	Secretariat	516.00	516.90	342.16	540.00
2	Discretionary Grant by Ministers	2.00	2.00	1.90	2.00
3	Welfare of SC, ST and other Backward Classes	238.00	238.00	238.00	0.00
4	National Commission for Scheduled Tribes	450.50	428.62	283.51	456.00
5	Scholarship	80.00	50.00	27.59	80.00
6	Grant to Assam Government under clause (a) of the second proviso to Art. 275 (1) of the Constitution (Charged)	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
	Total (Non Plan)	1300.50	1249.52	907.16	1092.00
				72.60%	

2.7 As regards furnishing of Utilization Certificates(UCs) by the States/UTs, the Ministry have furnished information in respect of the States who could not be released funds during 2004-05 due to non-receipt of UCs as under:-

Scheme of Boys/Girls Hostel

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Meghalaya
4. Orissa

Scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Tamil Nadu

Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for ST Students

1. Bihar

Special Central Assistance to TSP

1. Bihar (50% of the entitlement)
2. Assam (25% of the IInd installment)

2.8 On being asked to state the steps proposed to be taken in regard to the above mentioned States to ensure that UCs are furnished by them regularly and timely, the Ministry have stated that Meetings will be convened with the State Secretaries. It will be impressed upon them to furnish the utilization certificates, and submit proposals. Letters will also be written to these States. The concerns expressed by the Hon'ble Standing Committee will also be brought to their notice.

Transfer of some Schemes

2.9 The Committee have further been informed that the Planning Commission has *suo moto* decided to transfer the scheme of Boys and Girls Hostels and Establishment of Ashram Schools in tribal sub plan areas to the State Governments from 5 February 2005. Also the scheme of Village Grain Banks has been transferred to the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

2.10 On being asked to state the reasons given by the Planning Commission for taking the above schemes out of the ambit of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as well as the views of the Ministry in this regard, the Ministry have been informed that the Planning Commission had transferred the Schemes of "Construction of Boys & Girls Hostels" and "Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas" to the States. The Ministry had, in the Mid Term Appraisal document, not recommended transfer of these Schemes to the States. Even after the decision of the transfer of these Schemes was conveyed to them, they requested the Planning Commission that the schemes should be retained with the Ministry as Centrally Sponsored Schemes, as they are among the major schemes for promotion of education and some of the State Governments may not give priority to these schemes.

2.11 In reply to a query regarding the response of the Planning Commission with regard to the request of the Ministry for retention of the schemes, the Committee have been informed that after the decision taken by the Planning Commission for transferring these schemes, Ministry of Tribal Affairs have taken up the matter at the level of the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs who has requested the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to reconsider their decision for retaining these schemes with the Ministry in the interest of the tribal population. Further decision in this matter is still awaited from the Planning Commission.

The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005

2.12 The Ministry have also stated that in order to undo the historical injustice, the Ministry is in the process of finalizing the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 as a step towards recognition of rights over forest lands and forest resources under occupation of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes.

2.13 In reply to a query whether the Bill will actually confer ownership rights over Minor Forest Produce to the Tribals living in the forests as well as grant patta over the forest land where they are living, the Ministry have informed that as per the draft Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 formulated by the Ministry, the rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes are proposed to include the rights to access to and ownership of minor forest produce as well as the rights to conversion of pattas or leases or grants issued by any local authority or any State Department on forest lands to titles. It may, however, be mentioned that the proposed Bill is still in the process of finalisation.

2.14 During the course of evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs explained the initiative taken by the Ministry regarding formulation of a tribal policy as under:-

“After many years, we have formulated a tribal policy and posted on our website on which we have been getting a lot of advice and a lot of suggestions. In this tribal policy, we are going to deal with all these constraints that we have as far as the development of human development indices of the tribal people are concerned. We are going to list various constraints like malnutrition, poverty, etc. We will be looking at formulating a strategy or have goals for raising development indices within a certain period of time. For instance, we would be looking at the reduction in poverty by a certain number of points by a certain year. We would try to set those kinds of goals for ourselves. Of course, it would depend on whether we are able to build up a proper information base. Some of the issues which we are going to put in the forefront in our tribal policy – the problems of the tribal forest interface, human development indices, land alienation, re-settlement, etc.”

2.15 The Committee note that consequent to the instructions issued by Secretary (Expenditure), Government of India in January, 2005 that only 33 per cent of the budgeted expenditure would be permissible in the last quarter of the financial year 2004-05, the expenditure of the Ministry had to be curtailed to Rs 1069.445 crore from the allocation of Rs 1146 crore. The Ministry have contended that such instructions were not imposed in the earlier years. However, the Committee are constrained to point out that the issues relating to late submission of proposals for various schemes from the States, non receipt of utilization certificates, delay in release of funds etc. have become a regular feature and have not been resolved so far. It results in curtailment of budgetary allocation at RE stage and even lesser actual expenditure during the financial year. The Committee are of the opinion that Ministry should have strictly monitored the pace of expenditure and should have incurred expenditure more evenly and in a phased manner right from the beginning of the financial year. This would have enabled them to retain their entire budgetary allocation without any cuts during the year. The Committee view that it is fiscally prudent to incur expenditure in such a manner that it is evenly distributed throughout the year. The Committee, therefore, recommend that during the financial year 2005-06, the Ministry should ensure that one-fourth of the budgetary allocation is utilized at every quarter and upto December, 2005, 67% of the budgeted expenditure be incurred to avoid any reduction in their allocation. The Committee also hope that for optimum utilization of funds, the Ministry would make all efforts to pursue the State Governments to submit their proposals early, to send the utilization certificates in time against the funds already utilized and ensure that proposals under the scheme are sanctioned and funds utilized evenly throughout the year.

2.16 The Committee note with deep regret that during 2004-05, funds could not be released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Orissa under the Scheme of Boys and Girls Hostels; Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu under Establishment of Ashram Schools in tribal sub-plan areas; Bihar under the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for ST students and Bihar (50% of the entitlement) and Assam (25% of the second installment) under SCA to TSP. The Committee also observe that non-receipt/non-submission of Utilization Certificates by States/UTs is a perennial problem and needs to be resolved at the earliest. In their opinion, for effective implementation of these welfare schemes in all the States/UTs, procedural bottlenecks like late submission of proposals by States/UTs, delay in sanction of proposals, delay in release of funds to the implementing agencies etc. should be minimized. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should convene meetings of State Government representatives at regular intervals and impress upon them to send their proposals right from the beginning of the financial year so that the problem of furnishing utilization certificates in time is considerably reduced.

2.17 The Committee are surprised to note that the Planning Commission has *suo moto* transferred the Schemes of 'Boys and Girls Hostels for STs' and 'Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas' to the State Governments though these Schemes have been very crucial and are among the major

schemes in promoting education among the ST students at faster pace. The Committee also apprehend that these Schemes may not be accorded the priority they deserve under the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Committee are aware that some of the States/UTs are finding it difficult to provide even their matching share for the Schemes as well as the recurring expenditure involved for maintaining and running the Boys and Girls Hostels. During 2004-05, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have not been able to furnish their utilization certificates under these Schemes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to impress upon the Planning Commission the urgent need to bring the Schemes of 'Boys and Girls Hostels for STs' and 'Establishments of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas' under their purview once again so that the pace of education of the poor tribal students do not suffer on account of State Government's apathy.

2.18 The Committee are pleased to note that the Ministry is in the process of finalizing the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 in order to undo the historical injustice suffered by the poor tribals. The Committee fully support this measure and are also happy to note that this Bill, if enacted, will confer ownership rights over minor forest produce to the tribals as well as rights to conversion of pattas or leases or grants issued by any local authority or any State Department on forest lands to titles. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to draft and finalise the proposed Bill in coordination/consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and bring the same to Parliament at the earliest.

2.19 The Committee commend the efforts of the Government in formulating a draft National Tribal Policy and posting it on the website of the Ministry for getting advice and suggestions from all across the country. The Committee feel that formulation of a National Policy for Tribals is long overdue yet it is a right step forward for the development of Scheduled Tribes. At this crucial juncture, the Committee desire that the Ministry should take a deep look into the core issues hindering the development of the tribals. The Committee, therefore, urge that the key issues like Poverty, Malnutrition, problems of Health, Tribal Forest Interface, Human Development Indices, Land Alienation, Resettlement etc. may be addressed in the National Tribal Policy and a comprehensive Action Plan be formulated for overall development of tribal people within a definite time frame so that a visible impact is seen in the next decade.

Major Head: 3601
 Sub Major Head: 02
 Head No: 02.00.31

B. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (SCA) TO TRIBAL SUB - PLAN (TSP)

2.20 The programme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan was started in 1974-75. The Ministry supplements the efforts of the State Government by extending special central assistance to State TSP. The objective and scope of SCA to TSP which was originally meant for filling up of the critical gaps in the family-based income-generation activities of the TSP, has been expanded to cover the employment-cum-income generation activities and the infrastructure incidental thereto, not only family-based, but also community based through Cluster approach. The ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand based income-generation programmes in tribal areas and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals.

2.21 Special Central Assistance is provided to 21 Tribal Sub-Plan States and 2 Union Territories including north eastern states of Assam, Manipur and Tripura. The Ministry provides 100% grant.

2.22 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditure incurred during the last three years as under:-

Rs. (in crore)			
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2002-2003	500.00	500.00	499.59
2003-2004	497.00	461.30	461.30
2004-2005	497.00	497.00	346.78*
2005-2006	727.01		

* As on 1.3.2005

2.23 The Committee pointed out that Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan is one scheme of the Ministry where 100% utilisation has always taken place and enquired whether the Ministry is satisfied that the benefits of the huge allocations made year after year percolate to the poor tribals living below the poverty line. The Ministry have stated that earlier the SCA to TSP was part of Normal Central Assistance (NCA) and, therefore, block grants used to be released to the States. Only from the year 2004-05, we have asked the State Governments to identify thrust areas and adopt cluster approach. The Ministry wanted to start this from the 1st year of 10th Five Year Plan itself. However, the States had strong objections and needed time for the new system to be adopted by them. In 2005-06, the Ministry will be able to find out whether the States have indeed followed the ITDP wise break-up and the cluster approach as indicated in the Sanctioned Letters. It may also be mentioned that earlier the funds were

meant only for individual family oriented income generating schemes as a result of which the funds were very widely dispersed with hardly any impact visible on the ground.

2.24 The Committee further enquired about the monitoring mechanism in the Ministry to ensure that funds released by them are actually utilised by States/UTs as intended. The Ministry have informed that to ensure that the funds released under SCA to TSP by the Ministry are actually utilized by the States, the revised guidelines on release and utilisation of SCA to TSP issued vide F.No.14020/5/2003-SG&C dated 2.5.2003 provide for monitoring mechanism to ensure effective monitoring and progress reports; all States/UTs should ensure the development of an information system for the smooth flow of information, both vertical and horizontal, about all the projects sanctioned/implemented/completed with the funds of SCA to TSP, from time to time. "Assessment of actual programmes/schemes implemented under TSP on the socio-economic conditions of the tribal people covered under ITDPs, MADAs, Clusters, PTGs, as the case may be should specifically be undertaken." In fact, this would not only enable the State Govts/UTs to regulate the otherwise defunct system of reporting on the subject – right from the village level to the Block/District/State to the Central level, but would also help avoid the existing major problem of diversion of funds of SCA to TSP to the other general developmental/infrastructural projects. Progress reporting to the Centre by States/UTs, as visualized, has to be done both on a half-yearly and annual basis, while projects to districts/States are to be reported on quarterly basis. To this effect, the copies of the Formats indicating allocation and utilization of SCA to TSP funds by the State Governments/UTs, for reporting progress from the Project/Block level to the State/UT and the State/UT to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, are provided in the aforesaid guidelines. We have also included a 10% incentive mechanism for those TSP States who spend at least 75% of State TSP funds.

2.25 In reply to a query whether progress reporting to the Centre by States/UTs on a half-yearly and annual basis and projects to Districts/States on quarterly basis as envisaged in the revised guidelines for release and utilisation of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan is strictly enforced by the Ministry, it has been stated that the Ministry is emphasizing the need for submission of quarterly progress report by the states through letters, meetings and visits of officers of the Ministries to States.

2.26 As regards the proposed utilization of the increased allocation of Rs. 727 crore for 2005-2006, the Ministry have stated that out of total allocation of Rs.727.00 crore for 2005-06 under SCA to TSP, an amount of Rs. 230 crore has been allocated by the Planning Commission for development of forest villages over and above Rs.497.00 crore for Annual Plan 2005-06. The same will be utilized for the purpose for which it has been allocated by the Planning Commission. Rs.497.00 crore will be utilized as per the guidelines referred to

above. This amount of Rs. 230 crore on forest villages is to be allocated by the Committee formed for this purpose by the Planning Commission.

2.27 Asked to explain the concept of 'Forest village', the Ministry have informed that the forest villages are those villages which were set up in remote and inaccessible forest areas during British period with a view to provide uninterrupted manpower for forestry operations. These villages are recorded in the records of Forest Department. However, many of these villages are not covered by the jurisdiction of block and revenue authorities as these are not revenue villages.

2.28 As regards the action plan formulated by the Ministry for the development of forest villages, it has been stated that the Planning Commission had appointed a Tripartite Committee in the Ministry of Environment & Forests having representation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and the Planning Commission for considering the proposals of the State Governments for integrated development of the forest villages and the people mainly tribals inhabiting these villages.

2.29 The Tripartite Committee held a meeting on 26.3.2004 wherein it was decided to take up integrated development of forest villages beginning with the States of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. In the subsequent meeting of the Committee held on 11.8.2004, it was decided that all the 3000 forest villages might be taken up for development during the Tenth Plan Period at an average requirement of Rs. 15 lakh per forest village at a total cost of Rs.450 crore. The development envisaged would be in terms of providing basic minimum facilities and services, like, food, safe drinking water, health care, primary education, approach roads and other infrastructure facilities. The Guidelines were accordingly issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests on 2.4.2004 to the above mentioned 5 States for formulation of projects for consideration by the Committee.

2.30 This Ministry also approached the Planning Commission on 14.9.2004 to provide funds to the tune of Rs. 450 crore for development of 3000 forest villages under the Scheme of SCA to TSP during the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission has since provided additional funds to the tune of Rs. 230 crore for the development of these villages under SCA to TSP over and above Rs. 497 crore provided for Annual Plan 2005-06.

2.31 Project proposals received from the States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh for development of forest villages, through their Forest Development Agencies, received by the Ministry are as under:

State	No. of Forest Villages	Outlay proposed by the State Government (Rs. in crore)
West Bengal	170	33.67
Madhya Pradesh	925	88.39
Assam	499	47.98 (for development of 373 forest villages)
Gujarat	199	26.43
Chhattisgarh	425	56.05

2.32 The above project proposals would be considered for sanction during 2005-06.

2.33 It has been stated that one of the main features of the revised guidelines regarding release and utilisation of SCA to TSP is that SCA funds are to be earmarked for each Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) separately. On being asked about the States/UTs who have complied with the guidelines, the Committee have been informed that during the year 2004-05, the Ministry have earmarked funds under SCA to TSP ITDP-wise and all the States have been advised to release these funds to ITDPs accordingly. Only Assam has asked for an extension of one year to switch over to the new guidelines.

2.34 On being enquired whether the remaining States have been releasing Special Central Assistance ITDP-wise and whether any follow-up action has been taken with them in this regard, the Ministry have informed that they have started releasing ITDP-wise funds from the year 2004-05. The situation will be assessed in 2005-06 whether the States have done so.

2.35 The Committee pointed out that the scheme of SCA to TSP, started in the Fifth Five Year Plan has been going on for the last few decades and enquired whether it has ever been evaluated by the Planning Commission or by some outside agency. The Ministry have informed that they have requested the PEO of Planning Commission vide letter No.15012/1/2001-SG& C dated 27.1.2003 to evaluate the scheme of SCA to TSP. The Report is awaited from the Planning Commission.

2.36 The Committee note that over the years utilization of funds under the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan has always been satisfactory. However, hardly any impact is visible on the ground though the Scheme has been in operation since the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Ministry have informed that from the year 2004-05, State Governments have been asked to identify thrust areas and adopt cluster approach. The Ministry wanted to start this from 1st year of the Tenth Five Year Plan itself. But the States have raised strong objections on the ground that time is required for the new system to be adopted by them. The Committee hope that during the year 2005-06 the Ministry would impress upon the State Governments to identify the thrust areas and follow ITDP-wise breakup and cluster approach. Keeping in view the fact that major chunk of the budgetary allocation of the Ministry is for the Scheme of SCA to TSP, the Committee desire that achievement under the Scheme, both in physical and financial terms should be properly assessed. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to maintain proper coordination with the States and constantly monitor the status of the projects sanctioned/implemented with SCA funds. The Committee also recommend that progress reporting to the Centre by States/UTs on a half yearly and annual basis and projects to the Districts/States on a quarterly basis as envisaged in the revised guidelines for release and utilization of SCA funds should be strictly enforced by the Ministry. Progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

2.37 The Committee note that during 2005-06, the Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs 230 crore for development of 'Forest Villages' numbering 3000 under the Scheme of SCA to TSP against the requirement of Rs. 450 crore, at an average requirement of Rs 15 lakh per forest village, for the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. The Ministry have also received project proposals from the States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh which would be considered for sanction during 2005-06. Keeping in view the fact that the requirement of funds for development of Forest Villages is to the tune of Rs. 450 crore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should approach the Planning Commission for allocation of an additional Rs 220 crore for the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan and finalise the proposals received from the above mentioned States expeditiously so that funds could be released to them early. The States which have not sent the project proposals may be pursued to send their proposals without any delay. The Committee further recommend that specific action plan for providing basic minimum facilities and services like food, safe drinking water, health care, primary education, approach roads and other infrastructure facilities to the 3000 Forest Villages should be formulated and implemented in consultation with other concerned Ministries/Departments to ensure that the benefits of the programme reach the tribal people inhabiting these villages.

2.38 The Committee note that from the year 2004-05, the Ministry have started releasing funds under SCA to TSP for each ITDP separately and all the States have also been advised to release the funds to the ITDPs accordingly. The Committee further note that the details regarding release of SCA funds by States ITDP-wise could be assessed only from the financial year 2005-06. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should conduct review meetings with the States/UTs at the earliest in order to assess the progress of implementation of the guidelines issued by the Ministry in this regard. The Committee also desire that information about the number of States who have complied with the guidelines so far as well as the problems and difficulties, if any, being faced by the States in releasing the SCA funds to the ITDPs separately and remedial measures taken thereon may be conveyed to them.

Major Head: 3601
Sub Major Head:03
Head No: 03.00.31

C. GRANTS UNDER FIRST PROVISIO TO ARTICLE 275(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION

2.39 Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India guarantees grants from the Consolidated Fund of India each year for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and in pursuance to this Constitutional obligation, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides funds through a Central Sector Scheme "Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution." The Scheme covers all Tribal Sub-Plan and 4 tribal majority States of the country. Under the Scheme, 100% grants are provided by the Ministry to meet the cost of each project for tribal development as may be undertaken by the State Government for raising the level of administration of scheduled areas therein and for welfare of the tribal people to bring them at par with the rest of the States.

2.40 The Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates for the year 2004-2005 under the scheme was Rs.330 crore out of which an amount of Rs 233.85 crore has been spent as on 1 March, 2005. The BE for 2005-06 is Rs. 380 crore.

2.41 Asked to state how the Ministry proposes to utilise the budgetary allocation of Rs. 380 crore during 2005-06, the Ministry have informed that out of budgetary allocation of Rs.380 crore during 2005-06 an amount of Rs.50 crore has been allocated as an additional outlay towards minor irrigation over and above Rs.330 crore. An amount of Rs.330 crore would be utilized for infrastructure projects, Eklavya Model Residential School(EMRS) and innovative projects as per revised guidelines of the Ministry on release and utilization of grant-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

2.42 During the course of evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs apprised the Committee about how the new initiative under minor irrigation will benefit the poor tribal people as under: -

"We have been given Rs. 50 crore for minor irrigation, under Article 275 (1). As the Committee is aware, almost 50 per cent of the tribal population are engaged in agriculture, of course, it still is very primitive and subsistent agriculture. It is very marginal agriculture. This is an effort in the direction of providing irrigation facilities to these people who have not had any benefits from irrigation so far. We will be spending Rs. 50 crore in the first year. Depending on the experience, in the coming year, we will then be pitching our claims for more funds for the development of irrigation. This is the first time that we will be getting, really in a big way, into irrigation activities which are very crucial for the development of tribal areas. "

2.43 The Ministry have also informed that with the objective of providing quality education to the tribal students, it was decided during 1997-98 to utilize a part of funds under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution, for setting up of 100 Model Residential Schools from Class 6 to 12 in different States, to enable tribal students to avail of the facility of reservation in higher and professional educational courses as well as in higher levels of jobs in the Government and public sector undertakings. During the Ninth Five Year Plan period, funds have been released for the setting up of 84 Model Residential Schools, spread over 22 States in the country. The schools are to be operated in each State through an autonomous society formed for this purpose. In order to provide a uniform pattern of education in those schools and enable their students to compete effectively for higher education programmes (medical, technical, etc) an initiative has been taken to introduce the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus in these schools and affiliate these schools to the CBSE. These schools are being named as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS). As on date, 90 such schools have been sanctioned.

2.44 A statement showing the details of funds released to States/UTs for setting up the residential schools, amount actually utilised by them and the number of residential schools set up during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise has been furnished as under:-

(Rs. In lakhs)

S. No	State	No. of Schools for which amount released	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05
			AR	ER	AR	ER	AR	ER	AR
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	1050.00	1050.00	120.00	120.00	250.00	250.00	280.00
2	Assam	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Bihar/Jharkhand	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Gujarat	8	800.00	582.98	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	40.00
5	Himachal Pradesh	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
7	Karnataka	3	605.37	605.37	0.00	0.00	97.00	97.00	
8	Kerala	2	0.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	40.00		
9	Madhya Pradesh/Chattisgarh	9	809.63	809.63	0.00	0.00	285.58		334.79
10	Maharashtra	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
11	Manipur	3	0.00	0.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
12	Orissa	10	840.00	250.12	200.00	140.00	260.00	260.00	830.21
13	Rajasthan	7	550.00	478.00	0.00	0.00	70.00		
14	Sikkim	1	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
15	Tamil Nadu	1	195.00	93.89	0.00	0.00	40.00		
16	Tripura	3	150.00	150.00	300.00	225.00	0.00	0.00	
17	Uttar Pradesh	1	150.00	148.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
18	West Bengal	5	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	370.00	370.00	455.00
19	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
20	Meghalaya	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
21	Mizoram	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00
22	Nagaland	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
23	Jharkhand		0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
24	Chattisgarh	8	0.00	0.00	285.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
25	Uttaranchal	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00		50.00
	Total	90	5300.00	4318.03	2000.00	635.00	1542.58	977.00	2200.00

AR – Amount Released,

ER – Expenditure Reported

2.45 On being asked to state why no amount has been released to the States of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during 2003-04 and 2004-05, the Ministry have stated that the release of funds to the States for establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools depends upon physical and financial progress reported by the State in respect of number of schools allotted to them. As these schools are in various stages of establishment, the release of funds vary from State to State. However, specific reasons for non-release of funds to certain States during 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as under:

2.46 The States of Assam, Meghalaya have not yet formed the society and have not utilized the funds released to these States as advance amount for establishment of EMRS in the States.

2.47 The EMRS allotted to undivided Bihar have been transferred to the State of Jharkhand after its bifurcation and the State of Bihar has not asked for any such school in that State as the ST population is very low.

2.48 The State of Himachal Pradesh has been released an advance of Rs.1 crore for one school but have not yet started the school.

2.49 The State of Maharashtra has not submitted satisfactory report on physical/financial progress in respect of 4 schools allotted to the State.

2.50 Three EMRS were allotted to the State of Manipur for which an amount of Rs.625 lakhs has been released to the State. Though the State has reported that 75 to 80% work is complete in respect of two schools yet the construction of third school is yet to be started.

2.51 **Sikkim:** Entire capital cost of Rs.2.50 crore has been released for one EMRS allotted to the State. The school is under construction as reported by the State Govt.

2.52 **Tripura:** Entire capital cost of Rs. 7.50 crore has been released to the State for 3 schools allotted to the State. The schools are yet to start.

2.53 **Uttar Pradesh:** Entire capital cost of Rs.2.50 crore has been released for one EMRS allotted to the State. The school is yet to start.

2.54 **Nagaland:** Entire capital cost of Rs. 7.50 crore has been released to the State for 3 schools allotted to the State. The schools are under construction and not yet functioning.

2.55 **Arunachal Pradesh:** The State has not furnished any physical/financial progress in respect of Rs.1 crore released as an advance for 1 school allotted to the State.

2.56 **Jharkhand:** The EMRS allotted to undivided Bihar have been transferred to the State of Jharkhand. An amount of Rs.10 crore has been released to the State for 4 schools (an amount of Rs.6.00 crore directly released to the State of Jharkhand and Rs.4.00 crore stated to have been transferred by the State of Bihar at the time of bifurcation. In 3 places construction work has been started and the schools are not running.

2.57 **Chhattisgarh:** An amount of Rs.10.85 crore has been released to the State for establishment of 8 EMRS in the State (an amount of Rs.8.00 crore stated to have been transferred by the State of Madhya Pradesh at the time of bifurcation and an amount of Rs.2.85 crore released by the Ministry to the State. The buildings are under construction.

2.58 When enquired whether targets have been fixed for the Tenth Plan Period, the Ministry have stated that they have so far released funds for 90 Eklavya Model Residential Schools and the efforts of the Ministry during Tenth Plan would be to make all these schools functional. Additional schools would be considered from next year now that most schools sanctioned are nearing completion.

2.59 As regards setting up of autonomous societies for running the residential schools, the Ministry have stated that 21 States have set up Autonomous Societies for running the residential schools. Out of 90 Schools 20 schools have been completed and are functioning, 51 are under construction and running in a rented/ Govt. buildings. Construction is yet to be started for the remaining schools.

2.60 The States of Assam, Meghalaya and Uttranchal have not set up societies for running and maintaining their schools.

2.61 On being asked whether CBSE syllabus has been introduced in all the residential schools it was informed that the issue was discussed with the Chairman, CBSE and Ministry of Human Resource Development for affiliation of EMRS with CBSE who agreed for the same. Accordingly, a copy of the affiliation Bye laws alongwith a prescribed application was sent to all the State

Governments during 2002-03 for taking up separately with the CBSE. The States of MP and Gujarat have intimated that it may be kept pending for the time being.

2.62 The Committee further enquired whether the views of other States have been sought in this regard and the reasons for the reservations from the States wherein they have been informed that the views of the other States are being sought in this regard. Some of the States want to adopt the syllabus of the State Board.

2.63 The Committee are pleased to note that from the year 2005-06, the Ministry is foraying into the field of minor irrigation in a big way with an allocation of Rs 50 crore for the purpose. The Committee observe that agriculture in the tribal areas is very primitive and marginal yet it is the main source of sustenance for 50 per cent of the tribal population. An under developed irrigation infrastructure in the tribal areas often leave them at the mercy of the monsoons. The Committee feel that this laudable initiative undertaken by the Ministry will immensely benefit the poor tribal people in the long run. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to formulate and implement the programme of creating minor irrigation facilities in tribal areas earnestly to enable the tribal people to rise above poverty and bring them on the path of economic self-reliance.

2.64 The Committee note with deep regret that under the Scheme of Establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools, funds have not been released to the States of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during 2003-04 and 2004-05 due to various reasons like non setting up of autonomous societies for running the Residential Schools, non-receipt of proposals, schools under construction/ construction not yet started, non functioning of Schools, etc. The Committee further note that during the Tenth Five Year Plan, funds have been released for 90 Eklavya Model Residential Schools and additional schools would be considered from next year now since most of the schools sanctioned are nearing completion. Keeping in view the fact that no additional schools have been considered pending completion of the schools already sanctioned, the Committee urge the Ministry to ensure that the sanctioned schools are completed well in time and made functional at the earliest so that additional schools could be sanctioned for providing quality education to the ST students. The Committee also desire that the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Uttaranchal may be persuaded to set up autonomous societies for running and maintaining the residential schools.

2.65 The Committee note with concern that though the issue of affiliation of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been agreed to by the Chairman, CBSE and Ministry of Human Resource Development, it appears that most of the State Governments are having reservations about introducing CBSE syllabus in the Eklavya Model Residential Schools set up in their respective States. The Committee further note that Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have intimated to keep the issue pending while some of the States wanted to adopt the syllabus of their State Board. In the opinion of the Committee, the syllabus followed by Eklavya Model Residential Schools should be on the same pattern of CBSE as the schools run by State Governments are following the syllabus of their own State Boards. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to persuade the States to adopt CBSE syllabus for all the Eklavya Model Residential Schools so that ST students studying in these schools are provided quality education on par with the national level and will also be able to compete for higher education programmes and higher level of jobs, both in the Government and in public sector undertakings. Progress achieved in this regard may be conveyed to the Committee.

Major Head: 2225, 3601
 Sub Major Head: 11, 06
 Head No: 11.00.31, 06.00.31

D. SCHEME OF POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS, BOOK BANKS AND UPGRADATION OF MERIT OF ST STUDENTS

2.66 The objective of the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to students belonging to Scheduled Tribes pursuing post matriculation recognised courses in recognised institutions. The scheme covers professional, technical as well as non-professional and non-technical courses at various levels and also includes correspondence courses including distance education. The Scheme of Book Banks is also a component of Post Matric Scholarships Scheme from the Tenth Five Year Plan. Its objective is to provide books to deserving ST students pursuing medical, engineering, agriculture, veterinary, diploma courses in Polytechnics, law, chartered accountancy, MBA and bio-science courses. Under the scheme component of Upgradation of Merit of ST Students, remedial and special coaching in classes IX to XII are provided to upgrade the merit of ST students.

2.67 The Budget Estimates under the Scheme for 2004-2005 was Rs. 65.49 crore which has been enhanced to Rs. 76.99 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. As on 1st March, 2005, an amount of Rs. 81.62 crore has been spent. The budgetary allocation of the scheme for 2005-06 is Rs. 230.65 crore of which Rs. 229.65 have been earmarked for Post matric scholarship.

2.68 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the amount of grants-in-aid released under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarships and the number of beneficiaries state-wise during the last three years as under:-

S.NO	NAME OF STATE/UT	2001-02 Amount	Actual Benefi- ciaries	2002-03 Amount	Actual Benefi- ciaries	2003-04 Amount	Actual Benefi- ciaries	2004-05 Amount	(antici- pated) benefi- ciaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	1915.09	58060	774.88	60652	2435.7	69427	1084.23	72625
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1130	0	3544	65.19	8190	0	13347
3	Assam	0	44965	1275.94	0	0	57850	0	58998
4	Bihar	0	2257	0	19.29	0	1796	0	2982
5	Gujarat	0	59417	0	62600	185.27	162446	119	106687
6	Himachal Pradesh	20.27	3955	0	2280	0	2956	9.17	49.50
7	Jammu & Kashmir	39.03	2899	6.5	5116	0	993	196.07	2542
8	Karnataka	239.75	37458	75.38	24455	0	31892	400	35081
9	Kerala	92	3555	0	4624	0	5200	0	5707
10	Madhya Pradesh	323.18	36251	0	40032	81.62	41649	899.04	46000
11	Maharashtra	368.61	54286	165.02	55403	391.92	5549	1042.86	47609
12	Manipur	737.49	31746	820.11	32152	928.93	30274	489	34512
13	Meghalaya	732.71	36251	805.98	39876	339.99	41869	926.28	43962
14	Mizoram	249	13590	370.98	14190	369	17612	900.99	20413
15	Nagaland	5.9.82	21898	697.19	24753	1028.61	27615	507	31757

16	Orissa	0	30545	0	35526	0	35000	0	35000
17	Rajasthan	1110.05	61872	131.95	65199	484	68404	1792.57	83416
18	Sikkim	0	370	0	689	12.69	672	15.01	15111
19	Tamil Nadu	3.31	418	0	589	0	1545	49.05	1778
20	Tripura	90.79	6217	0	5462	161.09	6157	121.35	7827
21	Uttar Pradesh	6.4	378	0	354	0	468	107.62	3996
22	West Bengal	73.63	12391	0	13323	94.57	11135	345.31	16370
23	A. & N. Island	0.55	171	1.59	199	0.89	210	2.74	250
24	Daman & Diu	0	0	1.05	107	0	19	0	24
25	Uttaranchal	166.54	8117	0	8582	0	9839	137.5	12052
26	Chattishgarh	0	44147	32.07	46907	0	54645	106.45	60109
27	Jharkhand	0	30221	0	27272	0	8187	0	10585
28	Goa					0	262	12.09	290
	Total	6678.22	603060	5158.64	575815	6579.47	751761	9263.33	760380

2.69 It has been observed from the above statement that no amount has been released to the States/UT of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Orissa, Daman & Diu and Jharkhand during 2004-05. However, number of beneficiaries are shown.

2.70 On being asked the reasons for the same, the Committee have been informed that the expenditure on Post Matric Scholarship Scheme is shared by State Governments also up to their Committed Liability. The 100% Central Funds are released to meet the expenditure over and above the committed liability. The above mentioned State Govts. submitted their proposals but no funds were released to them for reasons mentioned below:-

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Reasons.
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	During the year 1999-2000 an amount of Rs. 130.00 lakhs was released. The State Govt. could not utilize this amount. up to 2003-04 and no amount has been demanded in 2001-2002 & 2002-03. During the current year proposals from three different Departments of the State Government were received. The Directorate of Schools Education has requested for PMS for 11 th and 12 th class students, Directorate of Higher & Technical Education requested for students studying in Polytechnics etc. and Department of Family Welfare for nurses courses etc. State Govt. was requested to coordinate with the other departments and submit a single proposal to this Ministry in prescribed format. State Govt. has not submitted the complete proposal with due coordination with other Departments and grants could not be released.
2.	Assam	An amount of Rs.275.94 lakhs is unspent with State Govt. and an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs has been released on 28.3.2005
3.	Bihar	There is a Committed Liability of Rs. 40.00 lakhs. State Govt. will disburse Rs. 40 lakhs from their own budget. The total anticipated expenditure for the year 2004-05 has been shown to be Rs. 50.00 lakhs. The Central Share comes to Rs. 10.00 lakhs but there is unspent amount of Rs. 7.00 crore with State Govt. therefore, no Central share has been released.
4.	Kerala	An amount of Rs. 146.14 lakhs has been released on 28.3.2005.
5.	Orissa	There is a committed Liability of Rs. 492.69 lakhs. The State Govt. will provide this amount. The Central Share for the year 2003-04 was

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Reasons.
		also adjusted from unspent amt. The proposals for the year 2004-05 has not been received. During the year 2003-04 anticipated beneficiaries were shown 35000. The State Govt., while submitting proposal furnishes the actual number of beneficiaries of the last year and anticipated beneficiaries for the current year. The proposal for the year 2004-05 has not been received therefore, the beneficiaries for the year 2003-04 & 2004-05 indicates the anticipated figures.
6.	Daman & Diu	UT Administration has submitted the proposal and stated that there is no requirement of Central Share because the anticipated expenditure for the year 2004-05 is covered with in their committed liability.
7.	Jharkhand	There is a committed liability of Rs. 437.27 lakhs and an amount of Rs. 200.00 lakhs has been released on 28.3.2005.

2.71 As regards complaints regarding delay in sanction/disbursements of scholarships to the ST students and efforts made by the State Governments to overcome these deficiencies, it was stated that the grants are released to the State Governments by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on receipt of complete proposals which inter-alia includes the utilization certificates of the grants released in the previous years and compliance of committed liability clause and other details such as number of beneficiaries etc. Sometimes the State Governments are not able to compile all these details well in time and they are not able to send their proposals to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. As a result of it, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was not able to release funds to the State Governments in time. This in turn was resulting in delay in disbursement of scholarships to the Scheduled Tribe students by the State Governments. To overcome this difficulty, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with effect from the financial year 2004-05 took a decision to release 'on account' payments to the State Governments to the extent of 50% of the Central share of the previous year.

2.72 The Committee enquired whether the practice of releasing 'on account' payments to the State Governments has yielded the desired result and whether it is proposed to be continued during 2005-06. The Ministry have stated that the policy did have a positive impact because the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have not received any complaint about delays in disbursement of scholarships. Therefore the policy will be continued during 2005-06 also.

2.73 A Statement indicating the State-wise grant-in-aid released under the Scheme of Book Banks for Scheduled Tribes during the last three years has been furnished by the Ministry as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		Amount Released	Beneficiaries	Amount Released	Beneficiaries	Amount Released	Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	30.2945	1210	47.2	3496		
2	Assam	1.995	51	0	0	3	152
3	Gujarat	4.88	491	10.25	484		
4	Karnataka	23.94	1300	20	1398	20	1536
5	Rajasthan	6	200	5.2	960	5.6	2761
6	Tamil Nadu	2.0625	144	2.64	180		
7	Tripura	2.828	96	1.49	93		
8	Chhatisgarh	0	0	8.208	507	7.3	478
9	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	30.13	2177	18.09	1876
10	West Bengal	0	0	2.8457	170		
11	J&K	Nil	Nil	7	386		
12	Orissa	Nil	Nil	5.02	326	5.62	350
13	Uttranchal					2.42	186
14	Himachal Pradesh					1.4	87
	Total	72	3492	139.9837	10177	63.43	7426

2.74 On being asked to furnish the amount of funds released and number of beneficiaries covered during 2004-05, the Ministry have informed that the Scheme of Book Bank has been merged with the Scheme of PMS with effect from 2003-04. The funding pattern for the Book Bank scheme which has been merged is yet to be decided. Therefore no grants-in-aid has been released for the year 2004-05 for the Book Bank component pending decision on the funding pattern. Therefore it is not possible to furnish the number of beneficiaries for the year 2004-05 at this stage.

2.75 The Committee pointed out that the amount of funds released and number of beneficiaries covered under Upgradation of Merit of ST students have been decreasing during the last two years and enquired why funds have not been released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat during 2004-05. The Ministry have stated that grants are released under the scheme only to those States whose proposals are received complete in all respects along with the utilisation certificates of the previous year's grant. Due to this reason, grants-in-aid could not be released to the above mentioned States and this has resulted in a decrease in the number of beneficiaries.

2.76 The Committee note with concern that during 2004-05 no funds could be released under the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship to the State of Arunachal Pradesh due to lack of complete proposals; Assam and Bihar because of unspent balance lying with the State Governments; Orissa due to non-receipt of proposals and Jharkhand as it has to fulfill its committed liability. The Committee are of the opinion that the poor ST students are being deprived of the much needed financial assistance for pursuing higher education due to apathy of the State Governments. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to impress upon the States to fulfill their commitment towards the ST students and pursue them to (i) send their proposals complete in all respect early, (ii) utilise the funds released to them during the same financial year so that no unspent balances remain with them and (iii) fulfill their committed liability under the Scheme. The Committee appreciate that the Ministry have taken a decision to release 'on account' payments to the State Governments to the extent of 50% of the Central Share of the previous year and hope this policy will continue further for the benefit of tribal students.

2.77 The Committee take a serious note of the fact that funding pattern for the Scheme of Book Bank, which has been merged with the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship from the year 2003-04 is yet to be decided and hence grants-in-aid could not be released for this component during the year 2004-05. The Committee strongly recommend the Ministry to finalise the funding pattern under the Book Bank Scheme early so that funds for this component could be released from the beginning of the financial year 2005-06.

2.78 The Committee further note that the number of beneficiaries covered under 'Upgradation of Merit of ST Students' has been decreasing during the last two years. Also, grants-in-aid could not be released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat due to non-receipt of proposals complete in all respect along with utilisation certificates from the previous years. The Committee are not happy with the situation and urge the Ministry to vigorously persuade the States to send proposals under the Scheme right at the beginning of the financial year and take positive steps to ensure early submission of utilization certificates by the States so that the tribal students are not deprived of the benefits of the Schemes.

Major Head: 2225, 3601

Sub Major Head: 09, 21, 13

Head No: 09.00.31, 21.00.31, 13.00.31

E. RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MASS EDUCATION, TRIBAL FESTIVALS AND OTHERS

2.79 The Schemes of Research and Training, Grants-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), supporting projects of All India nature or Inter State Nature of Scheduled Tribes, National Institute for Research and Training for Scheduled Tribes, Information and Mass Media, Organisation of Tribal Festivals, Exchange of visits of Tribals have been merged into an umbrella scheme of Research Information and Mass media education, Tribal Festivals and others from the Tenth Five Year Plan.

2.80 The Budget Estimates for the year 2004-2005 under the Scheme was Rs.7 crore which was reduced to Rs.5.21 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. The actual expenditure as on 1st March, 2005 is Rs.0.24 crore. The reasons for the shortfall is that proposals are in process. The Budget Estimates for 2005-2006 is Rs.5.10 crore.

2.81 The Committee enquired when the proposals are likely to be finalised and whether provisions have been made in the budgetary allocation for 2005-06 wherein they have been informed that proposals of State Governments of Chattisgarh and Karnataka for setting up of a TRI in their respective State have been agreed to by the Ministry and Central Assistance has also been released in the year 2004-05. The proposal of State Government of Himachal Pradesh for setting up of a TRI is still under consideration due to non receipt of complete proposal from the State Government.

2.82 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the number of scholars awarded grants and the amount released to the State Governments during the last three years as under:-

(Rs. In lakhs)									
S.No	Name of State/ T.R.I.s	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Amount released	No. of Scholars	Amount released	No. of Scholars	Amount released	No. of Scholars	Amount released	No. of Scholars
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.27	5	0.48	1	0.92	2	0.48	1
2.	Assam	0.44	1	-		-			
3.	Jharkhand	3.74	4	-		-		0.87	1
4.	Kerala	-		-				0.44	1
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.39	1	-		-			
6.	Manipur	0.44	1	-		-			
7.	Orissa	4.84	11	3.64	7	-		0.92	2
8.	Rajasthan	1.11	3	0.43	1	0.65	2		
9.	Tamil Nadu	-		1.97	4				
10.	Tripura	0.36	1	-		-			
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.44	1	-				1.28	2
12.	West Bengal	1.21	3	-		-		3.73	6
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0.92	2	-		0.43	1	1.84	3
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.44	1	0.44	1				
15.	Karnataka	0.76	1	-		-			
16.	J&K			0.44	1	-			
17.	Chhattisgarh							0.44	1
	Total	17.36	35	7.40	15	2.00	5	10.00	17

2.83 The Committee observed from the above that the number of scholars and amount released under 'Award of Research Fellowship in various aspects of Tribal Development' has been decreasing for the past two years i.e. during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

2.84 On being asked to state the reasons, it has been stated that under the scheme "Award of Research Fellowship in various aspects of Tribal Development", the Ministry releases 100% funds to the State Governments for disbursement to the research scholars. The funds are released to the State Governments on receipt of detailed proposal along with utilization certificate of the amount released to the State Government for the scholars. The proposals from the various State Governments were not received during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04, therefore number of scholars and amount has decreased during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

2.85 The Ministry have stated that according focus on the need to evaluate the schemes/programmes/projects implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for

the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes, they have introduced a scheme of Monitoring and Evaluation. Under the Scheme, projects will be sponsored by the Government/Non-Governmental organisation on 100% basis.

2.86 On being asked the details of monitoring and evaluation projects sponsored by the Ministry on 100% basis, it was informed that the Ministry have decided to grant monitoring and evaluation studies to reputed institutes to get quality feedback. This is still under process, and some proposals are expected to be taken up.

2.87 The Committee note with concern that during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04, proposals have not been received from various State Governments under the Scheme "Award of Research Fellowship in various aspects of Tribal Development" and hence the number of Scholars awarded grants as well as the amount of funds released to the State Governments have decreased substantially. During the year 2004-05, funds have not been released to the States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the States, who have failed to send their proposals, vigorously so that optimum number of tribal scholars engaged in research work pertaining to various aspects of tribal development are benefited under the scheme during the financial year 2005-06.

2.88 The Committee find that the Ministry have taken a decision to grant monitoring and evaluation studies to reputed Institutes to get quality feedback, which is still under process. However, some proposals are expected to be taken up. The Committee are of the opinion that monitoring and evaluation of projects is a part of long term perspective planning and will enable the Ministry to assess the impact of the Scheme as well as find out its drawbacks. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to finalise the proposals at the earliest so that the scheme is effectively monitored and evaluated.

Major Head: 2225
 Sub Major Head: 10
 Head No: 10.00.31

F. EDUCATIONAL COMPLEXES IN LOW LITERACY POCKETS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ST GIRLS IN TRIBAL AREAS

2.89 The primary objective of the Scheme is promotion of education among tribal girls in the identified low literacy districts of the country. The secondary objective of the scheme is to improve the socio-economic status of the poor and illiterate tribal population through the education of women. The Scheme was introduced in 1993-94 for 136 districts with a less than 10% literacy rate among ST females. It is implemented through non-governmental organisations, institutions set up by Government as autonomous bodies and registered cooperative societies. The programme is implemented as a Central Sector Scheme and the Ministry provides 100% funding.

2.90 Under the Scheme, the Budget Estimates during 2004-2005 was Rs.8.50 crore which has been reduced to Rs.8 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. The B.E. for 2005-2006 is Rs.6 crore.

2.91 A statement showing the number of ST girls enrolled in the educational complexes during the last three years has been furnished as under: -

Year	No. of Educational complexes supported	Approx. number of ST girls enrolled in Educational Complexes
2001-02	78	7800
2002-03	99	9900
2003-04	84	8400

2.92 The Committee have been informed that the scheme of educational complexes is to improve literacy among ST women in Districts with less than 10% female literacy. When enquired about the number of Districts covered so far, the Ministry have stated that they have covered 51 districts out of 136 districts so identified. The State Governments have specifically been requested to forward the proposals for covering the remaining districts. The status of Educational Complexes have been reviewed by the Project Screening Committee in its meeting held on 8.11.2004 and they have approved for continuation of only 92 Complexes for 2004-05 onwards.

2.93 When asked about fixation of targets/formulation of action plan to cover the remaining districts during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, the Ministry have informed that out of 136 low literacy Districts, 51 districts have already been covered. The tribal population is negligible in about 50 uncovered districts. The

State Governments have been requested to forward the proposals of Non-Governmental Organisations for setting up of Educational Complexes in the remaining 35 uncovered districts.

2.94 The Committee note with concern that the number of Educational Complexes supported by the Ministry and number of ST girls enrolled in the educational complexes during the year 2003-04 has been declining as compared to 2002-03. The Committee also observe that the Ministry have not furnished the data/figures for the year 2004-05. Keeping in view the fact that educational complexes are important instruments for providing education among the tribal girls in low literacy areas and thereby improving the socio-economic status of women, the Committee, recommend that the Ministry should make sincere efforts to set up more educational complexes in the coming years so that more ST girl students could be benefited. The Committee further recommend that the Ministry should pursue the States to send proposals for setting up new Educational Complexes right from the beginning of the year.

2.95 The Committee note with grave concern that out of 136 Districts having less than 10% literacy rate among Scheduled Tribe women identified for coverage under the scheme, the Ministry have covered only 51 Districts so far. The Committee have been apprised that tribal population is negligible in 50 uncovered districts and State Governments have been requested to forward the proposals of NGOs for setting up Educational Complexes in the remaining 35 districts. The Committee desire that Educational Complexes should be set up in the remaining 35 districts at the earliest and therefore recommend targets for setting up Educational Complexes for ST girls in tribal areas and also the progress/achievement in this regard be monitored at the highest level.

Major Head: 2225, 3601, 3602
Sub Major Head: 10, 19, 04
Head No: 10.00.31, 19.00.31, 04.00.31

G. GRANTS-IN-AID TO NGOs FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES INCLUDING COACHING AND ALLIED SCHEME AND AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

2.96 The Scheme of Grants-in-Aid to Non-Governmental Organisations was started in 1953-54. Wide spectrums of projects, which are of direct benefit to the tribals, are considered under this scheme. The projects include residential schools, hostels, medical mobile dispensaries, computer training units, shorthand and typing units, Balwadies/crèches (in areas not covered by the ICDS programme) libraries and audio-visual units for dissemination of vital information relevant to the welfare of scheduled tribes. Under the Scheme component of Coaching & Allied for STs launched in 1974-75, free coaching facilities are provided to ST students through Pre-Examination Training Centres, to help them to compete in various competitive examinations with an All – India recruitment character. Under the scheme component of Award for Exemplary Service, organisations declared as Established Voluntary Agency (EVA) by the Ministry or such organisations having received grant from the Ministry for five or more years are provided grants up to Rs. 10.00 lakh for infrastructure building in such areas where no such facilities exist, even on a rental basis.

2.97 The Budget Estimates for the year 2004-2005 is Rs. 32 crore which has been reduced to Rs. 30.40 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. An amount of Rs. 17.87 crore is the actual expenditure as on 1st March 2005. The BE for the year 2005-2006 is Rs. 23.40 crore.

2.98 On being asked to state the reasons for the drastic reduction in the BE for 2005-2006, the Committee have been informed that the Project Screening Committee reviewed the ongoing projects and approved only 235 organisations with 518 projects against 632 organizations running 1076 projects. Therefore, the committed liabilities on account of maintenance of ongoing projects have come down.

2.99 The Ministry have stated that they have decided to strengthen the implementation and monitoring mechanism for the NGOs in order to implement the Schemes very effectively. A three-tier system at village, District and State levels – Local Project Monitoring Committee (LPMC), District Tribal Development Monitoring Committee (DTDMC) and State Tribal Development Monitoring Committee (STDMC) has been evolved. The revised mechanism suggests the following: -

- i) At project site, there should be a **Local Project Monitoring Committee (LPMC)** headed by Gram Pradhan/Panchayat Pramukh and 3-4 other local members to keep a watch on day to day affairs of the organisation;
- ii) At District level, the District Collector under his Chairmanship may constitute a committee of 2-3 officers of the district and 2 social workers to inspect the project at least once every half yearly. This committee would be named as District Tribal Development Monitoring Committee (DTDMC). This committee would be provided 0.5% of the fund released against all the NGO projects of the District in the year to meet monitoring expenses of the Committee. The Committee would be required to submit to the Ministry as well as to the State Government the Inspection Report on all project of all NGOs together with specific recommendation on performance of each of the organisation. The Ministry on receipt of the Report of District Committee will process cases of all NGOs together and release funds to these NGOs, though by separate draft but the same to be collected by NGO from District Collector. The DTDMCs would thus act as Mother NGO for the District. The DTWO/District Social Welfare Officer – PD – ITDA would be Member Convener of the Committee. This would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Planning Commission.
- iii) At State level, the State Government would constitute a State Tribal Development Monitoring Committee (STDMC) for monitoring of the project works at least once a year. The STDMC would be provided funds equivalent to 0.5% of total sanctioned amount for NGOs in that State to meet monitoring expenses.

2.100 This mechanism has been communicated to the State Governments to take action to put the above Committees in place. The Ministry have received reports from few State Governments about constituting Committees as suggested by them.

2.101 Asked to furnish the names of the States where three-tier monitoring mechanism has been constituted, the Committee have been informed that the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur have already constituted the three-tier monitoring mechanism.

2.102 As regards steps taken by the Government to ensure that the above stated Committees are constituted with remaining States early, the Ministry have stated that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is going to convene a meeting of State Secretaries in charge of Tribal Development within next two months and this issue would also be discussed in the meeting to ensure that early action is taken in this regard by the remaining States.

2.103 Regarding provisions of funds equivalent to 0.5% of the total sanctioned amount for NGOs in their State to meet the monitoring expenses, it has been informed that the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur have constituted the three-tier monitoring mechanism and have already conducted some inspections. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has, however, not received any proposal seeking funds to meet the expenses for the monitoring mechanism in question.

2.104 The Committee note that in order to strengthen the implementation and monitoring mechanism for NGOs, the Ministry have evolved a three-tier monitoring system at village, District and State level and have also asked the State Governments to initiate action for constituting the above Committees. The Committee further note that very few States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur have so far constituted the monitoring mechanism. The Committee are unhappy with the situation and desire that for proper monitoring at village, District and State level the three-tier Committees i.e. Local Project Monitoring Committee, District Tribal Development Monitoring Committee and State Tribal Development Monitoring Committee should be set up in all the States/UTs early to prevent the growth of fake NGOs and also for timely and effective implementation of schemes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to persuade the remaining States to constitute three-tier monitoring mechanism at the village, District and State level without further delay and also ensure that free coaching facilities are provided to the ST students. The Committee also urge the Ministry to ensure that funds equivalent to 0.5% of the total sanctioned amount for NGOs in a State are provided to the monitoring Committee constituted at the State level to meet the expenses.

Major Head : 4225
 Sub Major Head: 13
 Head No: 13.00.54

H. SUPPORT TO NATIONAL/STATE SCHEDULED TRIBES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

2.105 The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation is the apex organisation providing financial assistance for schemes/projects for the economic development of the Scheduled Tribes. State Tribal Development Finance Corporations, on the other hand, act as guarantors and promoters for providing margin money loans and subsidy to the target groups. They play a useful role in the mobilisation of finances for the economic development of Scheduled Tribes living below the poverty line.

2.106 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the plan outlays and expenditure incurred under the Scheme during the last three years as under:-

Sl.No	Year	Approved outlay (R.E.)	Actual Expenditure	Shortfall/ Excess
1	2002-2003	34.00	35.20	Excess
2	2003-2004	14.54	17.29	Excess
3	2004-2005	35.50	0.00*	--
4	2005-2006	27.00(BE)		

As on 1.3.2005

2.107 Asked to explain the reasons why no expenditure has been incurred during 2004-2005 in spite of excess spending during the last two years, it has been informed that an amount of Rs 35.50 crore has been provided at RE stage for the year 2004-05 under Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation. Out of this, an amount of Rs 14.50 crore has already been released as share capital (Rs 10.00 crore to the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and Rs 4.50 crore to the State Finance Development Corporations). For the sanction/release of the balance amount of Rs 21.00 crore to the NSTFDC, necessary action has been taken.

2.108 The Ministry have furnished the year-wise details of funds sanctioned and the number of beneficiaries covered under the financial assistance schemes/projects of NSTFDC as under:-

Financial Year	Actual Sanctions (NSTFDC's Share) (Rs. in crore)					
	Income Generating Activities		Working Capital/ Marketing Support		Total	
	Amt.	No. of Beneficiaries.	Amt.	No. of Beneficiaries.	Amt.	No. of Beneficiaries.
2002-03	93.98	69015	5.00	110000	98.98	179015
2003-04	66.15	12825	13.00	675900	79.15	688725
2004-05 (as on 28.03.05)	55.24	10763	5.00	283000	60.24	293763

2.109 The Committee enquired whether the coverage of beneficiaries have been adequate wherein they have been informed that NSTFDC's financial assistance is extended to the STs having Annual Family Income upto Double the Poverty Line (DPL). There has been gradual increase in the coverage of number of beneficiaries from the 1st year of the operation (2001-02) onwards.

2.110 The Committee are constrained to note that actual amount sanctioned and the number of beneficiaries under income generating activities of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation is declining from the year 2002-2003. It is contrary to the claim of the Ministry that there has been gradual increase in the coverage of number of beneficiaries from the first year of its operation (2001-2002) onwards. The Committee feel that the schemes of NSTFDC for 'income generating activities' and 'marketing support' are very important schemes where NSTFDC extends financial assistance to the STs having annual family income upto double the poverty line(DPL). The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to allocate more funds to NSTFDC for its schemes and make all out efforts so that the number of beneficiaries covered under the Scheme increase substantially and the Scheme is able to make a big impact on the economic condition of the poor Scheduled Tribe families.

NEW DELHI;
19 April, 2005
29 Chaitra , 1927 (Saka)

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

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 30TH MARCH, 2005.

The Committee met from 15.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. in Committee Room No. 62, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Ashok Argal
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
5. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
6. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
7. Shri Rupchand Murmu
8. Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy
9. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
10. Dr.R. Senthil

RAJYA SABHA

11. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
12. Shri Silvius Condpan
13. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
14. Smt. Savita Sharda
15. Shri Tarlochan Singh

SECRETARIAT

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

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

1. Smt. P. Jyoti Rao - Secretary
2. Shri S. Chatterjee - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Rajiv Kumar - Joint Secretary
4. Shri Mrutunjay Sahoo - Joint Secretary & FA
5. Shri P. Sudhir Kumar - CCA

6.	Dr. R.M. Dubey	-	Director
7.	Smt. Kalpana Amar	-	Director
8.	Shri Tarun Coomar	-	Director
9.	Shri Wilfred Lakra	-	MD, TRIFED
10.	Ms. S. Bhavani	-	CMD, NSTFDC

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members, Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and asked the Secretary to brief the Members on the schemes/programmes undertaken by the Ministry in terms of allocations made and expenditure incurred thereon; targets achieved during the financial year 2004-05 and budget provisions for 2005-06. She pointed out that the Secretary, Expenditure had given instruction that only 33% of the budgeted expenditure would be permissible in the last quarter of the financial year. However, the Ministry could incur only 60.31% of the total budgetary allocation of Rs. 1146 crore for the year 2004-05 upto December, 2004. This had resulted in the allocations of the Ministry restricted to Rs 1069.445 crore. She expressed the hope that the Ministry would follow the instructions in this regard. She also raised the issue of recognition and vesting of ownership rights of forest land in the name of the tribals and converting the forest villages into revenue villages to boost the pace of development of the tribals.
2. The important topics discussed during the meeting include (a) Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan, (b) Transfer of some Schemes to States (c) Post Matric Scholarship, Book Banks and Upgradation of merit of ST Students, (d) Establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools for Tribals, (e) Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas, (f) Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations, (g) Grants - in - aid to State Tribal Development Finance Corporations for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations etc.
3. The Secretary and other officials of the Ministry replied to the queries raised by the Members. Hon'ble Chairperson directed the Secretary to send written replies to the queries of the Members on which ready information was not available with them.
4. Hon'ble Chairperson thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject in a candid manner.

A verbatim record of the Proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON
19TH APRIL, 2005.**

The Committee met from 15.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

16. Shri M. Appadurai
17. Smt. Susmita Bauri
18. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
19. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
20. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
21. Shri Rupchand Murmu
22. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
23. Shri Madhusudan Reddy
24. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
25. Dr. R. Senthil
26. Smt. Pratibha Singh
27. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
28. Smt. Usha Verma

RAJYA SABHA

29. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
30. Shri Silvius Condpan
31. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
32. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu
33. Smt. Savita Sharda
34. Shri Tarlochan Singh

SECRETARIAT

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

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. XX XX XX XX

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the draft 8th Report on Demands for Grants(2005-06) relating to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and adopted the same without any amendment.

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

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

Sl.No.	Para No.	Recommendation/Observations
1	2	3
1	2.15	<p>The Committee note that consequent to the instructions issued by Secretary (Expenditure), Government of India in January, 2005 that only 33 per cent of the budgeted expenditure would be permissible in the last quarter of the financial year 2004-05, the expenditure of the Ministry had to be curtailed to Rs 1069.445 crore from the allocation of Rs 1146 crore. The Ministry have contended that such instructions were not imposed in the earlier years. However, the Committee are constrained to point out that the issues relating to late submission of proposals for various schemes from the States, non receipt of utilization certificates, delay in release of funds etc. have become a regular feature and have not been resolved so far. It results in curtailment of budgetary allocation at RE stage and even lesser actual expenditure during the financial year. The Committee are of the opinion that Ministry should have strictly monitored the pace of expenditure and should have incurred expenditure more evenly and in a phased manner right from the beginning of the financial year. This would have enabled them to retain their entire budgetary allocation without any cuts during the year. The Committee view that it is fiscally prudent to incur expenditure in such a manner that it is evenly distributed through out the year. The Committee, therefore, recommend that during the financial year 2005-06, the Ministry should ensure that one-fourth of the budgetary allocation is utilized at every quarter and upto December, 2005, 67% of the budgeted expenditure be incurred to avoid any reduction in their allocation. The Committee also hope that for optimum utilization of funds, the Ministry would make all efforts to pursue the State Governments to submit their proposals early, to send the utilization certificates in time against the funds already utilized and ensure that proposals under the scheme are sanctioned and funds utilized evenly throughout the year.</p>
2	2.16	<p>The Committee note with deep regret that during 2004-05, funds could not be released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Orissa under the Scheme of Boys and Girls Hostels; Andhra Pradesh,</p>

Kerala and Tamil Nadu under Establishment of Ashram Schools in tribal sub-plan areas; Bihar under the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for ST students and Bihar (50% of the entitlement) and Assam (25% of the second installment) under SCA to TSP. The Committee also observe that non-receipt/non-submission of Utilization Certificates by States/UTs is a perennial problem and needs to be resolved at the earliest. In their opinion, for effective implementation of these welfare schemes in all the States/UTs, procedural bottlenecks like late submission of proposals by States/UTs, delay in sanction of proposals, delay in release of funds to the implementing agencies etc. should be minimized. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should convene meetings of State Government representatives at regular intervals and impress upon them to send their proposals right from the beginning of the financial year so that the problem of furnishing utilization certificates in time is considerably reduced.

3 **2.17**

The Committee are surprised to note that the Planning Commission has *suo moto* transferred the Schemes of 'Boys and Girls Hostels for STs' and 'Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas' to the State Governments though these Schemes have been very crucial and are among the major schemes in promoting education among the ST students at faster pace. The Committee also apprehend that these Schemes may not be accorded the priority they deserve under the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Committee are aware that some of the States/UTs are finding it difficult to provide even their matching share for the Schemes as well as the recurring expenditure involved for maintaining and running the Boys and Girls Hostels. During 2004-05, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have not been able to furnish their utilization certificates under these Schemes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to impress upon the Planning Commission the urgent need to bring the Schemes of 'Boys and Girls Hostels for STs' and 'Establishments of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas' under their purview once again so that the pace of education of the poor tribal students do not suffer on account of State Government's apathy.

4 **2.18**

The Committee are pleased to note that the Ministry is in the process of finalizing the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 in order to undo the historical

injustice suffered by the poor tribals. The Committee fully support this measure and are also happy to note that this Bill, if enacted, will confer ownership rights over minor forest produce to the tribals as well as rights to conversion of pattas or leases or grants issued by any local authority or any State Department on forest lands to titles. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to draft and finalise the proposed Bill in coordination/consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and bring the same to Parliament at the earliest.

5 **2.19**

The Committee commend the efforts of the Government in formulating a draft National Tribal Policy and posting it on the website of the Ministry for getting advice and suggestions from all across the country. The Committee feel that formulation of a National Policy for Tribals is long overdue yet it is a right step forward for the development of Scheduled Tribes. At this crucial juncture, the Committee desire that the Ministry should take a deep look into the core issues hindering the development of the tribals. The Committee, therefore, urge that the key issues like Poverty, Malnutrition, problems of Health, Tribal Forest Interface, Human Development Indices, Land Alienation, Resettlement etc. may be addressed in the National Tribal Policy and a comprehensive Action Plan be formulated for overall development of tribal people within a definite time frame so that a visible impact is seen in the next decade.

6 **2.36**

The Committee note that over the years utilization of funds under the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan has always been satisfactory. However, hardly any impact is visible on the ground though the Scheme has been in operation since the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Ministry have informed that from the year 2004-05, State Governments have been asked to identify thrust areas and adopt cluster approach. The Ministry wanted to start this from 1st year of the Tenth Five Year Plan itself. But the States have raised strong objections on the ground that time is required for the new system to be adopted by them. The Committee hope that during the year 2005-06 the Ministry would impress upon the State Governments to identify the thrust areas and follow ITDP-wise breakup and cluster approach. Keeping in view the fact that major chunk of the budgetary allocation of the Ministry is for the Scheme of SCA to TSP, the Committee desire that achievement under the Scheme, both in physical and financial terms should be properly assessed.

The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to maintain proper coordination with the States and constantly monitor the status of the projects sanctioned/implemented with SCA funds. The Committee also recommend that progress reporting to the Centre by States/UTs on a half yearly and annual basis and projects to the Districts/States on a quarterly basis as envisaged in the revised guidelines for release and utilization of SCA funds should be strictly enforced by the Ministry. Progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

7 **2.37**

The Committee note that during 2005-06, the Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs 230 crore for development of 'Forest Villages' numbering 3000 under the Scheme of SCA to TSP against the requirement of Rs. 450 crore, at an average requirement of Rs 15 lakh per forest village, for the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. The Ministry have also received project proposals from the States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Chattisgarh which would be considered for sanction during 2005-06. Keeping in view the fact that the requirement of funds for development of Forest Villages is to the tune of Rs. 450 crore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should approach the Planning Commission for allocation of an additional Rs 220 crore for the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan and finalise the proposals received from the above mentioned States expeditiously so that funds could be released to them early. The States which have not sent the project proposals may be pursued to send their proposals without any delay. The Committee further recommend that specific action plan for providing basic minimum facilities and services like food, safe drinking water, health care, primary education, approach roads and other infrastructure facilities to the 3000 Forest Villages should be formulated and implemented in consultation with other concerned Ministries/Departments to ensure that the benefits of the programme reach the tribal people inhabiting these villages.

8 **2.38**

The Committee note that from the year 2004-05, the Ministry have started releasing funds under SCA to TSP for each ITDP separately and all the States have also been advised to release the funds to the ITDPs accordingly. The Committee further note that the details regarding release of SCA funds by States ITDP-wise could be assessed only from the financial year 2005-06. The

Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should conduct review meetings with the States/UTs at the earliest in order to assess the progress of implementation of the guidelines issued by the Ministry in this regard. The Committee also desire that information about the number of States who have complied with the guidelines so far as well as the problems and difficulties, if any, being faced by the States in releasing the SCA funds to the ITDPs separately and remedial measures taken thereon may be conveyed to them.

9 **2.63**

The Committee are pleased to note that from the year 2005-06, the Ministry is foraying into the field of minor irrigation in a big way with an allocation of Rs 50 crore for the purpose. The Committee observe that agriculture in the tribal areas is very primitive and marginal yet it is the main source of sustenance for 50 per cent of the tribal population. An underdeveloped irrigation infrastructure in the tribal areas often leave them at the mercy of the monsoons. The Committee feel that this laudable initiative undertaken by the Ministry will immensely benefit the poor tribal people in the long run. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to formulate and implement the programme of creating minor irrigation facilities in tribal areas earnestly to enable the tribal people to rise above poverty and bring them on the path of economic self-reliance.

10 **2.64**

The Committee note with deep regret that under the Scheme of Establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools, funds have not been released to the States of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during 2003-04 and 2004-05 due to various reasons like non setting up of autonomous societies for running the Residential Schools, non-receipt of proposals, schools under construction/ construction not yet started, non functioning of Schools, etc. The Committee further note that during the Tenth Five Year Plan, funds have been released for 90 Eklavya Model Residential Schools and additional schools would be considered from next year now since most of the schools sanctioned are nearing completion. Keeping in view the fact that no additional schools have been considered pending completion of the schools already sanctioned, the Committee urge the Ministry to ensure that the sanctioned schools are completed well in time and made functional at the earliest

so that additional schools could be sanctioned for providing quality education to the ST students. The Committee also desire that the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Uttaranchal may be persuaded to set up autonomous societies for running and maintaining the residential schools.

11 **2.65**

The Committee note with concern that though the issue of affiliation of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been agreed to by the Chairman, CBSE and Ministry of Human Resource Development, it appears that most of the State Governments are having reservations about introducing CBSE syllabus in the Eklavya Model Residential Schools set up in their respective States. The Committee further note that Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have intimated to keep the issue pending while some of the States wanted to adopt the syllabus of their State Board. In the opinion of the Committee, the syllabus followed by Eklavya Model Residential Schools should be on the same pattern of CBSE as the schools run by State Governments are following the syllabus of their own State Boards. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to persuade the States to adopt CBSE syllabus for all the Eklavya Model Residential Schools so that ST students studying in these schools are provided quality education on par with the national level and will also be able to compete for higher education programmes and higher level of jobs, both in the Government and in public sector undertakings. Progress achieved in this regard may be conveyed to the Committee.

12 **2.76**

The Committee note with concern that during 2004-05 no funds could be released under the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship to the State of Arunachal Pradesh due to lack of complete proposals; Assam and Bihar because of unspent balance lying with the State Governments; Orissa due to non-receipt of proposals and Jharkhand as it has to fulfill its committed liability. The Committee are of the opinion that the poor ST students are being deprived of the much needed financial assistance for pursuing higher education due to apathy of the State Governments. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to impress upon the States to fulfill their commitment towards the ST students and pursue them to (i) send their proposals complete in all respect early, (ii) utilise the funds released to them during the same financial year so that no unspent balances remain with them and (iii) fulfill their committed

liability under the Scheme. The Committee appreciate that the Ministry has taken a decision to release 'on account' payments to the State Governments to the extent of 50% of the Central Share of the previous year and hope this policy will continue further for the benefit of tribal students.

- 13** **2.77** The Committee take a serious note of the fact that funding pattern for the Scheme of Book Bank, which has been merged with the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship from the year 2003-04 is yet to be decided and hence grants-in-Aid could not be released for this component during the year 2004-05. The Committee strongly recommend the Ministry to finalise the funding pattern under the Book Bank Scheme early so that funds for this component could be released from the beginning of the financial year 2005-06.
- 14** **2.78** The Committee further note that the number of beneficiaries covered under 'Upgradation of Merit of ST Students' has been decreasing during the last two years. Also, grants-in-aid could not be released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat due to non-receipt of proposals complete in all respect along with utilisation certificates from the previous years. The Committee are not happy with the situation and urge the Ministry to vigorously persuade the States to send proposals under the Scheme right at the beginning of the financial year and take positive steps to ensure early submission of utilization certificates by the States so that the tribal students are not deprived of the benefits of the Schemes.
- 15** **2.87** The Committee note with concern that during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04, proposals have not been received from various State Governments under the Scheme "Award of Research Fellowship in various aspects of Tribal Development" and hence the number of Scholars awarded grants as well as the amount of funds released to the State Governments have decreased substantially. During the year 2004-05, funds have not been released to the States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the States, who have failed to send their proposals, vigorously so that optimum number of tribal scholars engaged in research work pertaining to various aspects of

tribal development are benefited under the scheme during the financial year 2005-06.

- 16** **2.88** The Committee find that the Ministry has taken a decision to grant monitoring and evaluation studies to reputed Institutes to get quality feedback, which is still under process. However, some proposals are expected to be taken up. The Committee are of the opinion that monitoring and evaluation of projects is a part of long term perspective planning and will enable the Ministry to assess the impact of the Scheme as well as find out its drawbacks. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to finalise the proposals at the earliest so that the scheme is effectively monitored and evaluated.
- 17** **2.94** The Committee note with concern that the number of Educational Complexes supported by the Ministry and number of ST girls enrolled in the educational complexes during the year 2003-04 has been declining as compared to 2002-03. The Committee also observe that the Ministry have not furnished the data/figures for the year 2004-05. Keeping in view the fact that educational complexes are important instruments for providing education among the tribal girls in low literacy areas and thereby improving the socio-economic status of women, the Committee, recommend that the Ministry should make sincere efforts to set up more educational complexes in the coming years so that more ST girl students could be benefited. The Committee further recommend that the Ministry should pursue the States to send proposals for setting up new Educational Complexes right from the beginning of the year.
- 18** **2.95** The Committee note with grave concern that out of 136 Districts having less than 10% literacy rate among Scheduled Tribe women identified for coverage under the scheme, the Ministry have covered only 51 Districts so far. The Committee have been apprised that tribal population is negligible in 50 uncovered districts and State Governments have been requested to forward the proposals of NGOs for setting up Educational Complexes in the remaining 35 districts. The Committee desire that Educational Complexes should be set up in the remaining 35 districts at the earliest and therefore recommend targets for setting up Educational Complexes for ST girls in tribal areas and also the progress/achievement in this

regard be monitored at the highest level.

- 19** **2.104** The Committee note that in order to strengthen the implementation and monitoring mechanism for NGOs, the Ministry have evolved a three-tier monitoring system at village, District and State level and have also asked the State Governments to initiate action for constituting the above Committees. The Committee further note that very few States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur have so far constituted the monitoring mechanism. The Committee are unhappy with the situation and desire that for proper monitoring at village, District and State level the three-tier Committees i.e. Local Project Monitoring Committee, District Tribal Development Monitoring Committee and State Tribal Development Monitoring Committee should be set up in all the States/UTs early to prevent the growth of fake NGOs and also for timely and effective implementation of schemes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to persuade the remaining States to constitute three-tier monitoring mechanism at the village, District and State level without further delay and also ensure that free coaching facilities are provided to the ST students. The Committee also urge the Ministry to ensure that funds equivalent to 0.5% of the total sanctioned amount for NGOs in a State are provided to the monitoring Committee constituted at the State level to meet the expenses.
- 20** **2.110** The Committee are constrained to note that actual amount sanctioned and the number of beneficiaries under income generating activities of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation is declining from the year 2002-2003. It is contrary to the claim of the Ministry that there has been gradual increase in the coverage of number of beneficiaries from the first year of its operation (2001-2002) onwards. The Committee feel that the schemes of NSTFDC for 'income generating activities' and 'marketing support' are very important schemes where NSTFDC extends financial assistance to the STs having annual family income upto double the poverty line(DPL). The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to allocate more funds to NSTFDC for its schemes and make all out efforts so that the number of beneficiaries covered under the Scheme increase substantially and the Scheme is able to make a big impact on the economic condition of the poor Scheduled Tribe families.

