

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(2007-2008)

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)
THIRTY-FIRST REPORT
ON

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT AND
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject – Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans.

Presented to Lok Sabha on 23.04.2008

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.04.2008

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 2008/Vaisakha, 1930 (Saka)

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- I. Copy of Ministry of Tribal Affairs letter No. 19012/12/05-Education,
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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (2007-2008)**

Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma - Chairman

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| 4. | Ms. J.C. Namchyo | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Smt. Kalavati Gola | - | Committee Officer |

* Ceased to be Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha with effect from 12.04.2008

@ Ceased to be Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha with effect from 09.04.2008

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes having been authorised by the Committee to finalise and submit the report on their behalf, present this Thirty-first Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Tenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs regarding – Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans.

2. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on 8th April, 2008 (Appendix-I).

3. The Report has been divided into the following chapters:-

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|------|---|
| I. | Report |
| II. | Recommendations/observations, which have been accepted by the Government. |
| III. | Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government. |
| IV. | Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration. |
| V. | Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received. |

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II. It would be observed therefrom that out of 38 recommendations made in the report, 13 recommendations i.e. 34 per cent have been accepted by the Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue 14 recommendations i.e. 37 per cent of the total recommendations in view of the replies of the Government. There are 5 recommendations i.e. 13 per cent in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require further reiteration and in respect of 6 i.e. 16 per cent of total recommendations, final replies of the Government have not been received.

NEW DELHI
April, 2008
 Vaisakha, 1930 (Saka)

RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA
Chairman
Committee on the Welfare
of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes

CHAPTER – I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Committee deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations and observations contained in the 10th Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on “Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans.”

1.2 The 10th Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 18th August, 2006. It contained 38 recommendations/observations. Replies of the Government in respect of all these recommendations/observations have been examined and categorised as under:-

- (i) Recommendations and observations which have been accepted by the Government (Sl. Nos. 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 18, 21, 24, 25, and 28).
- (ii) Recommendations and observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in the light of the replies of the Government (Sl.Nos.3, 4, 6, 10, 14, 15, 19, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34 and 36).
- (iii) Recommendations and observations replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration (Sl.Nos.20, 22, 23, 31 and 37).
- (iv) Recommendations and observations in respect of which final replies have not been received – (Sl. No. 1, 2, 17, 33, 35 and 38).

1.3 The Committee hope that utmost importance will be given to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for any reason to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter-I and final replies to the recommendation(s) contained in Chapter-V of the Report be furnished to the Committee within six months of the presentation of the Report.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with Action Taken Replies of the Government which need reiteration or merit comments: -

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 1.20)

1.5 The Committee note that the Ministries of Small Scale Industries, the Agro and Rural Industries and the Ministry of Textiles have been implementing the policies and various programmes for providing infrastructure and support services to small enterprises through their field organizations for the promotion and growth of rural industries based on the local raw materials, skill and technology and for creating more employment opportunities in rural areas. However, the Committee observe that these Ministries have no specific scheme for traditional SC/ST artisans. In the opinion of the Committee, a focused approach towards the development of SC/ST artisans is possible only if these Ministries start schemes separately and implement the same in consultation with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which are the nodal Ministries for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of development of the SCs/STs. The Committee, therefore, urge

the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to pursue the matter with these Ministries to start specific schemes/programmes, which will help traditional Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe artisans.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.6 The recommendation of the Committee has been sent to the concerned Ministries for appropriate action. The Schemes implemented by Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), are composite in nature and not specific to area, caste or gender. However, the artisans belonging to all the communities including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community draw benefits from these schemes. Under the following major relevant schemes, the beneficiaries include a sizable number from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category:-

- (i) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana.
- (ii) Marketing Support and Services.
- (iii) Design and Technology Upgradation.
- (iv) Special Handicrafts Training Scheme (SHTP).

1.7 The Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) and autonomous institutions under the Ministry of SSI have regularly organised Skill Development Programmes, where socially disadvantaged groups i.e, SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities and Women have participated. The Ministry of SSI has formulated "Outreach Programmes for Skill Development in Less Developed Areas" with special focus on socially disadvantaged groups to help the traditional artisans. In view of this, Ministry of SSI feels that there is perhaps no need to start other specific schemes for Scheduled Caste artisans.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.8 The scheme of Vocational Training Centres (VTC) for STs is mainly implemented through State/UT Governments and also through voluntary organisations under which various components of traditional artisans are taken care of. Under the scheme of grant-in-aid to NGOs, the traditional trades like Carpentry, Dari making, Cane and Bamboo training, Knitting/Weaving and Workers Training Centres etc. are considered for grant subject to the recommendations of the State Government. The recommendation of the Committee has been communicated to the Ministries of Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries and Textile, with the request to take necessary action for implementation of the observations of the Committee.

Comments of the Committee

1.9 The Committee note that the recommendation to start specific schemes/programmes, to help traditional SCs/STs artisans have been communicated to the concerned Ministries for taking necessary action. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by those Ministries in this regard.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 1.21)

1.10 The Committee also note that in the absence of any specific scheme, no guidelines have been issued for traditional artisans by the Government. Keeping in view the specific need of schemes for traditional Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe artisans, the Committee recommend that both the Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs should take up the case for preparing specific schemes and issuing of guidelines for Scheduled

Caste/Scheduled Tribe artisans with the Planning Commission at the earliest so that specific need of poor Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe artisans could be fulfilled in proper manner.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.11 As per the recommendation of the Committee, the matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission for preparing specific schemes and issuing guidelines for SC artisans so that their specific needs could be fulfilled in proper manner. However, Scheduled Caste artisans are covered under the lending programmes of NSFDC such as Term Loan, Micro Credit Finance and Mahila Samridhi Yojana.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.12 Above recommendation of the Committee has been communicated to the Planning Commission, Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, Ministry of Textiles, Office of the Development Commissioner of Handlooms and the Ministry of Culture for further necessary action in the matter. Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has informed that Sub-Group of Handicrafts for the 11th Five Year Plan recommended that, in skill up-gradation programmes (Guru-Shishya parampara) of the “Special Handicrafts Training Project” (SHTP) – under the proposed new scheme Human Resources Development – would be implemented for the beneficiaries from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities, and women artisans only.

Comments of the Committee

1.13 The Committee note that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have taken up the matter with the Planning Commission for preparing specific schemes and issuing guidelines for SC artisans and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have communicated the recommendation to the Planning Commission, Ministry of Small Scale Industries, the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, the Ministry of Textiles, Office of the Development Commissioner of Handlooms and the Ministry of Culture for further necessary action in the matter. The Committee hope that both the Ministries would not rest content by merely forwarding their recommendation to the Planning Commission and other Ministries for preparing specific schemes and issuing guidelines for SC and ST artisans, but also pursue the matter conclusively for speedy implementation. The Committee, therefore, desire that the action taken on the recommendation of Committee by the Planning Commission and other Ministries may be furnished to them for information within three months.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 1.31)

1.14 The Committee are concerned about the rejection of loan applications. It has increased during the year 2004-05 in both the corporations. The Committee desire that more practical and rational approach should be adopted while considering loan applications so that the rejection of applications of the needy SC/ST persons could be minimized. The Committee note that one of the reasons for rejection of loan applications is non-availability of government guarantee for the projects. They feel that State Governments have not taken

these schemes seriously for the upliftment of poor SC/ST people. They are yet to take these schemes at priority level. The Committee would like to recommend that the State Governments should be made aware of the importance of these schemes so that they may reconsider the question of giving Government guarantee and find out some other alternative to utilise the corporations' money fully and adequate funds could be allocated to these disadvantaged groups in time in order to provide them with adequate opportunities for employment.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.15 The defaulting State Channelising Agencies who have not arranged Government Guarantee for the NSFDC schemes periodically have been asked to arrange adequate guarantee from the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 1.16 (a) In order to apprise the State Governments about the programmes of NSTFDC meant for the economic development of STs and to make the delivery mechanism more effective, a National Workshop of State Governments and SCAs of NSTFDC was held on 15.09.2006 wherein MDs of Channelising Agencies and Principal Secretaries/Secretaries from all the concerned States were present.
- (b) On the matter of rejection of applications, it is clarified that under the approved lending norms of NSTFDC, no such requirement exist i.e. rejection of application is not done on the ground of non-availability of guarantee. However, for release of sanctioned schemes/projects, Government Guarantee is required, as per lending norms of NSTFDC.

- (c) The matter of providing Government Guarantee is periodically taken up by NSTFDC with the concerned SCAs.
- (d) NSTFDC is also in the process of working out an arrangement of routing their funds through commercial banks to bring about better outreach.

Comments of the Committee

1.17 The Committee note that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have asked the defaulting State Channelising Agencies to arrange adequate guarantee for the NSFDC Schemes from the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have stated that the matter of providing Government guarantee is periodically taken up by NSTFDC with the concerned SCAs and that NSTFDC is also in the process of working out an arrangement of routing their funds through commercial banks to bring about better outreach. The Committee desire that the Commercial Bank should be advised for expeditious release of funds. The Committee also desire that compliance reports should be sought from SCAs and the same may be furnished to the Committee for information.

Recommendation (Sl.No. 7 Para No.1.42)

1.18 The Committee find that although the main objective of the NSFDC's schemes is to facilitate, promote and finance income generating schemes of SC population living below double the poverty line limits for their economic upliftment, there is no clear cut strategy on the part of the Government to achieve

the said targets. The Committee note that during the last three years (1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004) only 281 SC artisans were benefited under the NSFDC schemes. They also find that percentage of lending to small/rural artisans was 1.92% in 2002-03 and it came down to 0.47% in 2003-04. The Committee would like to highlight that keeping in view the slow progress of the schemes, the NSFDC should strengthen the monitoring of the scheme at both the Central and State levels by conducting field visits by senior officers to have first hand information about the actual implementation of the schemes.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.19 NSFDC's monitoring mechanism has been strengthened by submission of Quarterly Progress Reports by SCAs and periodical visits of SCAs and NSFDC officials. The percentage of lending to small/rural artisans in 2005-06 has increased to 1.89%.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.20 The above recommendation related to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Comments of the Committee

1.21 The Committee note that NSFDC's monitoring mechanism has been strengthened by submission of quarterly progress reports by SCAs and periodical visits of SCAs and NSFDC officials. In this connection, the Committee urge the Ministry to ensure that the States which do not submit quarterly progress report should be subjected to certain penalties. The Committee desire that the State Governments should be asked to

fix responsibility on implementing agencies for full utilisation of funds so that they may be able to implement policies and programme effectively. The Ministry should also ensure that every precautionary measure is taken to avoid under utilization and uneven utilization of funds.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 1.43)

1.22 The Committee also express their concern over the fact that from NSTFDC's share of Rs. 63.25 crore, Rs. 98.98 crore, Rs. 79.15 crore and Rs. 43.73 crore, only Rs. 27.50 crore, Rs. 42.16 crore, Rs. 35.73 crore and Rs. 37.65 crore have been disbursed in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. Although the Ministry has given their reasons for these unutilized amounts, the Committee feel that non-utilization of allotted funds indicate a lack of initiative on the part of the NSTFDC to work out strategies for optimum utilization of resources and getting more resources to finance schemes for employment and poverty alleviation among STs. The Committee feel that the NSTFDC has not performed well in utilizing the available funds and consequently there has been a reduction in the budgetary allocations. Such a trend is unhealthy particularly when more and more employment opportunities are required to be created with the aim of eradicating poverty among poor STs. In the opinion of the Committee due to reduction in the grants for schemes the STs suffer for no fault of theirs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a meeting of State Governments should be convened at the highest level at the earliest, to resolve the perennial problem of non-submission or late submission of utilization certificates and steps taken and progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.23 This pertains to the NSTFDC.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 1.24 (a) As regards the gaps between sanctions and disbursements, it is clarified that after sanction of the schemes by NSFTDC, a Letter of Intent (Sanction Order) is issued. Thereafter, Channelising Agencies are expected to complete the pre-requisite formalities for the group schemes i.e. identification of the beneficiaries, tie up of funds from the other sources like Margin Money Loan, Term Loan etc. and identification of suppliers of assets etc.
- (b) Funds are released to the SCAs on receipt of requisition for release of funds for sanctioned schemes/projects and release of funds hinges on the various lending norms including settlement of overdues and availability of Government Guarantee etc. Due to non-settlement of overdues by some SCAs and or non-availability of Guarantee, release of funds could not be considered for such cases.
- (c) NSFTDC and Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken up the matter of settlement of overdues and or providing of State Government Guarantee for augmenting the pace of disbursements.
- (d) Regarding the recommendation of the Committee for holding a meeting of State Governments at the highest level to resolve the problem of non-submission/late submission of utilisation certificates, it is submitted that at the initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, NSTFDC held a National Workshop, with the State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Department and MDs of SCAs on

15.09.2006, with a view to improve the delivery mechanism of the various schemes being implemented by NSTFDC. The meeting was chaired by Secretary, TA and inaugurated by Minister of Tribal Affairs. The deliberations that took place on the various issues are being analysed by NSTFDC.

1.25 In addition, further release of funds also hinges on the status of utilisation of funds already released. This also works as an effective tool for early utilisation of funds.

Comments of the Committee

1.26 The Committee note that to resolve the problem of non-submission/late submission of utilisation certificates, a National Workshop with the State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Department and MDs of SCAs was held on 15th September, 2006 and that the deliberations that took place on the various issues are being analysed by NSTFDC. The Committee would like to know the results of the deliberations and the steps taken to resolve the problem.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 1.46)

1.27 The Committee are concerned about the steep reduction in the shares of NSFDC/NSTFDC and number of beneficiaries during the last three years. The Committee are unhappy to note that there are considerable variations from State to State in the net disbursement to the beneficiaries of NSTFDC under various schemes. The Committee apprehend that the poor progress in schemes is due to lack of coordination and poor response of the State Governments. The Committee desire that particular attention may be given to those States/UTs

where disbursement to the beneficiaries are very less and the corporations should be more conscious in future about their social obligation towards SCs/STs in the matter of disbursement of loans to them. The Committee are also of the firm view that before launching any scheme Government should first take the concurrence and approval of the scheme from States and should examine whether adequate infrastructure exists in States/UTs for launching such schemes. Merely launching of scheme does not serve the purpose as it needs to be sustained by follow up measures to achieve the targets.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.28 NSFDC has been taking steps for better disbursement of loans include pursuing with the concerned SCAs for timely utilisation of funds earlier released to them so that they are eligible for further disbursement, pursuing with the concerned State Governments for adequate State Government Guarantee, regular interaction with the SCAs seeking their proposals for disbursement of funds etc. There are no State-wise set of schemes. The schemes of NSFDC can be implemented in all the State/UTs. Basically, the States propose what schemes they desire to offer to their beneficiaries.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.29 (a) As regards number of coverage of beneficiaries based on sanctions under NSTFDC assisted schemes for Income Generating Activities, it is submitted that there had been marginal decrease in number of beneficiaries in the year 2004-05 in comparison to previous years.

Year-wise data No. of beneficiaries based on gross sanctions for Income Generating Activities.

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)	No. of Beneficiaries
2003-04	66.15	12825
2004-05	68.06	11094
2005-06	67.52	13967

- (b)(i) NSFTDC engaged NABCONS for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for undergoing cluster based economic activities, and other developmental needs relevant to the STs in six States viz. (i) Andhra Pradesh (ii) Chhattisgarh (iii) Gujarat (iv) Jharkhand (v) Madhya Pradesh and (iv) Orissa.
- (ii) Ministry is making it a point to consult State Governments wherever necessary in the case of NSTFDC schemes also. In the project proposals of NABCONS referred above, a meeting has been held with all the State Governments concerned and taking into account the views expressed by the State Governments, they were advised to revise the projects. Final approval given by the Ministry was based on the proposals of the State Governments.
- (c) Funds are being allocated annually to the SCAs based on the ST population of the concerned State/UT with respect to total ST population. Further due to non-availment of funds by some of the SCAs and providing of extra funds to few States, who are active in availing assistance, variation takes place.
- (d)(i) Endeavours are being made by NSTFDC for activating the States those who have not been availing the funds.
- (ii) With the efforts of NSTFDC, during the current year proposals received from the SCAs in the States of Goa and Kerala (Kerala Women's Development Corporation), Bihar, Gujarat, Meghalaya and Mizoram have been sanctioned in 2006-07.

Comments of the Committee

1.30 The Committee note that while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have clearly dealt with the points raised in the recommendation, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have given a causal reply. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have informed that there are no State-wise set of schemes and that the schemes of NSFDC can be implemented in all the States/UTs. It has also been stated that basically, the States propose what scheme they desire to offer to their beneficiaries. The Committee would like the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment/NSFDC to encourage the States/UTs by offering them expertise or incentives, as the case may be, to send suitable proposals for availing of loans by more SC artisans. The Committee also desire that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should see that NSFDC takes an active role in persuading States/UTs in securing guarantee for SCAs from various banks for this purpose. The Committee also urge the Government to examine whether adequate infrastructure exists in States/UTs for launching such schemes.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 1.66)

1.31 The Committee note that as per reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs the financial assistance had been provided to State Governments as well as NGOs during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 for running the VTC, the quantum as well as the percentage have been increased during these three years. The Committee feel that mere increase in financial assistance will not be of much use unless it is ensured that the funds released are optionally and

properly utilized for the purpose. The Committee are, however, constrained to point out that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have not furnished the data regarding the employed/self employed youth who have been trained under the schemes, to the Committee. Instead they have stated that only some State Governments have furnished data in this regard. It is contrary to the claim of the Ministry that data regarding the employed/self employed youth who have been trained under this scheme is also obtained from all the State Governments to ensure the success of the scheme. The Committee note that most of the State Governments have not collected systematic data regarding the scheme of VTC to find out whether these training programmes have been successful to develop the skill of the tribal youth in order to gain employment/self employment. The Committee, therefore, suggest that the Ministry should impress upon other State Governments to evaluate the impact of their training programmes with a view to improving the functioning of VTCs and corrective measures can be taken in this regard accordingly. The Committee are of the view that such data provide valuable information regarding progress made, prevalent vulnerabilities and prospects for development etc. Moreover, the information and data can be very useful for the planning and formulation of programmes for these artisans in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire that the preparation of such data should be initiated by each and every State in a time bound manner.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.32 This pertains to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.33 While issuing the sanction order, it is inter-alia emphasised that funds should be utilised for the purpose they are sanctioned. No further grant is released to any State/UT till the funds released in previous year are utilised. By the persistent efforts made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala have furnished the data regarding employment/self employment of youth, who have been trained under the scheme of VTC. Data from other States is awaited. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is pursuing with these States persistently. Regarding evaluation of the impact of training programmes in order to improve the functioning of the VTCs, all the State Governments who have been released funds in previous years under the scheme have been asked for collecting the systematic data to find out whether these training programmes have been successful in developing the skills of the tribal youth to enable them to gain employment/self employment. All the State Governments/UTs have been asked to furnish this data to the Ministry urgently, vide letter dated 04.10.2006 (Appendix – I). Information has also been sought from the concerned NGOs regarding details of employed/self-employed ST youths who have been trained under the scheme to enable this Ministry to evaluate the impact of such trainings. A letter issued in this regard is enclosed (Appendix – II).

Comments of the Committee

1.34 The Committee note that the data in respect of employment/self employment of youth, who have been trained under the scheme of Vocational Training Centre have been furnished only by the State

Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. It is distressing to note that many States/UTs are still to furnish the data and that NGOs have also not furnished similar information. Further, the Committee note that all State Governments who have been released funds in previous years under the scheme have been asked for collecting the systematic data to find out whether these training programmes have been successful in developing the skills of the tribal youth to enable them to gain employment/self employment. The Committee would like to be apprised of the number of STs who have undergone training in Vocational Training Centres and have got employment/self employment thereafter. The Committee would like the Ministry to speedily obtain the requisite information from State Governments and NGOs and make use of the same in future.

Recommendation (Sl. No.20, Para No.1.69)

1.35 The Committee also note that no training programmes had been organised by the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and Dadra & Nagar Haveli during the year 2001-02, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Dadra Nagar Haveli during the year 2002-03 and Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal during the year 2003-04. Viewing the situation seriously, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should ensure that the State Governments make concerted efforts to hold vocational training regularly to fulfil their commitment towards SC/ST beneficiaries.

Reply of the Ministry of Social and Empowerment

1.36 This pertains to the NSTFDC.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.37 The recommendation of the Committee has been conveyed to the State Governments/UTs for compliance (Annexure – I). As already mentioned in para 1.68 VTC for NGOs is a need based scheme and funds are released on receipt of complete proposals from NGOs alongwith recommendations of State Level Committees. The Ministry has been reminding States consistently to submit proposals of NGOs in conformity with their allocation. The State Governments are also reminded in the Review Meetings of State Tribal Secretaries which are held twice a year.

Comments of the Committee

1.38 The Committee note that their recommendation has been conveyed to the State Governments/UTs for compliance. The Committee regret to note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have linked the Vocational Training Centres only to NGOs whereas it has been clearly stated that the responsibility of conducting/organising the VTCs lies with the State Governments/NGOs concerned vide para 1.62 of the report. The Committee, therefore, urge that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should persuade the State Governments to conduct vocational training in different trades for STs on their own, if the VTCs cannot be provided by NGOs. Mere circulation of the recommendations of the Committee to the State Governments/UTs for compliance and stating that funds are released on receipt of complete proposals from NGOs alongwith recommendations of State level Committees, are not sufficient. If any State is unable to

implement the aforesaid recommendation for want of funds, the Central Government may consider providing requisite funds to that State. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 22, Para No. 1.71)

1.39 The Committee also note that SC and ST trainees are provided stipend @ Rs.600 p.m. and Rs.350 p.m. respectively to cover their incidental expenses. In view of the continued rise in prices of essential items of life, this amount is not sufficient and therefore, the Committee recommend that the amount of stipend under the job oriented training programmes should be increased at least to Rs.1000/- p.m. so as to enable these trainees to cover their incidental expenses.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.40 Details of the expenses incurred, under the revised skill training policy w.e.f. 01.10.2002 envisaging provision of 100% recurring cost of training as grants to the training institutions through the SCAs, are as given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of candidates covered
2002-03	1,82.74	1484
2003-04	156.01	1367
2004-05	197.99	2345
2005-06	326.60	2765

1.41 The above training cost also includes stipend component @ of Rs.500.00 per month per beneficiary. NSFDC does not receive any separate fund from Government of India for running the skill development training programmes. The expenditure is met out of Excess Of Income Over Expenditure (EOIOE) generated from the lending operations. The EOIOE has been falling over the years at a steady rate due to reduction in rates of interest in favour of beneficiaries. Under the above circumstances, the resulting decline of EOIOE

leads to resource constraints in implementing, skill training programmes beyond a certain limit. If the stipend component is raised to Rs.1000/- p.m. it will restrict availability of funds for Skill Training itself thereby limiting beneficiaries coverage.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.42 While reviewing the continuation of the scheme during 11th Five Year Plan, recommendations of the Committee to increase the stipend to ST trainees will be kept in mind. Further, the Ministry has constituted Financial Norms Review Committee for review of financial norms of NGOs schemes on 01.09.2006.

Comments of the Committee

1.43 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their action taken reply have stated that while reviewing the continuation of the scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan, recommendation of the Committee to increase the stipend to ST trainees will be kept in mind. The Committee however, are not impressed by the reply given by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that if the stipend component is raised to Rs.1000/- p.m., it will restrict availability of funds for skill training itself thereby limiting beneficiaries coverage. The argument is totally against the spirit of the view expressed in the recommendation. The Committee feel that not having a separate fund from the Government of India for running the skill development training programmes could not be a sufficient reason as in many cases funds for SCs and STs are not properly and fully utilised due to inadequate proposals. If need be, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment can take up the matter with the Planning Commission and make out a stronger case for earmarking a certain amount for running the

skill development training programmes. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the amount of stipend under the job oriented training programmes should be increased atleast to Rs.1000 p.m. so that all the trainees under the schemes may be able to cover their incidental expenses.

Recommendation (SI.No.23, Para No.2.5)

1.44 The Committee note with concern that on one hand the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry for the welfare of SCs which provide required additional inputs through its schemes for the development of SCs, but on the other hand it has been stated by them that there was no proposal to set up a Cell with the responsibility to coordinate and monitor various schemes being implemented for the development of SCs and SC artisans by other Ministries. The Committee note that various schemes are being implemented by the concerned Ministries for the promotion and growth of small scale industries, but there is no specific scheme for traditional SC artisans. The Committee are of the opinion that in order to provide comprehensive development of SC artisans, the Ministry should launch a scheme on the pattern of Special Component Plan for SCs. Each Ministry has an important role to play in empowerment of SC artisans. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should formulate a Sub-Plan in which all the concerned Ministries of Government of India should earmark adequate budget for the schemes benefiting exclusively SC artisans and set up a cell to coordinate and monitor the schemes being implemented for the development of SC artisans by other Ministries.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.45 Formulation of a Sub-Plan for earmarking budget for the schemes benefiting exclusively SC artisans is not found feasible.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.46 This pertains to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Comments of the Committee

1.47 **The Committee in their recommendation had raised two basic issues, viz. adequate budget for the schemes exclusively benefiting SC artisans by all the concerned Ministries of Government of India, and setting up a Cell with the responsibility to co-ordinate and monitor various schemes being implemented for the development of SC and ST artisans by other Ministries, in view of the fact that the sectoral programmes are being dealt with by the concerned Ministries. The Committee find that in the action taken reply, the Ministry have not addressed the issues in a categorical way. In order to provide comprehensive development of SC artisans, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Ministry alongwith other concerned Ministries should pursue with the Planning Commission for earmarking adequate budget for the schemes benefiting SC artisans exclusively as also seriously consider setting up a cell to co-ordinate and monitor the schemes being implemented for the development of SC artisans by other Ministries.**

Recommendation (Sl.No.25 Para No.2.7)

1.48 The Committee, further recommend that both the Ministries i.e. Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should impress upon the Planning Commission, the urgent need to bring the schemes separately for SC and ST artisans under their purview for proper monitoring of schemes.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.49 The recommendation of the Committee has been sent to the Planning Commission for necessary action.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.50 The Planning Commission have already been requested to take necessary action in the matter on the above recommendation vide this Ministry's O.M. No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 9th February, 2007.

Comments of the Committee

1.51 The Committee hope that a positive result would emerge from the matter sent to the Planning Commission for necessary action. The Committee, therefore, urge both the Ministries to get the matter expedited by the Planning Commission and apprise them of the progress made in this regard.

Recommendation (Sl. No.27, Para No.2.9)

1.52 The Committee are concerned that both NSFDC and NSTFDC have not been able to utilize the funds as mentioned in para No.1.39 and 1.48. They feel that a foolproof mechanism to check the full utilization of funds by the SCAs should be evolved. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government

should impress upon the State Governments to maintain a separate account of SCA funds released and keep a constant watch on the utilization of funds through periodic progress reports from implementing agencies.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.53 The State Channelising Agencies are required to maintain separate accounts for each NSFDC's schemes under which funds are obtained by them from NSFDC. Further, the SCAs are required to submit quarterly progress reports of funds utilized, for every quarter by 10th of subsequent month. These reports contain details of funds released to beneficiaries/suppliers of assets such as (i) names and addresses of the beneficiaries (ii) Cheque No., date and amounts and (iii) names of supplier of assets to whom funds released. The NSFDC officials from Head Office and Zonal Offices periodically visit the project sites to see whether the assets have been created and the units are operational or not. The field offices of the SCAs also undertake monitoring visits of the units.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 1.54(a) Guidelines issued to SCAs of NSTFDC provides for maintaining of separate account of funds received from NSTFDC and reporting of its utilisation.
- (b) Periodic Progress Reports of funds utilisation are sought from the Channelising Agencies (SCAs) of NSTFDC.
- (c) For unutilized funds, SCAs of NSTFDC are periodically advised to refund the same.
- (d) All endeavours are being made by NSTFDC for higher utilisation of funds and as a result, during the year 2005-06, NSTFDC disbursed Rs.59.56 crores as against disbursement of Rs.53.47 crore in the year 2004-05 for implementation of sanctioned schemes/projects.

Further, the target for disbursement of funds for the year 2006-07 has been kept at Rs.80.00 crores.

Comments of the Committee

1.55 The Committee in their recommendation had expressed their concern regarding unspent balance both from the NSFDC and NSTFDC, in respect of various schemes/programmes. Such a huge amount remaining unspent is a cause for concern and has an adverse impact on improving implementation of ongoing projects/schemes for SCs/STs. It is necessary to reduce the quantum of unspent amount. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their action taken reply have informed that the State Channelising Agencies are required to maintain separate accounts for each NSFDC's schemes under which funds are obtained by them from NSFDC and that the SCAs are required to submit quarterly progress reports of funds utilised. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have stated that guidelines issued to SCAs of NSTFDC provide for maintaining of separate account of funds received from NSTFDC and reporting of its utilisation. The Committee feel that greater priority needs to be given to these schemes/programmes for raising the economic status of SCs and STs and therefore, urge both the Ministries to make more effective coordinative efforts in this direction to motivate the States/UTs and the implementing agencies for expeditiously utilising these unspent funds and furnish their quarterly progress reports of funds so utilised to the Ministry. The Committee feel that the Ministry should follow the MPLAD Scheme pattern in release of funds where the balance fund is released after utilisation of 50% of allocated fund. The Committee desire that both the Ministries

should constantly ensure that the funds allocated for all the schemes are fully utilised within the expected period.

Recommendation (Sl. No.28, Para No.2.24)

1.56 The Committee observe that the main problems that the artisans face are related to the marketing of their products. The Committee have taken into account the measures stated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in this regard. Market Development programmes are very essential for boosting the sales of handicrafts products in national as well as foreign markets. The Committee further observe that the handicrafts sector has vast export potential and the Ministry can play an effective role. In the opinion of the Committee active participation in international fairs, exhibitions, buyer seller meets and foreign publicity will be a great help in the promotion of the handicraft sector. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should identify and explore more and more exportable handicrafts and their markets and assist the artisans in their marketing efforts on sound commercial lines.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.57 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides enough space, free of cost, to the artisans financed under NSFDC's schemes in the India International Trade Fairs at New Delhi every year to exhibit their products for sale.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.58 The above recommendation related to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Comments of the Committee

1.59 The Committee appreciate that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provide enough space, free of cost, to the artisans financed under NSFDC's Scheme in the India International Trade Fairs at New Delhi every year to exhibit their products for sale. The Committee feel that these artisans should be encouraged/sponsored to participate in domestic and international exhibitions also and for this purpose, a comprehensive action plan including fixing quota for sponsoring SC/ST artisans should be prepared to promote the sale of handicrafts on a sustainable basis.

Recommendation (Sl.No.31, Para No.2.27)

1.60 As regards the overall position of monitoring, implementation, evaluation and marketing of the finished products of Scheduled Caste artisans, the Committee find that much emphasis is not being given by the Ministry. The State Governments/implementing agencies are slow in sending the utilization certificates in time. Besides, they are also not very particular in contributing their share as per the respective guidelines of the schemes. It is strange that the Ministry also have made no efforts to set up any Special Cell in the Ministry for overall monitoring of marketing and evaluation of the finished products of Scheduled Caste artisans. While the Committee have no objection in State Governments/SCAs having their own arrangements/ mechanism for these purposes, they feel that the Union Ministry cannot escape from its responsibility when these are the Centrally Sponsored Schemes/programmes and the major portion of the funds and outlay is contributed by the Union Government. The Committee would, therefore, like to recommend to establish a monitoring cell in

the Central Ministry for overcoming the hurdles in implementing the schemes and in achieving their objectives in the field of marketing of produce of these artisans.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.61 It is not found feasible to set up Monitoring Cell in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to overcome the hurdles in implementation of the schemes of SC artisans and for marketing their produce.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.62 This pertains to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Comments of the Committee

1.63 Having noted that much emphasis is not being given by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the matter of monitoring, implementation, evaluation and marketing of the finished products of SC artisans, the Committee had recommended for establishing a monitoring Cell in the Union Ministry. The Committee had emphasized in their recommendation that the Union Ministry cannot escape from its responsibility when schemes are the Centrally sponsored ones and the major portion of the funds and outlay is contributed by the Union Government. In their reply, the Ministry have stated that it is not found feasible to set up Monitoring Cell in the Ministry to overcome the hurdles in implementation of the schemes of SC artisans and for marketing their produce without mentioning any reason in support of their contention. The casual approach adopted by the Ministry is regrettable. The Committee cannot but re-emphasise the need to establish a monitoring Cell not only in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment but in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for overcoming the hurdles in implementing the schemes and

in achieving their objectives in the field of marketing of produce of SC/ST artisans.

Recommendation (Sl. No.33, Para No.3.3)

1.64 The Committee note that no exclusive assessment has been made so far regarding the schemes financed by NSFDC for traditional artisans. However, eleven Impact Evaluation Studies were conducted in eleven States through the State Technical and Consultancy Service Organisations and other States/UTs are being covered in a phased manner. The Committee are of the view that such evaluation study provides valuable information regarding progress made and prospects for development etc. Moreover, the information and data can be very useful for the formulation of policies and programmes for different schemes for SCs/STs. The Committee, therefore, desire that such an evaluation study should be initiated for each and every State in a time bound manner. The Committee would also like to know the action taken by the respective States on the findings and observation of the studies.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.65 Further to the 11 evaluation studies, 19 more studies covering 17 States and 02 UTs during 2004-05 and 2005-06 have been conducted through the State Technical and Consultancy Service Organisations. The action taken by respective States on findings of the study are awaited. The matter is being followed up with the concerned States.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.66 The above recommendation relates to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Comments of the Committee

1.67 The Committee would like the Ministry to ask the concerned States/UTs to expedite information on action taken by them on the evaluation study and apprise the Committee in this regard at the earliest.

Recommendation (Sl. No.34, Para No.3.4)

1.68 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have apprised the Committee that most of the schemes are being implemented by the States/UTs and the formal evaluation of the activities undertaken by the NSTFDC and TRIBES shops are yet to be taken up. The Committee desire that the Ministry should conduct surveys and make evaluation studies in the specified areas through reputed agencies/organisations regarding the schemes so that problems of targeted groups could be identified and the Ministry could give more emphasis on skill training and education to meet the changing requirements of enterprises in a dynamic and competitive environment.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.69 This pertains to NSTFDC.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.70 Evaluation and re-orientation

After a thorough review and careful consideration of the diagnostic study conducted by a firm of Consultants, TRIFED in the year 2003 had re-oriented its activities and shifted the focus from direct procurement and sale of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) to its basic mandate of marketing development of tribal products. Under the new role direction, TRIFED has to basically play the role of a service provider and market developer of tribal

products. The procurement and sale of tribal products continues to be looked after by the member societies/organisations like State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations and State Forest Development Cooperative Corporations as per their basic mandate to provide fair price to the tribals. Based on the above-mentioned study and the new role of TRIFED, TRIFED has prepared a new Road Map for its proposed activities during the 11th Plan period (2007-12). Under its new Road Map TRIFED intends taking up the following projects/programmes during the 11th Plan:-

- (i) Retail Marketing Development Activity in respect of tribal products (value added products of MFP/SAP; tribal artifacts and handicrafts).
- (ii) Marketing Development Activity in respect of MFP (including Minimum support Price for MFPs).
- (iii) Training, Skill up-gradation and Capacity Building of ST artisans and MFP gatherers and
- (iv) Research and Development (R&D) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

1.71 TRIFED has sought grants amounting to over Rs.90 crores for implementing these activities during the next five years. This proposal is under consideration of this Ministry. This Ministry is in the process of consulting the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and other Ministries concerned.

Skill Upgradation Trainings:

1.72 Under the scheme Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), TRIFED conducts Skill Upgradation Trainings (SUT) and Design and Technical Development Workshops (DTDW) for ST artisans/craft-persons in various

States. TRIFED has already completed social interventions by way of conducting baseline survey, mobilization, formulation of Self Help Groups (SHGs), technological interventions etc. Such interventions have been arranged or being arranged to cover various crafts like Kantha Stich, Leather Batik, Textile Batik, Dokra craft, Handmade paper Handicrafts, Sabai Grass craft, Wood craft and Bamboo craft, Thanka painting, Lepcha weaving etc. in the States of West Bengal, Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam, Sikkim etc.

Comments of the Committee

1.73 The Committee had emphasised that it was essential for the Ministry to conduct surveys and make evaluation studies regarding the schemes in the specified areas through reputed agencies/organisations so that problems of targeted groups could be identified and the Ministry could give more emphasis on skill training and education. In this connection, the Ministry have stated that after a thorough review and careful consideration of the diagnostic study conducted by a firm of consultant, TRIFED in the year 2003 had reoriented its activities and shifted the focus from direct procurement and sale of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and surplus Agriculture Produce (SAP) to its basic mandate of marketing development of tribal products. Based on the above mentioned study and the new role of TRIFED, TRIFED has prepared a new Road Map for its proposed activities during the 11th Plan period (2007-12). The Committee feel that such evaluation studies need to be conducted at a regular interval and should be replicated in States/Union Territories where necessary action has not been initiated so far in this regard.

Recommendation (Sl. No.35, Para No. 3.11)

1.74 The Committee are of the view that NGOs play an important role in the implementation of various schemes at the grass-root level. The main advantage of NGOs is their ability to reach and interact directly with the needy groups. Keeping in view the vastness of the country and the magnitude of the problems being faced by SC/ST artisans, more and more NGOs/VOs should be involved in the implementation of various social welfare programmes, and there should be an inbuilt provision for some amount of funding for training in schemes to be implemented through voluntary sector. While sanctioning bigger projects to NGOs/VOs some percentage of grants could be earmarked for capacity building under the heading of training for enhancement of the capability of the NGO workers.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.75 NSFDC gives full freedom to the SCAs for establishing linkages with reputed NGOs. Some of the SCAs are implementing the scheme through NGOs.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.76 Matter of associating NGOs for implementation of NSTFDC assisted programme is under examination of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Performing NGOs are considered for grant under the special incentive and awards scheme for exemplary services.

Comments of the Committee

1.77 The Committee note that while the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their action taken reply have stated that NSFDC gives full freedom to the SCAs for establishing linkages with reputed NGOs and that some of the SCAs are implementing the scheme through NGOs, the

Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their reply have stated that the matter of associating NGOs for implementation of NSTFDC assisted programme is under examination. The Committee strongly urge the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to take expeditious decision in the matter and apprise the outcome in this regard.

Recommendation (Sl. No.37, Para No. 3.13)

1.78 The Committee note that there are problems being faced in the implementation of different schemes regarding assistance and protection of traditional SC/ST artisans. The Committee feel that there is a need to improve the delivery mechanism of the scheme through augmenting training and proper monitoring. The stress should be given to form Self Help Groups(SHGs) by providing them forward and backward linkages. The SCAs should think of providing better market facilities to enable SHGs to sell their products. Besides, the products made by SHGs should be sold through various handicrafts melas. Such melas should be organised in big cities of the country. Wide publicity should also be given to the products produced by the SHGs so as to encourage them. Another area of concern is to make the products produced by SHGs competitive. There is a need to provide training to improve the quality of the products. SHGs should be involved in the trade according to the local needs of the area where these are manufactured so as to ensure the viability of SHGs. Once SHGs are viable and are engaged in profit making activity there will not be any problem of Bank loan. In view of the above situation there is an urgent need to take all the corrective steps to make the programme more effective.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.79 The SCAs are given autonomy to identify SHGs and route the NSFDC's Micro Credit Loans through the SHGs stall melas.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 1.80 (a) For augmenting training to the target group, NSTFDC has revised its policy i.e. now grant is provided to the SCAs up to 100% of recurring expenditure.
- (b) For proper monitoring of NSTFDC assisted units, target for inspecting 1500 units has been kept for the year 2007-08.
- (c) NSTFDC has introduced specific scheme for providing assistance for unit cost up to Rs.25.00 lakh per SHG, NSTFDC has formulated another scheme of Micro Credit Finance to be implemented through the existing profit making Self Help Groups.
- (d) Further as stated under Para 3.11, the matter of associating NGOs, the same is under examination of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (e) NSTFDC is providing funds for marketing of Tribal Produce/Products through Girijan Cooperative Corporation (Andhra Pradesh) and TRIFED.
- (f) NSTFDC also participated in an exhibition "Aadishilp Craft Expo at Dilli Haat from 29.08.2006 to 11.09.2006 organised by TRIFED". Further it is also proposed to hold Awareness Camps in various States so as to create awareness to masses about NSTFDC assisted programmes.

- (g) Advertisements about NSTFDC schemes were brought out in National Daily Newspapers and Regional Newspapers in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat on 2nd October, 2006.
- (h) NSTFDC vide their letter dated 17.04.2007 has requested all the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) for providing the name local/regional language which is widely used as a means of communication for official work or otherwise amongst the tribals in their States. The SCAs have also been requested in the said communication that the name of language/script and feasibility of printing of guidelines in the said local/regional language may also be intimated. Therefore, after receipt of response, decision on this shall be taken.
- (i) Depending on the response received from the SCAs, necessary action in arranging the material/publicity in the regional/local languages would be taken by NSTFDC.

Comments of the Committee

1.81 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their reply have elaborated various steps taken by them to improve the delivery mechanism of the scheme. They have inter-alia stated that for augmenting training to the target group, NSTFDC has revised its policy, i.e. new grant is provided to the SCAs up to 100% of recurring expenditure. The Committee regret to observe the evasive reply furnished by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to their specific recommendation by merely stating that the SCAs are given autonomy to identify SHGs and route the NSFDC's Micro Credit Loans

through the SHGs Stall Melas. In order to fully achieve the objectives, it is important that proper attention should be given to those measures as recommended earlier in the Report. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation.

Recommendation (Sl. No.38, Para No. 3.14)

1.82 The Committee would also like the NSFDC/NSTDFC to encourage NGOs/Vos/SHGs in propagating the value of training among the illiterate SCs/STs.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.83 NSFDC provides complete freedom to SCAs to extend lending to beneficiaries through NGOs/SHGs and to propagate the value of training through them.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.84 Matter of associating NGO's for NSTFDC assisted schemes is under examination of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Comments of the Committee

1.85 The Committee note that the matter of associating NGOs for NSTFDC assisted schemes is under examination of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should finalise the matter at the earliest so that NSTFDC could be able to involve the NGOs/VOs for activities relating to propagating the value of training among the illiterate SCs/STs effectively. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl.No. 5 Para No.1.31)

2.1 The Committee are concerned about the rejection of loan applications. It has increased during the year 2004-05 in both the corporations. The Committee desire that more practical and rational approach should be adopted while considering loan applications so that the rejection of applications of the needy SC/ST persons could be minimized. The Committee note that one of the reasons for rejection of loan applications is non-availability of Government guarantee for the projects. They feel that State Governments have not taken these schemes seriously for the upliftment of poor SC/ST people. They are yet to take these schemes at priority level. The Committee would like to recommend that the State Governments should be made aware of the importance of these schemes so that they may reconsider the question of giving Government guarantee and find out some other alternative to utilise the corporations' money fully and adequate funds could be allocated to these disadvantaged groups in time in order to provide them with adequate opportunities for employment.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.2 The defaulting State Channelising Agencies who have not arranged Government Guarantee for the NSFDC schemes periodically have been asked to arrange adequate guarantee from the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 2.3(a) In order to apprise the State Governments about the programmes of NSTFDC meant for the economic development of STs and to make the delivery mechanism more effective, a National Workshop of State Governments and SCAs of NSTFDC was held on 15.09.2006 wherein MDs of Channelising Agencies and Principal Secretaries/Secretaries from all the concerned States were present.
- (b) On the matter of rejection of applications, it is clarified that under the approved lending norms of NSTFDC, no such requirement exist i.e. rejection of application is not done on the ground of non-availability of guarantee. However, for release of sanctioned schemes/projects, Government Guarantee is required, as per lending norms of NSTFDC.
- (c) The matter of providing Government Guarantee is periodically taken up by NSTFDC with the concerned SCAs.
- (d) NSTFDC is also in the process of working out an arrangement of routing their funds through commercial banks to bring about better outreach.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

- 2.4 Please see para 1.17 of Chapter I.

Recommendation (SI.No. 7 Para No.1.42)

2.5 The Committee find that although the main objective of the NSFDC's schemes is to facilitate, promote and finance income generating schemes of SC population living below double the poverty line limits for their economic upliftment, there is no clear cut strategy on the part of the Government to achieve the said targets. The Committee note that during the last three years (1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004) only 281 SC artisans were benefited under the NSFDC schemes. They also find that percentage of lending to small/rural artisans was 1.92% in 2002-03 and it came down to 0.47% in 2003-04. The Committee would like to highlight that keeping in view the slow progress of the schemes, the NSFDC should strengthen the monitoring of the scheme at both the Central and State levels by conducting field visits by senior officers to have first hand information about the actual implementation of the schemes.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.6 NSFDC's monitoring mechanism has been strengthened by submission of Quarterly Progress Reports by SCAs and periodical visits of SCAs and NSFDC officials. The percentage of lending to small/rural artisans in 2005-06 has increased to 1.89%.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2.7 The above recommendation related to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

2.8 Please see para 1.21 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 1.43)

2.9 The Committee also express their concern over the fact that from NSTFDC's share of Rs. 63.25 crore, Rs. 98.98 crore, Rs. 79.15 crore and Rs. 43.73 crore, only Rs. 27.50 crore, Rs. 42.16 crore, Rs. 35.73 crore and Rs. 37.65 crore have been disbursed in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. Although the Ministry has given their reasons for these unutilized amounts, the Committee feel that non-utilization of allotted funds indicate a lack of initiative on the part of the NSTFDC to work out strategies for optimum utilization of resources and getting more resources to finance schemes for employment and poverty alleviation among STs. The Committee feel that the NSTFDC has not performed well in utilizing the available funds and consequently there has been a reduction in the budgetary allocations. Such a trend is unhealthy particularly when more and more employment opportunities are required to be created with the aim of eradicating poverty among poor STs. In the opinion of the Committee due to reduction in the grants for schemes the STs suffer for no fault of theirs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a meeting of State Governments should be convened at the highest level at the earliest, to resolve the perennial problem of non-submission or late submission of utilization certificates and steps taken and progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.10 This pertains to the NSTFDC.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 2.11(a) As regards the gaps between sanctions and disbursements, it is clarified that after sanction of the schemes by NSFTDC, a Letter of Intent (Sanction Order) is issued. Thereafter, Channelising Agencies are expected to complete the pre-requisite formalities for the group schemes i.e. identification of the beneficiaries, tie up of funds from the other sources like Margin Money Loan, Term Loan etc. and identification of suppliers of assets etc.
- (b) Funds are released to the SCAs on receipt of requisition for release of funds for sanctioned/projects and release of funds hinges on the various lending norms including settlement of overdues and availability of Government Guarantee etc. Due to non-settlement of overdues by some SCAs and or non-availability of Guarantee, release of funds could not be considered for such cases.
- (c) NSFTDC and Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken up the matter of settlement of overdues and or providing of State Government Guarantee for augmenting the pace of disbursements.
- (d) Regarding the recommendation of the Committee for holding a meeting of State Governments at the highest level to resolve the problem of non-submission/late submission of utilisation certificates, it is submitted that at the initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, NSTFDC held a National Workshop, with the State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Department and MDs of SCAs on 15.09.2006, with a view to improve the delivery mechanism of the various schemes being implemented by NSTFDC. The meeting was chaired by Secretary, TA and inaugurated by Minister of Tribal

Affairs. The deliberations that took place on the various issues are being analysed by NSTFDC.

2.12 In addition, further release of funds also hinges on the status of utilisation of funds already released. This also works as an effective tool for early utilisation of funds.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

2.13 Please see para 1.26 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para No.1.44)

2.14 The Committee further desire that both, NSFDC and NSTFDC should prepare separate schemes for SC and ST artisans who are really at the lowest level of the society and deserve special attention from the Government. Apart from providing finance, these artisans should be provided training in various trades which may be suitable in the area of their residence so that they can make out a decent living and lead an honourable life in the society.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.15 20 Project Profiles relevant to traditional Scheduled Caste artisans have been prepared and the same have been circulated to the State Channelising agencies for helping SC artisans to prepare projects of their need. During the last three years, the NSFDC has also organised Skill Training Programme for artisans in various trades such as Carpentry, Embroidery, Leather Footwear, Jute Spinning, Non Mulberry Tassar, Cloth Printing, Mat Weaving, Brush and Broom Making with NSFDCs' share of Rs.25.71 lakh to benefit 712 beneficiaries.

Further, during the current year also, training is being organised in trades such as Carpentry and Painting for 70 beneficiaries with NSFDCs' share of Rs.3.15 lakh.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 2.16 (a) All eligible STs including ST artisans are covered under the schemes of NSTFDC.
- (b) In order to impart required training to eligible STs including ST artisans, NSTFDC has raised the level of grant for recurring expenditure up to 100% from the earlier norms of 85%.
- (c) SCAs have also been advised to link training with submission of proposal for providing finance for Self Employment where required so.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 1.46)

2.17 The Committee are concerned about the steep reduction in the shares of NSFDC/NSTFDC and number of beneficiaries during the last three years. The Committee are unhappy to note that there are considerable variations from State to State in the net disbursement to the beneficiaries of NSTFDC under various

schemes. The Committee apprehend that the poor progress in schemes is due to lack of coordination and poor response of the State Governments. The Committee desire that particular attention may be given to those States/UTs where disbursement to the beneficiaries are very less and the corporations should be more conscious in future about their social obligation towards SCs/STs in the matter of disbursement of loans to them. The Committee are also of the firm view that before launching any scheme Government should first take the concurrence and approval of the scheme from States and should examine whether adequate infrastructure exists in States/UTs for launching such schemes. Merely launching of scheme does not serve the purpose as it needs to be sustained by follow up measures to achieve the targets.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.18 NSFDC has been taking steps for better disbursement of loans include pursuing with the concerned SCAs for timely utilisation of funds earlier released to them so that they are eligible for further disbursement, pursuing with the concerned State Governments for adequate State Government Guarantee, regular interaction with the SCAs seeking their proposals for disbursement of funds etc. There are no State-wise set of schemes. The schemes of NSFDC can be implemented in all the State/UTs. Basically, the States propose what schemes they desire to offer to their beneficiaries.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 2.19 (a) As regards number of coverage of beneficiaries based on sanctions under NSTFDC assisted schemes for Income Generating Activities, it is submitted that there had been marginal decrease in number of beneficiaries in the year 2004-05 in comparison to previous years.

Year-wise data No. of beneficiaries based on gross sanctions for Income Generating Activities.

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)	No. of Beneficiaries
2003-04	66.15	12825
2004-05	68.06	11094
2005-06	67.52	13967

- (b)(i) NSFTDC engaged NABCONS for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for undergoing cluster based economic activities, and other developmental needs relevant to the STs in six States viz. (i) Andhra Pradesh (ii) Chhattisgarh (iii) Gujarat (iv) Jharkhand (v) Madhya Pradesh and (iv) Orissa.
- (iii) Ministry is making it a point to consult State Governments wherever necessary in the case of NSTFDC schemes also. In the project proposals of NABCONS referred above, a meeting have been held with all the State Governments concerned and taking into account the views expressed by the State Governments, they were advised to revise the projects. Final approval given by the Ministry was based on the proposals of the State Governments.
- (c) Funds are being allocated annually to the SCAs based on the ST population of the concerned State/UT with respect to total ST population. Further due to non-availment of funds by some of the SCAs and providing of extra funds to few States, who are active in availing assistance, variation takes place.

- (d)(i) Endeavours are being made by NSTFDC for activating the States those who have not been availing the funds.
- (ii) With the efforts of NSTFDC, during the current year proposals received from the SCAs in the States of Goa and Kerala (Kerala Women's Development Corporation), Bihar, Gujarat, Meghalaya and Mizoram have been sanctioned in 2006-07.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

2.20 Please see para 1.30 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para No.1.47)

2.21 However, the Committee find that no annual targets are fixed for utilising the funds or for covering the persons during a financial year. The Committee, therefore, desire that specific targets, both financial and physical should be fixed and the performance of the two Corporations and SCAs can be reviewed in the light of those targets.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.22 Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the NSFDC, annual targets for disbursements and beneficiaries-coverage are being fixed. That targets and achievements for the last three years are as under:-

Year	Disbursement (Rs. in crore)		No. of beneficiaries	
	Target	Actuals	Target	Actuals
2003-04	114.30	113.07	45360	59826
2004-05	130.40	147.13	39360	41489
2005-06	160.00	147.96	45675	53315

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 2.23 (a) Target is set by NSTFDC for covering the number of persons w.r.t. sanctions. However, target for covering the persons is not linked with the utilisation as the Channelising Agencies are allowed 210 days period for submission of utilisation report as a result, there is a time lag in between the time of coverage and reporting of actual utilisation. However, the actual cumulative utilisation of funds works out of 82.6% against the target of 75% for the year 2006-07.
- (b) As regards target for covering the persons, it is informed that this is linked w.r.t. financial target set for sanctions of schemes each year. Against the target of 17,000 persons for Income Generating Schemes for the year 2006-07, NSTFDC accorded sanctioned for assisting 27,484 eligible STs. Likewise, against target of covering 1,08,000 persons under the Marketing Support Assistance during the year 2006-07, actual sanctions accorded by NSTFDC were for covering 2,00,000 persons. This higher number is on account of excess sanctions accorded in terms of financial outlays.
- (c) In the MoU and operational Budgets of NSTFDC specific targets of both financial and physical units are fixed and reviewed periodically by NSTFDC and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para No.1.55)

2.24 The Committee are constrained to note that as against Rs.124.07 lakhs for the 8th Five Year Plan and Rs.912.79 lakhs for the 9th Five Year Plan, NSFDC could disburse only Rs.108.25 lakh during the 8th Five Year Plan and Rs.433.89 lakhs in 9th Five Year Plan to SC artisans. Similarly, during the 10th Five Year Plan period, NSFDC disbursed so far only Rs.353.32 to SC artisans out of its share of Rs.560.82. The reasons for not utilising fully approved funds are stated mainly due to (i) non-availability of Government Bank guarantee (ii) SCA's repayment performance and (iii) non-receipt of utilisation certificates of released funds. The Committee desire that the NSFDC should make all out efforts to remove the aforesaid shortcomings on priority so that the benefits of the scheme could percolate to the poor section of Scheduled Castes living below double the poverty line.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.25 The NSFDC has been making all out efforts to remove above shortcomings and disburse maximum funds to the State Channelising Agencies for covering more and more artisans. As a result of these efforts, during 2005-06, an amount of Rs.2.80 crore has been disbursed for covering 1168 artisans.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2.26 This pertains to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16, Para No.1.65)

2.27 The Committee note with concern that the NSFDC has sanctioned 28 courses for 8 trades covering 560 SC trainees from 9 SC concentrated districts only in West Bengal. Viewing the situation seriously, the Committee strongly recommend that concerted efforts should be made to execute these schemes in other States also to fulfill their commitment towards the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. The Committee feel more emphasis on skill training and education should be given to meet the changing requirements in a dynamic and competitive environment. The Committee are of the view that publicity and awareness programme about the scheme has not been adequate. The Committee, recommend that the Ministry should make all out efforts to popularise the scheme so that the other State Governments may also come forward with proposals for imparting training to the Scheduled Caste youths.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- 2.28 (i) The NSFDC fully appreciates the fact that more emphasis needs to be given on skill training. Expansion of the porgrammes throughout the country has been the earnest endeavour of the Corporation. From coverage of 8 States during the year 2003-04, the NSFDC has not achieved coverage of 19 States in 2005-06 under the Skill Development Training Programmes. The number of trainees have also been increased from 1367 in 2003-04 to 2765 in 2005-06 and similarly the number of trades for the training trades has increased from 19 in 2003-04 to 23 in 2005-06.
- (ii) Emphasis on skill training and education is being given to meet the changing requirements in a dynamic and competitive environment. NSFDC has sanctioned Skill Training Programmes in Information

Technology and new technology courses in the field of apparel design etc., which have good employment capacity.

- (iii) NSFDC's brochures have been translated into major local languages and distributed to the SCAs for publicity at ground level. NSFDC schemes are publicized extensively through Awareness Campaigns in Scheduled Caste Concentrated Districts and in various Melas and Fairs. Besides this, brochures and pamphlets of NSFDC schemes are distributed in bulk to the State Channelising Agencies for publicity through their field channels. Video Cassettes/CDs containing NSFDC schemes and success stories are also shown in melas and fairs.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2.29 This pertains to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 18, Para No.1.67)

2.30 The Committee also feel that the well focused training strategy should be adopted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The thrust should not only be on the number of ST persons trained but also on the quality of training given and its impact on them. For this, the training modules have to be carefully developed keeping in view the areas of learning the proper identification of the training

needs and focusing on the region. For this, a proper mechanism should be there which should monitor the effective utilisation of funds and ensure that the process to develop the skill of the tribal youth through training programmes gains momentum.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.31 This pertains to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2.32 The selection of trades for imparting training under the scheme in a particular centre is done by the State Government depending upon the existing infrastructure as well as the employment potential in the proximity of the proposed location. Keeping in view the limited potential of skilled trainers in interior areas, the tribal youth are permitted to be trained in any two of the trades offered for the training in a particular centre. The course in each trade being for a duration of three months. However, the recommendations of the Committee have again been conveyed to all the concerned States for compliance (Annexure – I). The recommendations of the Committee have been conveyed to the NGOs being funded by the Ministry for compliance. A letter issued in this regard is enclosed (Annexure – II).

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 21, Para No.1.70)

2.33 The Committee feel that though the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provide financial assistance for setting up and running the vocational training centres to the State Governments as well as voluntary organisations for promotion of

vocations/skills including traditional art and craft, the efforts do not seem to be commensurate with the overall total requirement. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should intensify their efforts for increasing the overall production by providing all the necessary financial as well as non-financial assistance by way of skill development, raw material, design support etc. to the ST artisans. The Committee desire that steps should also be taken for providing the latest technology for increasing productivity in the manufacturing sector.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.34 This pertains to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2.35 Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides financial assistance to the State Governments for establishing the VTCs. Trades under which training is provided are decided by the concerned State Governments depending upon the employment potential of the area. In addition, Rs.1200/- per year per beneficiary is provided for raw material. Each VTC is also provided financial assistance for purchase of training equipments at the rate of Rs.2.40 lakhs per VTC, once in five years. While reviewing the continuation of the scheme during 11th Five Year Plan, recommendations of the Committee will be kept in mind. Keeping in view the changing global scenario, State Governments have been advised during the review meeting held on 16.09.2006 with the State Secretary/Commissioners under the Chairmanships of Secretary (TA) to include latest technology courses like computer training etc. in VTCs. The Ministry endeavours to provide training skills to the targeted trainees as per the facilities available with the NGOs. The

trades are required to be selected by the NGOs in accordance with the educational status of the target population as well as the employment avenues available in the region. The list of trades for training under VTC schemes is illustrative and not exhaustive. To encourage artisans to use local raw materials, construction grant is also provided under the scheme, provided the local available material is used by the agency for such construction so that the benefit of the grant reaches the local tribal population.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 24, Para No.2.6)

2.36 The Committee observe that as stated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Culture is administering a Scheme of financial assistance for promotion and dissemination of tribal/folk art and culture, under which grant is given to the voluntary organisations, institutions and individuals engaged in the preservation and promotion of tribal/folk art and culture on a recurring or non-recurring basis. It has also been submitted that since the scheme is meant for voluntary organisations, institutions and individuals, including ST artistes, a separate ST beneficiaries wise data under the scheme is not maintained. The Committee are of the firm opinion that in the absence of proper and separate ST beneficiaries wise data, it would not be possible to identify ST beneficiaries, under the schemes formulated for their economic development and feel that being the nodal Ministry in the matter, it is the primary responsibility of the Ministry to ensure that specific action plan should be formulated and implemented in coordination and consultation with other concerned

Ministries/Departments to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach the tribal artisans.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.37 This pertains to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2.38 Above recommendation of the Committee has been communicated to the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textile to take further necessary action in the matter and intimate the action taken to this Ministry vide this Ministry's O.M.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 9th February, 2007. Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has informed that Sub-Group of Handicrafts for the 11th Year Plan has recommended that, in skill up-gradation programme (Guru-Shishya parampara) of the "Special Handicrafts Training Porject"(SHTP) – under the proposes new scheme Human Resources Development – would be implemented for the beneficiaries from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities, and women artisans only.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (SI.No.25 Para No.2.7)

2.39 The Committee, further recommend that both the Ministries i.e. Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should impress upon the Planning Commission, the urgent need to bring the schemes separately for SC and ST artisans under their purview for proper monitoring of schemes.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.40 The recommendation of the Committee has been sent to the Planning Commission for necessary action.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2.41 The Planning Commission have already been requested to take necessary action in the matter on the above recommendation vide this Ministry's O.M. No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 9th February, 2007.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

2.42 Please see para 1.51 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No.28, Para No.2.24)

2.43 The Committee observe that the main problems that the artisans face are related to the marketing of their products. The Committee have taken into account the measures stated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in this regard. Market Development programmes are very essential for boosting the sales of handicrafts products in national as well as foreign markets. The Committee further observe that the handicrafts sector has vast export potential and the Ministry can play an effective role. In the opinion of the Committee active participation in international fairs, exhibitions, buyer seller meets and foreign publicity will be a great help in the promotion of the handicraft sector. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should identify and explore more and more exportable handicrafts and their markets and assist the artisans in their marketing efforts on sound commercial lines.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2.44 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides enough space, free of cost, to the artisans financed under NSFDC's schemes in the India International Trade Fairs at New Delhi every year to exhibit their products for sale.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

2.45 The above recommendation related to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

2.46 Please see para 1.59 of Chapter-I.

CHAPTER III**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT****Recommendation (SI.No. 3 Para No.1.22)**

3.1 The Committee note that NSFDC/NSTFDC have been financing variety of schemes/projects for the economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Other financial institutions and Banks also support such programmes on receipt of proposals provided these meet their formal requirements. However, there is no specific earmarking for SC/ST artisans, Activities of Artisans come under both Industry and service sectors, for which 50% of the total sanctioned Budget is allocated. The Committee feel that both the Ministries should take consistent steps to achieve the main objective of the NSFDC/NSTFDC schemes to facilitate, promote and finance income generating schemes. Therefore, the Committee suggest that separate funds should be allocated to these disadvantaged groups of SC/ST artisans in order to provide them with adequate opportunities for employment in an attempt to improve their productivity in the developmental process.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.2 Even though there is no separate earmarking of funds for artisans, out of the total sanctioned amount of Rs.437.18 crore during the last three years, the sanctions to Scheduled Caste artisans constitute 2.87%.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.3 In so far as NSTFDC is concerned, the norms of notional allocation earlier earmarked for service and industrial sectors have been revised to 60% and 5% respectively, under which schemes of artisans fall. This revision has resulted in an increase of allocation by 10% in total for these two sectors. SCAs have been advised to avail assistance for artisans. Even without specific earmarking of notional allocation for artisan schemes, no project pertaining to ST artisans has suffered for want of funds.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (SI.No.4, Para No.1.30)

3.4 The Committee note that NSTFDC operates through SCAs and most of the SCAs are having their Branch Offices at District Level. In addition, Zonal Offices of NSTFDC at Hyderabad, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Bhopal are also extending necessary assistance. The Committee note that these Zonal and Regional Offices are located at cities from where only a few tribals particularly from urban areas could be reached. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the location of the SCA offices should be closer to tribal inhabited areas rather than at district headquarters so that maximum number of tribals could be reached under different schemes.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.5 This pertains to TRIFED.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.6 It is submitted that schemes of NSTFDC are being implemented through the SCAs who are having their reach through their district/branch offices/villages/Block Development Officers. Thus the recommendation made is broadly being taken care by virtue of above arrangements. The NSTFDC is also in the process of finalizing a scheme to channelize the funds through commercial banks as well. This is expected to greatly improve the outreach to tribal beneficiaries.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl.No.6, Para No.1.32)

3.7 The Committee note that steps have been taken by the NSFDC/NSTFDC for popularisation of the schemes/programme among the target groups by using the print and electronic media/awarness campaigns and training institutes, distributing brochures containing lending guidelines and participating in melas/fairs organized by various agencies/organisations etc. The Committee strongly feel that unless Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe persons are made aware of the availability of various schemes/programmes, they cannot take benefits of these schemes and take up the work properly. Therefore, the proper attention should be given to publicity of these schemes. The Committee also desire that both the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs should take up the work of educating SCs/STs about the schemes in their own language so that they may avail themselves the benefits of these economic activities more easily. In the opinion of the Committee audio-video

cassettes in regional languages can be prepared highlighting the benefits and details of the schemes and programmes implemented by the SCAs for the welfare of the poor SC/ST artisans and broadcast/telecast on National/Regional Relay Stations to create optimum awareness among the masses. The steps taken and progress achieved in this regard should be communicated to the Committee.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.8 NSFDC brochures were translated into major local languages and distributed to the SCAs for publicity at ground level. NSFDC schemes are publicized extensively through Awareness Campaigns in Scheduled Caste Concentrated Districts and in various Melas and Fairs. Besides this, brochures and pamphlets of NSFDC scheme are distributed in bulk to the State Channelising Agencies for publicity through their field channels. Video Cassettes/CDs containing NSFDC schemes and success stories are also shown in melas and fairs.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 3.9 (a) NSTFDC has arranged printed guidelines in ten regional languages viz. Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Gujarati, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.
- (b) Recently, NSTFDC participated in an exhibition "Aadishilp Craft Expo at Dilli Haat from 29.08.2006 to 11.09.2006 organised by TRIFED". Further, it is also proposed to hold Awareness Camps in various States so as to create awareness among STs about NSTFDC assisted programmes.

- (c) Advertisements about NSTFDC schemes were brought out in National Daily Newspapers and Regional Newspapers in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat on 2nd October, 2006.
- (d) The other suggestion about the audio/video cassettes in Regional Languages and Broadcasting/Telecast on National/Regional Relay Stations to create optimum awareness amongst the masses has been noted.
- (e) NSTFDC vide letter dated 17.04.2007 has requested all the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) for providing the name of local/regional language which is widely used as a means of communication of official work or otherwise amongst the tribals in their State. The SCAs have also been requested in the said communication that the name of language/script and feasibility of printing of guidelines in the said local/regional language may also be intimated. Therefore, after receipt of response, decision on this shall be taken.
- (f) In the MoU 2007-08, entered into by NSTFDC with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, on the matter of publicity and awareness of the programmes, following targets for the year 2007-08 have been set:
- | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---------|
| (i) | Conducting of awareness camps | : | 05 Nos. |
| (ii) | Publicity of regional language Newspapers | : | 10 Nos. |
| (iii) | Publicity through electronic media | : | 01 No. |

3.10 All endeavours would be made for creating maximum awareness about the NSTFDC assisted programmes.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl.No.10, Para No.1.45)

3.11 The Committee feel that the schemes for economic activities are very important Schemes where NSFDC/ NSTFDC extend financial assistance to the SCs/STs. The Committee also urge both the Ministries to make all out efforts to fully utilize the sanctioned funds so that the number of beneficiaries covered under the schemes increase substantially and the scheme is able to make a big impact on the economic condition of the poor Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe families.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.12 Overall, as on 31.10.2006, the NSFDC has been able to assist 4,87,832 Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. Due to the persistent efforts made by the NSFDC and follow-up with its State Channelising Agencies, the coverage of beneficiaries under various schemes has improved as given below:-

Year	Number of beneficiaries covered			Remarks
	Term Loan	Micro-credit schemes	Total	
2004-05	18873	22616	41489	-
2005-06	26256	27059	53315	39% increase in Term Loan beneficiaries, 1965% in Micro-credit beneficiaries and 28.50% in total beneficiaries.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.13 All endeavours are being made by NSTFDC for implementation of sanctioned schemes by periodic follow up the SCAs and the State Governments as the case may be. Besides, periodic visits are undertaken by the Zonal Officers of NSTFDC for holding the discussion with the officials of SCAs/State Governments for wider coverage of the programmes.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl.No.14, Para No.1.56)

3.14 The Committee also note that the NSFDC channelizes its funds only through the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations for the income generating schemes of SC persons living below double the poverty line. The Committee, feel that lack of easy accessibility in rural and remote areas and the long procedural formalities for taking loans make them easy prey to the private money lenders. The Committee, therefore, recommend that these income generating schemes should not only be limited to SC persons living below double the poverty line but those living below the poverty line should also be included in these schemes. They further recommend that some other governmental/non-governmental agencies should also be involved in this work and the loan procedure should be simplified so that more and more SC/ST artisans are able to avail of the loans in time of need. This would go a long way to save the poor SC/ST artisans from the clutches of money lenders.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.15 NSFDC schemes are meant for Scheduled Caste persons having annual family income up to Double the Poverty Line (DPL) limit (presently Rs.40,000/- for rural areas and Rs.55,000/- for urban areas). In other words, applicants of target group living both (a) within the Poverty Line (BPL) and (b) above BPL but within DPL, are eligible for NSFDC loans. Effective from 01.04.2006, NSFDC has simplified its loan application forms to facilitate applicants for easy understanding and submission. Further, NSFDC has given complete freedom to the SCAs to implement schemes either directly or by involving NGOs and Self Help Groups. Besides, SCAs have also been prescribed details norms regarding

registration, selection and wait listing of applicants. It has also been prescribed for the SCAs to communicate to the applicants the reasons of rejection of loan applications.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.16 This pertains to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl.No.15, Para No.1.57)

3.17 The Committee also note that to improve the poor conditions of traditional ST artisans during the 10th Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, besides providing opportunities of training in different vocations has also been helping tribal entrepreneurs by assisting them in the form of term loans through NSTFDC and also through market development activities of the TRIFED including TRIBES shop. The Committee desire that the duration of these training courses should be sufficiently long so that these people can really learn the trade and become self sufficient. The Committee also desire that the Government should set up a body consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, NSTFDC and State Government concerned to identify the schemes which could be taken up in a particular area depending upon the resources and skills of the people inhabiting that area and lay down the financial targets for providing credit facilities and proper co-ordination among the Centre, States and NSTFDC helping in the operation of lending schemes for the STs.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.18 This pertains to the NSTFDC.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 3.19 (a) With regard to duration of training programmes, it is submitted that depending upon the nature of activity and skills of the people duration of programmes is finalised.
- (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is itself implementing various schemes which are directed towards the welfare of tribal people in the country. In the case of NSTFDC schemes also, Ministry does intervene to improve the quality of the schemes as also address the difficulties faced by the States in implementing/availing the schemes of NSTFDC. However, Ministry does not consider it feasible to get involved in each and every project framed by NSTFDC under its schemes and this would be not desirable as it is likely to dilute the autonomy of NSTFDC.
- (c) (i) NSTFDC engaged NABCONS (a unit of NABARD) for preparation of Details Project Reports (DPRs) for undergoing cluster based economic activities, and other development needs relevant to the STs in six States viz. (i) Andhra Pradesh (ii) Chhattisgarh (iii) Gujarat (iv) Jharkhand (v) Madhya Pradesh and (vi) Orissa. Final project reports were submitted by the NABCONS during 2006-07, for all the 6 States. Sanction of financial assistance has been accorded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for five States viz. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat. NSTFDC requested to concerned SCAs for submission of proposals to NSTFDC. SCA in the Jharkhand submitted the

proposal for sanction of loan by NSTFDC and the same was sanctioned.

(ii) Similarly, target for preparation of Details Project Reports (DPRs) for potential activities relevant to the Target Group in four States including sanction of financial assistance has been set for the year 2007-08 also. Matter is being processed in NSTFDC.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl.No.19, Para No.1.68)

3.20 The Committee note that the main aim of the VTC is to develop the skill of tribal youth in order to gain employment/self-employment. The Committee feel that the vocational training centre schemes of NSTFDC for income generating activities is very important scheme where NSTFDC extends financial assistance for running the VTCs to State Governments as well as NGOs. The Committee however note from data provided at para No. 1.61 there was decline in the number of training programmes conducted by both State Governments and NGOs in the year 2003-04 as compared to the year 2002-03. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to make all out efforts so that the number of training programmes should not be curtailed and the number of beneficiaries covered under the schemes should increase substantially so as to make a big impact on the economic condition of the poor ST families.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.21 This pertains to the NSTFDC.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 3.22 (i) Allocation of Rs.108.00 lakh to SCAs of NSTFDC for providing of grant has been made by NSTFDC for the F.Y. 2007-08 for conducting skill and Entrepreneurship Development Programme. Further, target is set to cover 2000 number of ST candidates during year 2007-08.
- (ii) In order to avoid hurdles, if any, on account of financial constraints of SCAs, NSTFDC has revised its lending policy for providing grant up to 100% of recurring expenses for imparting to the Target Group earlier norms of 85%.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (SI.No.26, Para No.2.8)

3.23 The Committee are also of the opinion that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is lacking coordination with the States and its monitoring over the performance of the schemes is required to be more effective. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should have a thorough monitoring over the Central as well as the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and should ensure that the funds allocated for various schemes are fully utilized during the period.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.24 This pertains to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.25 At the time of releasing the grant in all the schemes, it is mentioned in the sanction order itself that grant should be utilized for the purpose it is being given for, and also as per the guidelines for implementation of the scheme. It is ensured at the time of releasing the fresh grant, that funds released under the scheme in previous years, have fully been utilized and in a proper way as envisaged in the scheme/guidelines of that particular scheme. Quarterly Progress Reports from the respective State Governments with regard to the project sanctioned is also ensured. Matter regarding regular monitoring of the project sanctioned to the State Government is also brought to the notice of the representatives of the State Governments for compliance during the review meeting which is held twice in a year. Inspection of these projects is also carried out by the officers of the Ministry from time to time. All the State Governments/UT Administrations have been impressed upon to publicise the schemes so that a greater number of Tribal students may avail of the benefits of the scheme. Further, States/UT Governments have been requested to furnish utilisation certificate and Physical Progress Report in respect of grants released during previous year before release of further grant.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (SI.No.27, Para No.2.9)

3.26 The Committee are concerned that both NSFDC and NSTFDC have not been able to utilize the funds as mentioned in para No.1.39 and 1.48. They feel that a foolproof mechanism to check the full utilization of funds by the SCAs should be evolved. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should impress upon the State Governments to maintain a separate account of

SCA funds released and keep a constant watch on the utilization of funds through periodic progress reports from implementing agencies.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.27 The State Channelising Agencies are required to maintain separate accounts for each NSFDC's schemes under which funds are obtained by them from NSFDC. Further, the SCAs are required to submit quarterly progress reports of funds utilized, for every quarter by 10th of subsequent month. These reports contain details of funds released to beneficiaries/suppliers of assets such as (i) names and addresses of the beneficiaries (ii) Cheque No., date and amounts and (iii) names of supplier of assets to whom funds released. The NSFDC officials from Head Office and Zonal Offices periodically visit the project sites to see whether the assets have been created and the units are operational or not. The field offices of the SCAs also undertake monitoring visits of the units.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 3.28
- (a) Guidelines issued to SCAs of NSTFDC provides for maintaining of separate account of funds received from NSTFDC and reporting of its utilisation.
 - (b) Periodic Progress Reports of funds utilisation are sought from the Channelising Agencies (SCAs) of NSTFDC.
 - (c) For unutilized funds, SCAs of NSTFDC are periodically advised to refund the same.

- (d) All endeavours are being made by NSTFDC for higher utilisation of funds and as a result, during the year 2005-06, NSTFDC disbursed Rs.59.56 crores as against disbursement of Rs.53.47 crore in the year 2004-05 for implementation of sanctioned schemes/projects. Further, the target for disbursement of funds for the year 2006-07 has been kept at Rs.80.00 crores.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

- 3.29 Please see para 1.55 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (SI.No.29, Para No.2.25)

3.30 The Committee find that TRIFED has prepared a marketing strategy for promoting tribal art and craft items but due to lack of awareness regarding these schemes and lack of accessibility, the needy ST artisans are not able to take advantage of these schemes. The Committee feel they should mount an effective publicity campaign through print and electronic media including local newspapers giving detailed information about benefits likely to accrue from its schemes, procedure for availing the benefits etc.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- 3.31 This pertains to TRIFED.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.32 The new marketing strategy refers to the new Road Map proposal prepared by TRIFED as regards its marketing development activities in the next five years. This proposal is being evaluated for adoption during the 11th Plan

period (2007-12) in consultation with the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, and other concerned Ministries. Necessary publicity will be given by TRIFED when this is approved. The Road Map envisages that TRIFED would project the 'TRIBES' brand through advertisements and publicity.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl.No.30, Para No.2.26)

3.33 The Committee are happy to note that TRIFED ensures that artisans get a fair price for the items produced by them and tries to add value by giving them design inputs so that they can adapt their items as per market requirements. Keeping in view this, the Committee recommend that they should set up a committee to explore various avenues for promoting exports. As the artisans cannot export their produce themselves individually, there must be some agency to channelise their exports. The Committee further desire that the TRIFED should set-up a separate wing for providing export intelligence to the artisans in regard to what type of items should be made, which are in greater demand in the international market. It will thus facilitate the artisans to manufacture and export their products as per the requirement of the international market which will enable them to get maximum benefits of their produce.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.34 This pertains to TRIFED.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.35 TRIFED is mandated to function as a marketing developer and service provider for tribal products. TRIFED is already engaged in export products. In order to increased exports and promote tribal products, TRIFED has been participating in international exhibitions. TRIFED participated in domestic as well as international trade fairs. TRIFED participated in International Trade Fair "Foire De Paris" at Paris, France, in May, 2005. Subject to availability of funds TRIFED plans to participate in similar fairs at other places in Europe. Beside participating in local exhibitions in different States, TRIFED participated in the 'Gift and Handicraft fairs' at Delhi during October, 2005 which was organised by Export Promotion Council of India. TRIFED also started marketing of tribal products through e-bay, a popular website for online marketing of different products. It is a recent initiative of TRIFED and the sale has started on a small scale. TRIFED has displayed around 50 items on the net for booking orders. TRIFED plans to increase the number of products on the website and start marketing these products through other similar marketing sites on the NET. These sites also help in getting valuable feedback and demands of the customers received these modes tribal artisan suppliers are informed so that items can be supplied as per the requirement of customers. TRIFED has a mechanism through which it keeps in touch with the tribal artisans/organisations supplying items for its sales outlets of TRIFED to give necessary feed back about the items supplied by them. The Branch Offices source items from tribal artisans/organisations and send samples to Delhi which are presented before the Purchase and Pricing Committee at the Head Office. The members of the Committee decide about the prices at which it can be purchased and also suggest modifications required to make the products more marketable. The observations of the Committee are then communicated to the tribal

artisans/organisations. TRIFED has initiated a new concept of organising Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs) as an exercise to reach tribals located in interior tribal areas to source tribal art and craft directly from the tribal artisans/group of artisans. As per this initiative, TRIFED in association with State Governments/organisations invites tribal artisans to an exhibition area where they bring their items. TRIFED deutes its merchandising team to these melas to identify the items which can be marketed through its outlets and also suggests modifications if any, required to make the items more marketable. This initiative not only helps in sourcing unique tribal art and craft but also helps in spreading a message about TRIFED's activities and how tribals can avail of the benefits of TRIFED's activities. In addition to these TAMs, TRIFED's Regional Offices also reach out to the tribal artisans and sometime seek the help of State Governments for reaching the remote tribal artisans. Concerted effort to bolster its supplier base has resulted in empanelling around 881 suppliers who are expected to be associated with around 1,03,000 people. TRIFED, in association with the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), (DC(H), conducts Skill Up-gradation Trainings (SUT) and Design and Technical Development Workshops (DTDW) for the benefit of tribal artisans/craftsmen under the scheme of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) in various States and encourages formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs).

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl.No.32, Para No.2.28)

3.36 The Committee also recommend that both the Ministries should take all possible steps to publicize the schemes through generic advertisements, print media, visuals, audios, websites etc. so that the schemes may become popular and be in demand.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.37 NSFDC's brochures have been translated into major local languages and distributed to the SCAs for publicity at ground level. NSFDC schemes are publicized extensively through Awareness Campaigns in Scheduled Caste Concentrated Districts and in various Melas and Fairs. Besides this, brochures and pamphlets of NSFDC schemes are distributed in bulk to the State Channelising Agencies for publicity through their field channels. Video Cassettes/CDs containing NSFDC schemes and success stories are also shown in melas and fairs.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.38 All the Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Scheme being administered by the Ministry have been posted to the website of the Ministry. For National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, Coaching and Allied Scheme, advertisements have been issued in all the leading newspapers for inviting the applications from the tribal students. Further, for sale of tribal products, the Ministry is already using the web-commerce portal 'e-bay' for selling tribal products. In addition , TRIFED's own website provides the details of tribal products available. TRIFED has planned in its proposed new Road Map to give wide publicity to promote 'Tribes India' brand.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Recommendation (Sl. No.34, Para No.3.4)

3.39 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have apprised the Committee that most of the schemes are being implemented by the States/UTs and the formal evaluation of the activities undertaken by the NSTFDC and TRIBES shops are yet to be taken up. The Committee desire that the Ministry should conduct surveys and make evaluation studies in the specified areas through reputed agencies/organisations regarding the schemes so that problems of targeted groups could be identified and the Ministry could give more emphasis on skill training and education to meet the changing requirements of enterprises in a dynamic and competitive environment.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.40 This pertains to NSTFDC.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.41 Evaluation and re-orientation

After a thorough review and careful consideration of the diagnostic study conducted by a firm of Consultants, TRIFED in the year 2003 had re-oriented its activities and shifted the focus from direct procurement and sale of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) to its basic mandate of marketing development of tribal products. Under the new role direction, TRIFED has to basically play the role of a service provider and market developer of tribal products. The procurement and sale of tribal products continues to be looked after by the member societies/organisations like State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations and State Forest Development Cooperative

Corporations as per their basic mandate to provide fair price to the tribals. Based on the above-mentioned study and the new role of TRIFED, TRIFED has prepared a new Road Map for its proposed activities during the 11th Plan period (2007-12). Under its new Road Map TRIFED intends taking up the following projects/programmes during the 11th Plan:-

- (i) Retail Marketing development Activity in respect of tribal products (value added products of MFP/SAP; tribal artifacts and handicrafts).
- (ii) Marketing Development Activity in respect of MFP (including Minimum support Price for MFPs).
- (iii) Training, Skill up-gradation and Capacity Building of ST artisans and MFP gatherers and
- (iv) Research and Development (R&D) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

3.42 TRIFED has sought grants amounting to over Rs.90 crores for implementing these activities during the next five years. This proposal is under consideration of this Ministry. This Ministry is in the process of consulting the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and other Ministries concerned.

Skill Upgradation Trainings:

3.43 Under the scheme Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), TRIFED conducts Skill Upgradation Trainings (SUT) and Design and Technical Development Workshops (DTDW) for ST artisans/craft-persons in various States. TRIFED has already completed social interventions by way of conducting baseline survey, mobilization, formulation of Self Help Groups (SHGs), technological interventions etc. Such interventions have been arranged or being arranged to cover various crafts like Kantha Stich, Leather Batik, Textile Batik, Dokra craft, Handmade paper Handicrafts, Sabai Grass craft, Wood craft

and Bamboo craft, Thanka painting, Lepcha weaving etc. in the States of West Bengal, Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam, Sikkim etc.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

3.44 Please see Para 1.73 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No.36, Para No.3.12)

3.45 The Committee also recommend that there is need to frame a proper selection criteria for identifying the relevant NGOs only and eliminate the bogus ones. One of the important steps to improve performance of NGOs is to ensure their proper monitoring and evaluation. The Committee recommend that a system should be evolved to monitor the performance of NGOs. The release of funds to NGOs may be made conditional upon satisfactory performance at subsequent stages.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3.46 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted a screening Committee to examine new proposals of the NGOs. For monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the NGOs, there is a provision in the scheme for inspection of the projects run by these NGOs by the Officers of the Ministry or the concerned State Government or any other authorised officer. Subsequent release of funds to NGOs is considered upon receipt of satisfactory inspection reports and utilisation certificates.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

3.47 Since 2005-06 the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has adopted a decentralized procedure through constitution of a multidisciplinary State Level Committee in each State for identification, scrutiny and recommendation of the NGO projects in service deficient tribal areas. The guidelines issued to the States have clearly mentioned that only essential projects of NGOs in service deficient tribal areas are required to be recommended after inspection at the level of District Collector. Funds are released by the Ministry on receipt of the complete proposals as well as recommendations from the State Level Committee. The system has already been adopted by 27 States.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

CHAPTER IV**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS, REPLIES TO WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION****Recommendation (Sl. No.20, Para No.1.69)**

4.1 The Committee also note that no training programmes had been organised by the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and Dadra & Nagar Haveli during the year 2001-02, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Dadra Nagar Haveli during the year 2002-03 and Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal during the year 2003-04. Viewing the situation seriously, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should ensure that the State Governments make concerted efforts to hold vocational training regularly to fulfil their commitment towards SC/ST beneficiaries.

Reply of the Ministry of Social and Empowerment

4.2 This pertains to the NSTFDC.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

4.3 The recommendation of the Committee has been conveyed to the State Governments/UTs for compliance (Annexure – I). As already mentioned in para 1.68 VTC for NGOs is a need based scheme and funds are released on receipt of complete proposals from NGOs alongwith recommendations of State Level Committees. The Ministry has been reminding States consistently to submit proposals of NGOs in conformity with their allocation. The State Governments

are also reminded in the Review Meetings of State Tribal Secretaries which are held twice a year.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

4.4 Please see para 1.38 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 22, Para No. 1.71)

4.5 The Committee also note that SC and ST trainees are provided stipend @ Rs.600 p.m. and Rs.350 p.m. respectively to cover their incidental expenses. In view of the continued rise in prices of essential items of life, this amount is not sufficient and therefore, the Committee recommend that the amount of stipend under the job oriented training programmes should be increased at least to Rs.1000/- p.m. so as to enable these trainees to cover their incidental expenses.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

4.6 Details of the expenses incurred, under the revised skill training policy w.e.f. 01.10.2002 envisaging provision of 100% recurring cost of training as grants to the training institutions through the SCAs, are as given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of candidates covered
2002-03	1,82.74	1484
2003-04	156.01	1367
2004-05	197.99	2345
2005-06	326.60	2765

4.7 The above training cost also includes stipend component @ of Rs.500.00 per month per beneficiary. NSFDC does not receive any separate fund from Government of India for running the skill development training programmes. The expenditure is met out of Excess Of Income Over Expenditure (EOIOE) generated from the lending operations. The EOIOE has been falling over the

years at a steady rate due to reduction in rates of interest in favour of beneficiaries. Under the above circumstances, the resulting decline of EOIOE leads to resource constraints in implementing, skill training programmes beyond a certain limit. If the stipend component is raised to Rs.1000/- p.m.. it will restrict availability of funds for Skill Training itself thereby limiting beneficiaries coverage.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

4.8 While reviewing the continuation of the scheme during 11th Five Year Plan, recommendations of the Committee to increase the stipend to ST trainees will be kept in mind. Further, the Ministry has constituted Financial Norms Review Committee for review of financial norms of NGOs schemes on 01.09.2006.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

4.9 Please see para 1.43 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (SI.No.23, Para No.2.5)

4.10 The Committee note with concern that on one hand the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry for the welfare of SCs which provide required additional inputs through its schemes for the development of SCs, but on the other hand it has been stated by them that there was no proposal to set up a Cell with the responsibility to coordinate and monitor various schemes being implemented for the development of SCs and SC artisans by other Ministries. The Committee note that various schemes are being

implemented by the concerned Ministries for the promotion and growth of small scale industries, but there is no specific scheme for traditional SC artisans. The Committee are of the opinion that in order to provide comprehensive development of SC artisans, the Ministry should launch a scheme on the pattern of Special Component Plan for SCs. Each Ministry has an important role to play in empowerment of SC artisans. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should formulate a Sub-Plan in which all the concerned Ministries of Government of India should earmark adequate budget for the schemes benefiting exclusively SC artisans and set up a cell to coordinate and monitor the schemes being implemented for the development of SC artisans by other Ministries.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

4.11 Formulation of a Sub-Plan for earmarking budget for the schemes benefiting exclusively SC artisans is not found feasible.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

4.12 This pertains to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

4.13 Please see para 1.47 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl.No.31, Para No.2.27)

4.14 As regards the overall position of monitoring, implementation, evaluation and marketing of the finished products of Scheduled Caste artisans, the Committee find that much emphasis is not being given by the Ministry. The State

Governments/implementing agencies are slow in sending the utilization certificates in time. Besides, they are also not very particular in contributing their share as per the respective guidelines of the schemes. It is strange that the Ministry also have made no efforts to set up any Special Cell in the Ministry for overall monitoring of marketing and evaluation of the finished products of Scheduled Caste artisans. While the Committee have no objection in State Governments/SCAs having their own arrangements/ mechanism for these purposes, they feel that the Union Ministry cannot escape from its responsibility when these are the Centrally Sponsored Schemes/programmes and the major portion of the funds and outlay is contributed by the Union Government. The Committee would, therefore, like to recommend to establish a monitoring cell in the Central Ministry for overcoming the hurdles in implementing the schemes and in achieving their objectives in the field of marketing of produce of these artisans.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

4.15 It is not found feasible to set up Monitoring Cell in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to overcome the hurdles in implementation of the schemes of SC artisans and for marketing their produce.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

4.16 Please see para 1.63 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No.37, Para No. 3.13)

4.17 The Committee note that there are problems being faced in the implementation of different schemes regarding assistance and protection of traditional SC/ST artisans. The Committee feel that there is a need to improve

the delivery mechanism of the scheme through augmenting training and proper monitoring. The stress should be given to form Self Help Groups(SHGs) by providing them forward and backward linkages. The SCAs should think of providing better market facilities to enable SHGs to sell their products. Besides, the products made by SHGs should be sold through various handicrafts melas. Such melas should be organised in big cities of the country. Wide publicity should also be given to the products produced by the SHGs so as to encourage them. Another area of concern is to make the products produced by SHGs competitive. There is a need to provide training to improve the quality of the products. SHGs should be involved in the trade according to the local needs of the area where these are manufactured so as to ensure the viability of SHGs. Once SHGs are viable and are engaged in profit making activity there will not be any problem of Bank loan. In view of the above situation there is an urgent need to take all the corrective steps to make the programme more effective.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

4.18 The SCAs are given autonomy to identify SHGs and route the NSFDC's Micro Credit Loans through the SHGs stall melas.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- 4.19 (a) For augmenting training to the target group, NSTFDC has revised its policy i.e. now grant is provided to the SCAs up to 100% of recurring expenditure.
- (b) For proper monitoring of NSTFDC assisted units, target for inspecting 1500 units has been kept for the year 2007-08.

- (c) NSTFDC has introduced specific scheme for providing assistance for unit cost up to Rs.25.00 lakh per SHG, NSTFDC has formulated another scheme of Micro Credit Finance to be implemented through the existing profit making Self Help Groups.
- (d) Further as stated under Para 3.11, the matter of associating NGOs, the same is under examination of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (e) NSTFDC is providing funds for marketing of Tribal Produce/Products through Girijan Cooperative Corporation (Andhra Pradesh) and TRIFED.
- (f) NSTFDC also participated in an exhibition "Aadishilp Craft Expo at Dilli Haat from 29.08.2006 to 11.09.2006 organised by TRIFED". Further it is also proposed to hold Awareness Camps in various States so as to create awareness to masses about NSTFDC assisted programmes.
- (g) Advertisements about NSTFDC schemes were brought out in National Daily Newspapers and Regional Newspapers in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat on 2nd October, 2006.
- (h) NSTFDC vide their letter dated 17.04.2007 has requested all the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) for providing the name local/regional language which is widely used as a means of communication for official work or otherwise amongst the tribals in their States. The SCAs have also been requested in the said communication that the name of language/script and feasibility of printing of guidelines in the said local/regional language may also be intimated. Therefore, after receipt of response, decision on this shall be taken.

- (i) Depending on the response received from the SCAs, necessary action in arranging the material/publicity in the regional/local languages would be taken by NSTFDC.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

4.20 Please see para 1.81 of Chapter-I.

CHAPTER V**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED****Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 1.20)**

5.1 The Committee note that the Ministries of Small Scale Industries, the Agro and Rural Industries and the Ministry of Textiles have been implementing the policies and various programmes for providing infrastructure and support services to small enterprises through their field organizations for the promotion and growth of rural industries based on the local raw materials, skill and technology and for creating more employment opportunities in rural areas. However, the Committee observe that these Ministries have no specific scheme for traditional SC/ST artisans. In the opinion of the Committee, a focused approach towards the development of SC/ST artisans is possible only if these Ministries start schemes separately and implement the same in consultation with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which are the nodal Ministries for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of development of the SCs/STs. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to pursue the matter with these Ministries to start specific schemes/programmes, which will help traditional Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe artisans.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

5.2 The recommendation of the Committee has been sent to the concerned Ministries for appropriate action. The Schemes implemented by Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), are composite in nature and not specific to area, caste or gender. However, the artisans belonging to all the communities including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community draw

benefits from these schemes. Under the following major relevant schemes, the beneficiaries include a sizable number from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category:-

- (i) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana.
- (ii) Marketing Support and Services.
- (iii) Design and Technology Upgradation.
- (iv) Special Handicrafts Training Scheme (SHTP).

5.3 The Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) and autonomous institutions under the Ministry of SSI have regularly organised Skill Development Programmes, where socially disadvantaged groups i.e, SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities and Women have participated. The Ministry of SSI has formulated "Outreach Programmes for Skill Development in Less Developed Areas" with special focus on socially disadvantaged groups to help the traditional artisans. In view of this, Ministry of SSI feels that there is perhaps no need to start other specific schemes for Scheduled Caste artisans.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

5.4 The scheme of Vocational Training Centres (VTC) for STs is mainly implemented through State/UT Government and also through voluntary organisations under which various components of traditional artisans are taken care of. Under the scheme of grant-in-aid to NGO, the traditional trades like Carpentry, Dari making, Cane and Bamboo training, Knitting/Weaving and Workers Training Centres etc. are considered for grant subject to the

recommendations of the State Government. The recommendation of the Committee has been communicated to the Ministries of Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries and Textile, with the request to take necessary action for implementation of the observations of the Committee.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

5.5 Please see para 1.9 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 1.21)

5.6 The Committee also note that in the absence of any specific scheme, no guidelines have been issued for traditional artisans by the Government. Keeping in view the specific need of schemes for traditional Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe artisans, the Committee recommend that both the Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs should take up the case for preparing specific schemes and issuing of guidelines for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe artisans with the Planning Commission at the earliest so that specific need of poor Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe artisans could be fulfilled in proper manner.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

5.7 As per the recommendation of the Committee, the matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission for preparing specific schemes and issuing guidelines for SC artisans so that their specific needs could be fulfilled in proper manner. However, Scheduled Caste artisans are covered under the lending

programmes of NSFDC such as Term Loan, Micro Credit Finance and Mahila Samriddhi Yojana.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

5.8 Above recommendation of the Committee has been communicated to the Planning Commission, Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, Ministry of Textiles, Office of the Development Commissioner of Handlooms and the Ministry of Culture for further necessary action in the matter. Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has informed that Sub-Group of Handicrafts for the 11th Five Year Plan recommended that, in skill up-gradation programmes (Guru-Shishya parampara) of the “Special Handicrafts Training Project” (SHTP) – under the proposed new scheme Human Resources Development – would be implemented for the beneficiaries from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities, and women artisans only.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

5.9 Please see para 1.13 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 1.66)

5.10 The Committee note that as per reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs the financial assistance had been provided to State Governments as well as NGOs during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 for running the VTC, the quantum as well as the percentage have been increased during these three years. The Committee feel that mere increase in financial assistance will not be of much use unless it is ensured that the funds released are optionally and

properly utilized for the purpose. The Committee are, however, constrained to point out that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have not furnished the data regarding the employed/self employed youth who have been trained under the schemes, to the Committee. Instead they have stated that only some State Governments have furnished data in this regard. It is contrary to the claim of the Ministry that data regarding the employed/self employed youth who have been trained under this scheme is also obtained from all the State Governments to ensure the success of the scheme. The Committee note that most of the State Governments have not collected systematic data regarding the scheme of VTC to find out whether these training programmes have been successful to develop the skill of the tribal youth in order to gain employment/self employment. The Committee, therefore, suggest that the Ministry should impress upon other State Governments to evaluate the impact of their training programmes with a view to improving the functioning of VTCs and corrective measures can be taken in this regard accordingly. The Committee are of the view that such data provide valuable information regarding progress made, prevalent vulnerabilities and prospects for development etc. Moreover, the information and data can be very useful for the planning and formulation of programmes for these artisans in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire that the preparation of such data should be initiated by each and every State in a time bound manner.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

5.11 This pertains to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

5.12 While issuing the sanction order, it is inter-alia emphasised that funds should be utilised for the purpose they are sanctioned. No further grant is released to any State/UT till the funds released in previous year are utilised. By the persistent efforts made by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala have furnished the data regarding employment/self employment of youth, who have been trained under the scheme of VTC. Data from other States is awaited. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is pursuing with these States persistently. Regarding evaluation of the impact of training programmes in order to improve the functioning of the VTCs, all the State Governments who have been released funds in previous years under the scheme have been asked for collecting the systematic data to find out whether these training programmes have been successful in developing the skills of the tribal youth to enable them to gain employment/self employment. All the State Governments/UTs have been asked to furnish this data to the Ministry urgently, vide letter dated 04.10.2006 (Annexure – I). Information has also been sought from the concerned NGOs regarding details of employed/self-employed ST youths who have been trained under the scheme to enable this Ministry to evaluate the impact of such trainings. A letter issued in this regard is enclosed (Annexure – II).

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

5.13 Please see para 1.34 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No.33, Para No.3.3)

5.14 The Committee note that no exclusive assessment has been made so far regarding the schemes financed by NSFDC for traditional artisans. However, eleven Impact Evaluation Studies were conducted in eleven States through the State Technical and Consultancy Service Organisations and other States/UTs are being covered in a phased manner. The Committee are of the view that such evaluation study provides valuable information regarding progress made and prospects for development etc. Moreover, the information and data can be very useful for the formulation of policies and programmes for different schemes for SCs/STs. The Committee, therefore, desire that such an evaluation study should be initiated for each and every State in a time bound manner. The Committee would also like to know the action taken by the respective States on the findings and observation of the studies.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

5.15 Further to the 11 evaluation studies, 19 more studies covering 17 States and 02 UTs during 2004-05 and 2005-06 have been conducted through the State Technical and Consultancy Service Organisations. The action taken by respective States on findings of the study are awaited. The matter is being followed up with the concerned States.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

5.16 The above recommendation relates to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

5.17 Please see para 1.67 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No.35, Para No. 3.11)

5.18 The Committee are of the view that NGOs play an important role in the implementation of various schemes at the grass-root level. The main advantage of NGOs is their ability to reach and interact directly with the needy groups. Keeping in view the vastness of the country and the magnitude of the problems being faced by SC/ST artisans, more and more NGOs/VOs should be involved in the implementation of various social welfare programmes, and there should be an inbuilt provision for some amount of funding for training in schemes to be implemented through voluntary sector. While sanctioning bigger projects to NGOs/VOs some percentage of grants could be earmarked for capacity building under the heading of training for enhancement of the capability of the NGO workers.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

5.19 NSFDC given full freedom to the SCAs for establishing linkages with reputed NGOs. Some of the SCAs are implementing the scheme through NGOs.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

5.20 Matter of associating NGOs for implementation of NSTFDC assisted programme is under examination of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Performing NGOs are considered for grant under the special incentive and awards scheme for exemplary services.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

5.21 Please see para 1.77 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No.38, Para No. 3.14)

5.22 The Committee would also like the NSFDC/NSTDFC to encourage NGOs/Vos/SHGs in propagating the value of training among the illiterate SCs/STs.

Reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

5.23 NSFDC provides complete freedom to SCAs to extend lending to beneficiaries through NGOs/SHGs and to propagate the value of training through them.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment F.No.14014/11/2002-SCD-IV dated 23rd February, 2007]

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

5.24 Matter of associating NGO's for NSTFDC assisted schemes is under examination of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs F.No.16015/14/2006-PC&V dated 10th July, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

5.25 Please see para 1.85 of Chapter-I.

NEW DELHI
April, 2008
Vaisakha, 1930 (Saka)

RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA
Chairman
Committee on the Welfare
of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes

Appendix-I
Most Immediate
By Speed Post

No.19012/12/05-Education
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(Education Section)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-01

Date: 4-10-06

To,

Secretary

Tribal/Social Welfare Deptt.

All State Govts/UTs.

Subject: Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Provisions of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans".

Sir/Madam

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has forwarded a copy of the Tenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans".

2. Some of the recommendations are directly related to the action to be taken by States eg. para 1.66, 1.67 and 1.69. The extracts of these para are enclosed for ensuring compliance of the directions given by the Committee particularly regarding systematic data collection in respect of the VTC scheme as well as evaluation of the impact of their training programmes. An Action Taken Report in this regard may be furnished urgently in order to enable this Ministry to respond to the Committee.

Yours faithfully,

(Gurdeep Singh)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele No. 011-22383965

The data so far in this regard from some of the State Governments, it has been observed that the scheme extends help to beneficiaries. State-wise list of organizations funded under the scheme of Vocational Training Centres (VTC) in various States during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are at Appendix -VII.

1.65 The Committee note with concern that the NSFDG has sanctioned 28 courses for 8 trades covering 560 SC trainees from 9 SC concentrated districts only in West Bengal. Viewing the situation seriously, the Committee strongly recommend that concerted efforts should be made to execute these schemes, in other States also to fulfill their commitment towards the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. The Committee feel more emphasis on skill training and education should be given to meet the changing requirements in a dynamic and competitive environment. The Committees are of the view that publicity and awareness programme about the scheme has not be adequate. The Committee, recommend that the Ministry should make all out efforts to popularize the scheme so that the other State Governments may also come forward with proposals for imparting training to the Scheduled Caste youths.

1.66 The Committee note that as per reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs the financial assistance had been provided to State Governments as well as NGOs during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 for running the VTC, the quantum as well as the percentage have been increased during these three years. The Committee feel that mere increase in financial assistance will not be of much use unless it is ensured that the funds released are optionally and properly utilized for the purpose. The Committee are, however, constrained to point out that the Ministry of

Tribal Affairs have not furnished the data regarding the employed/self-employed youth who have been trained under the schemes, to the Committee. Instead they have stated that only some State Governments have furnished data in this regard. It is contrary to the claim of the Ministry that data regarding the employed/self-employed youth who have been trained under this scheme is also obtained from all the State Governments to ensure the success of the scheme. The Committee note that most of the State Governments have not collected systematic data regarding the scheme of VTC to find out whether these training programmes have been successful to develop the skill of the tribal youth in order to gain employment/self-employment. The Committee, therefore, suggest that the Ministry should impress upon other State Governments to evaluate the impact of their training programmes with a view to improving the functioning of VTCs and corrective measures can be taken in this regard accordingly. The Committee are of the view that such data provide valuable information regarding progress made, prevalent vulnerabilities and prospects for development etc. Moreover, the information and data can be very useful for the planning and formulation of programmes for these artisans in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire that the preparation of such data should be initiated by each and every State in a time bound manner.

1.67 The Committee also feel that the well focused training strategy should be adopted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The thrust should not only be on the number of ST persons trained but also on the quality of training given and its impact on them. For this, the training modules have to be carefully developed keeping in view the areas of learning the proper

identification of the training needs and focusing on the region. For this, a proper mechanism should be there which should monitor the effective utilization of funds and ensure that the process to develop the skill of the tribal youth through training programmes gains momentum.

1.68 The Committee note that the main aim of the VTC is to develop the skill of tribal youth in order to gain employment/self-employment. The Committee feel that the vocational training centre schemes of NSTFDC for income generating activities is very important scheme where NSTFDC extends financial assistance for running the VTCs to State Governments as well as NGOs. The Committee however note from data provided at para No. 1.61 there was decline in the number of training programmes conducted by both State Governments and NGOs in the year 2003-04 as compared to the year 2002-03. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to make all out efforts so that the number of training programmes should not be curtailed and the number of beneficiaries covered under the schemes should increase substantially so as to make a big impact on the economic condition of the poor ST families.

1.69 The Committee also note that no training programmes had been organised by the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and Dadra & Nagar Haveli during the year 2001-02, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Dadra Nagar Haveli during the year 2002-03 and Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal during the year 2003-04. Viewing the situation seriously, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should ensure that the State Governments

make concerted efforts to hold vocational training regularly to fulfil their commitment towards SC/ST beneficiaries.

1.70 The Committee feel that though the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provide financial assistance for setting up and running the vocational training centres to the State Governments as well as voluntary organizations for promotion of vocations/skills including traditional art and craft, the efforts do not seem to be commensurate with the overall total requirement. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should intensify their efforts for increasing the overall production by providing all the necessary financial as well as non-financial assistance by way of skill development, raw material, design support etc. to the ST artisans. The Committee desire that steps should also be taken for providing the latest technology for increasing productivity in the manufacturing sector.

Appendix-II**F.No. 22040/68/2006-NGO
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(NGO Section)**

Dated: 8 September 2006

To
The NGOs (As per list)

Subject: Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans".

Sir,

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has forwarded a copy of the Tenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans". The Committee has observed in paras 1.66 & 1.67 of their report as under:

Para 1.66: The Committee note that as per reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs the financial assistance had been provided to State Governments as well as NGOs during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 for running the VTC, the quantum as well as the percentage have been increased during these three years. The Committee feel that mere increase in financial assistance will not be of much use unless it is ensured that the funds release are optionally and properly utilized for the purpose. The Committee are, however, constrained to point out that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have not furnished the data regarding the employed/self employed youth who have been trained under the schemes, to the Committee. Instead they have stated that only some State Governments have furnished data in this regard. It is contrary to the claim of the Ministry that data regarding the employed/self employed youth who have been trained under this scheme is also obtained from all the State governments to ensure the success of the scheme. The Committee note that most of the State Governments have not collected systematic data regarding the scheme of VTC to find out whether these training programmes have been successful to develop the skill of the tribal youth in order to gain employment/self-employment. The Committee, therefore, suggest that the Ministry should impress upon other State Governments to evaluate the impact of their training programmes with a view to improving the functioning of VTCs and corrective measures can be taken in this regard accordingly. The Committee are of the view that such data provide valuable information regarding progress made, prevalent vulnerabilities and prospects for development etc. Moreover, the information and data can be very useful for the planning and formulation of programmes for these artisans in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire that the

preparation of such data should be initiated by each and every State in a time bound manner.

Para 1.67: The Committee also feel that the well focused training strategy should be adopted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The thrust should not only be on the number of ST persons trained but also on the quality of training given and its impact on them. For this, the training modules have to be carefully developed keeping in view the areas of learning the proper identification of the training needs and focusing on the region. For this, a proper mechanism should be there which should monitor the effective utilization of funds and ensure that the process to develop the skill of the tribal youth through training programmes gains momentum.

You are, therefore, requested to comply with the directives of the Committee as detailed in para 1.66 and furnish the details of employed/self-employed ST youths who have been trained under the scheme to enable this Ministry to evaluate the impact of such trainings.

You are also requested to comply with the directions of the Committee as detailed in para 1.67 by carefully developing the training modules keeping in view the areas of learning with .proper identification of the training needs of the target groups. A compliance report in this regard may also please be sent to the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Mashoda Lal)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to the concerned State Tribal Welfare Secretaries with a request to pursue the concerned NGOs for compliance of the directives of the Committee.

(Mashoda Lal)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
(2007-2008)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTEENTH SITTING

(25.03.2008)

The Committee sat from 1500 to 1530 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Kailash Meghwal – (In Chair)

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kailash Baitha
3. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
4. Shri Virchandra Paswan
5. Shri Ashok Pradhan
6. Smt. K. Rani
7. Shri Bajju Ban Riyan

RAJYA SABHA

8. Shri Krishan Lal Balmiki
9. Miss Anusuiya Uikey

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P.K. Misra, Joint Secretary
2. Ms. J.C. Namchyo, Deputy Secretary
3. Smt. Maya Lingi, Under Secretary

At the outset, the Committee were informed by the Joint Secretary that due to some urgent work. Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Chairman will not be able to attend the sitting. As provided in Rule 258(3) of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Shri Kailash Meghwal, M.P. was chosen by the Committee to act as Chairman for the sitting.

2. The Committee could not consider and adopt the draft Action taken Report on the subject "Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans" for want of quorum.
3. The Hon'ble Chairman decided that the draft Action Taken Report may be considered and adopted at a later date.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
(2007-2008)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**TWENTY-SECOND SITTING
(08.04.2008)**

The Committee sat from 1500 to 1540 hrs. in Room No.62,
Parliament House, New Delhi

PRESENT

Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul
3. Shri Kailash Baitha
4. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
5. Shri Jual Oram
6. Shri Virchandra Paswan
7. Shri Ashok Pradhan
8. Shri Baju Ban Riyan

RAJYA SABHA

9. Shri Krishan Lal Balmiki
10. Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi
11. Shri Mahendra Sahnii
12. Shri Jesudas Seelam

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P.K. Misra, Joint Secretary
2. Ms. J.C. Namchyo, Deputy Secretary
3. Smt. Maya Lingi, Under Secretary

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Hon'ble Members of the Committee. The Committee then considered the draft report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the subject "Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans" and adopted the same with minor modifications.

2. The Committee also authorised the Chairman to finalise the report in the light of consequential changes and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX IV**(Vide Para 4 of Introduction)****ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TENTH REPORT (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES.**

1.	Total number of recommendations.....	38
2.	Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government (vide recommendations Sl. No. 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 18, 21, 24, 25 and 28)	
	Number.....	13
	Percentage to the total.....	34%
3.	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies (vide recommendations Sl. No. 3, 4, 6, 10, 14, 15, 19, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34 and 36)	
	Number.....	14
	Percentage to the total.....	37%
4.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration (vide recommendations Sl. No. 20, 22, 23, 31, and 37)	
	Number	5
	Percentage to the total.....	13%
5.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received (vide recommendations Sl. No. 1, 12, 17, 33, 35 and 38)	
	Number.....	6
	Percentage to the total.....	16%