

SCTC NO. 667

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES

(2005-2006)

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SIXTH REPORT

ON

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Twenty-third Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject – “Working of Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Rajasthan”.

Presented to Lok Sabha on _____

Laid in Rajya Sabha on _____

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2005 / Bhadrapada, 1927 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (2005-2006)**

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya - Chairman

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- | | | | |
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| 4. | Shri Gopal Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Ms. J.C. Namchyo | - | Under Secretary |
| 6. | Smt. Maya Lingi | - | Committee Officer |

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 Sixth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-third Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Tribal Affairs regarding Working of Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Rajasthan.

2. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on 16th August, 2005 (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 Twenty-third Report of the Committee is given in the Appendix-II. It would be observed therefrom that out of 27 recommendations/observations made in the report, 10 recommendations i.e. 37 percent have been accepted by the Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue 3 recommendations i.e. 11 per cent in view of the Government's replies. There are 14 recommendations i.e. 52 per cent in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require further reiteration.

NEW DELHI

August, 2005

Bhadrapada, 1927 (Saka)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA

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 23rd Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on “Working of Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Rajasthan.”

1.2 The 23rd Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 27 February, 2003. It contained 27 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 Government (Sl. Nos. 1,3,4,5,7,8,13,17,22 and 23).
- (ii) Recommendations and observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in the light of the replies of the Government (Sl. Nos. 10,14, and 26).
- (iii) Recommendations and observations replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration (Sl. Nos. 2,6,9,11,12,15,16,18,19,20,21,24,25 and 27).
- (iv) Recommendations and observations in respect of which final replies have not been received – (NIL).

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

Integrated Tribal Development Projects and objectives

Recommendation (Sl.No. 2, Para No. 1.10)

1.4 The Committee are distressed to note that the objectives of ITDP could be achieved upto some extent in Rajasthan. The Committee therefore recommend that for effective implementation of tribal development programmes, the administrative machinery in Rajasthan should be strengthened. The Committee feel that periodic field visits to the ITDP area with the coordination of Central Government is one of the most important monitoring systems because these visits can, not only motivate the ground level workers to work with more enthusiasm but will also boost the morale of needy tribals. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to conduct field visits to ITDP area regularly.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.5 The State Government agrees with the view of the Committee that the administrative machinery should be strengthened. Proposals for strengthening of planning and monitoring at ITDP level and at Commissioner level are being prepared.

Comments of the Committee

1.6 The Committee in their earlier recommendation had desired that administrative machinery in Rajasthan should be strengthened. The State Government of Rajasthan in their action taken reply have stated that they agree with the view of the Committee that the administrative machinery should be strengthened and that proposals for strengthening of planning and monitoring at ITDP level and at Commissioner level are being prepared. The Committee would like the Government to apprise them of the progress made in this regard.

The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have not commented on the field visits as suggested by the Committee. They would like to be apprised whether they have conducted any visits and , if so, their

assessment on projects in Tribal Sub Plan areas should be sent to the Committee.

Tribal Advisory Council (TAC)

Recommendation (Sl.No. 6, Para No. 1.24)

1.7 The Committee are extremely unhappy to note that during the last three years, out of 12 major recommendations made by Tribal Advisory Council, only three recommendations have been implemented; in case of one recommendation the decision has been taken to adopt and remaining seven recommendations are still under process. The Committee, therefore, desire that the State Government should take serious view of remaining seven recommendations of TAC and take necessary steps to implement them in letter and spirit at the earliest.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.8 The reason for low rate of compliance of recommendations is that they are directly concerned with other departments and impinge upon certain major policies. Efforts are however being made to comply with all the recommendations of TAC. The reasons for non-compliance and action taken against each recommendation are explained to the members of the TAC in all meetings.

Comments of the Committee

1.9 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Government. They do not fully agree with their reasoning that low rate of compliance of recommendations is because they are directly concerned with other Departments and impinge upon certain major policies. The Government need to find ways and means for speedy compliance of all recommendations. The Committee,

therefore, reiterate that the Government should take serious view of recommendations of TAC and should implement them at the earliest.

Norms and guidelines for tribal development

Recommendation (Sl.No. 7, Para No. 2.6)

1.10 The Committee note that the role of various Central Ministries in tribal development has been explained in the Prime Minister's D.O. letter No.280/PMO/80, dated 12 March, 1980. But the Committee are extremely disappointed to note that in spite of the guidelines issued to various Ministries by PM, adequate funds under Tribal Sub-Plan in different Schemes are not earmarked properly according to the percentage of the Scheduled Tribes population in the country. Some of the Central Ministries have also reported that Tribal Sub Plan is not feasible in the area of their activities. The quantification of funds is made by the Central Ministries both for SCs and STs jointly and no specific information in respect of STs is available. The Committee also observe that there is no proper monitoring arrangement made by some of the Ministries about their expenditure of funds allocated for Tribal Sub-Plan. It is deplorable that even after ITDP / ITDA Programme being in force for more than a decade and despite the fact that detailed guidelines were issued by Planning Commission in 1977 and also by Prime Minister's D.O. letter No.280-PMO/80 dated 12 March, 1980 to the Central Ministries, these shortcomings still persist. The Committee feel that Ministry of Tribal Affairs being the nodal Ministry for overall policy, Planning and Coordination of development programmes for tribals

have to play a greater role vis-à-vis other Ministries/Departments. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs should therefore take up the matter with the Planning Commission and other concerned Ministries/Departments at the highest level with a view to streamline the procedure for implementation of the programmes.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.11 It may be stated that during the discussions on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (2002-2003), the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Labour and Welfare had also noted this aspect with concern and made certain recommendations. This Ministry had accordingly written to the Secretaries of various Central Ministries/ Departments on 22 August, 2002 and to the Secretaries in charge of the Tribal Welfare Departments of the States/UTs on 27 August, 2002 to take appropriate action in the matter. Copies of our letters were also sent to the Planning Commission for taking up the matter with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments and State/UT Governments to ensure that the TSP component was actually earmarked by them. The Planning Commission had accordingly written to all Central Ministries/Departments and also to the TSP States/UTs on 11 June, 2003 for intimating the action taken by them on the recommendations of the Committee toward effective implementation of the TSP strategy both in terms of allocation of funds and implementation of the strategy. In view of the above mentioned recommendations of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, this Ministry had again written to Planning Commission to take up this matter immediately with the Central Ministries/Departments and the State/UT Governments for earmarking of

funds under the TSP components, vide d.o. letter No.16012/23/01-S&M dated 11 June, 2003. The Planning Commission have also again written to the Secretaries, Central Ministries and Secretaries in-charge of Tribal Welfare Departments of the State Governments concerned on 30 June, 2003 and 1 July, 2003 respectively for expediting action in the matter.

Comments of the Committee

1.12 The Committee are interested to know the outcome of the exercise carried out by the Planning Commission to persuade the Central Ministries/Departments and the State/UT Governments to earmark funds under the TSP components.

Personnel policy for tribal areas

Recommendation (Sl.No. 8, Para No. 2.13)

1.13 The Committee note that there is no prescribed mechanism to select officers/staff to work in ITDPs. However, the Committee are happy to note that 45% vacancies in pay scale 1 to 6 and other posts in the States have been reserved for local tribals in Scheduled Area at the level of district/regional recruitments to work in ITDP areas. The Committee also note that no special training or orientation is given to officer/staff posted in ITDP. The Committee therefore, feel that any staff posted to work in ITDP areas should be given training to familiarise with the working of ITDP to make this project fruitful. The Committee desire that steps should also be taken to see that the trained personnel of the State Government are fully associated with the implementation of various tribal development schemes. The Committee also recommend that in order to improve the administrative structure, personnel policy, selection

procedure and Training in the State of Rajasthan, the Maheswar Prasad Committee's recommendations be implemented.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.14 Fundamental training to Project Officers is imparted at HCM RIPA, Jaipur after the selection of personnel in Rajasthan Administrative Service. Branch of HCM RIPA at Udaipur holds regular Training Courses in Service Rules and GF and AR which are attended by the subordinate staff to assist them in their day-to-day functioning. Computer Awareness training for office personnel is being held and attended at regular intervals. A training programme for Hostel Wardens of Ashram Hostels was organized by HCM RIPA, Udaipur Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Training Institute has also organized a refresher course for Project Officers of ITDPs along with BDOs of the State. Need-based training is imparted by HCM RIPA, the Premier Training Institute of the State. Training in Financial Accounting and Management under Maharashtra Pattern has been proposed for 2003-04. It is also proposed to conduct a training programme on "Aspects of Tribal Welfare" targetted to orient towards various problems of tribal population and discussion on schemes presently undertaken by the Department and perspective need based schemes, contribution of NGOs and active participation of tribals in plan formulation and delineation of performance indicators for effective monitoring.

Comments of the Committee

1.15 The Committee desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should ensure that regular Training Programmes are organised for personnel engaged in implementing various schemes for tribal population in all States/UTs.

Excise policy

Recommendation (Sl.No. 9, Para No. 3.6)

1.16 The Committee are unhappy to note that the State Government of Rajasthan are running liquor shops in TSP areas aiming at providing cheaper liquor to tribals but they have not made efforts to ban commercial vending of liquor in Tribal Sub Plan areas as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and reiterated by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the State Government to take necessary steps to see that commercial vending of liquor is totally banned in TSP areas.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.17 Banning of commercial vending of liquor and implementation of total prohibition in the Scheduled Area has been recommended time and again by TAC. The matter has been referred to State Excise Department but a final decision is yet to be taken.

Comments of the Committee

1.18 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the State Government that the matter with regard to enforcing ban on commercial vending of liquor in TSP areas has been referred to the State Excise Department and a final decision is yet to be taken. Loss of revenue should not deter them from taking a decision in the matter. The Committee, therefore, urge the State Government to expedite

decision on enforcing a ban on commercial vending of liquor in TSP areas without succumbing to any pressure.

Land alienation

Recommendation (Sl.No. 11, Para No. 3.12)

1.19 The Committee note with concern that 687 cases of land alienation were detected during five years 1992-2000, and out of which 260 cases have been disposed of so far. The Committee desire that State Government of Rajasthan should settle the remaining 427 cases expeditiously.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.20 Detection and disposal of land alienation cases is an ongoing process implemented through Revenue Courts. Special drives for detection and disposal of land alienation cases have also been conducted and Revenue Officers have been instructed to review the position periodically and deal with these promptly. All the Presiding Officers have been instructed to dispose of all the cases prior to April 1996 and atleast 50% cases registered between April 1996 to March 1998 by March 2003.

Comments of the Committee

1.21 The Committee in their recommendation had desired that the State Government of Rajasthan should settle the remaining 427 cases of land alienation expeditiously. The Government of Rajasthan in their action taken reply have inter-alia stated that all the Presiding Officers have been instructed to dispose of all the cases prior to April 1996 and at least 50% cases registered between April 1996 and March 1998 by March 2003. The Committee would,

therefore, like to be apprised of the position with regard to disposal of cases as in March, 2003 and as on 31st December, 2005.

Recommendation (Sl.No. 12, Para No. 3.13)

1.22 The Committee are surprised to note that in spite of various laws enacted so far, land alienation in Rajasthan has still continued and become a serious problem. The Committee feel that Welfare programme will have no meaning if the tribals are deprived of land on which their very livelihood depend. The Committee, however appreciate that the revenue officers have been instructed to review the position and deal with them promptly. But merely issuing instructions to conduct survey regarding land alienation of SC/ST persons would have no meaning without concrete results in favour of STs. The Committee would therefore urge the State Government to strengthen their monitoring system to collect reliable information on land alienation and restoration and evolve a mechanism for speedy settlement of the registered cases. The Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry should also issue necessary guidelines for setting up of special courts in tribal areas for quick disposal of cases of land alienation.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.23 The above mentioned recommendation of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) for necessary action.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.24 Latest position of pendency under Section 175 and 183 of Rajasthan Tenancy Act 1955 in the ITDP area is as follows as on 31.12.2002:-

S.No.	ITDP	Section 175		Section 183	
		No.	Area(ha)	No.	Area(ha)
1.	Udaipur	10	1.2300	6	5.67
2.	Dungarpur	-	-	-	-
3.	Banswara	2	3.4866	4	3.85
4.	Pratapgarh	72	110.0700	4	15.65
5.	Abu Road	-	-	17	40.58
	Total	84	114.7866	38	65.75

In addition to this, directions are issued from time to time regarding land allotment/regularisation for agriculture purposes "Prashasan Gaon Ke Sang" campaign was organised during the period from 2 October, 2001 to 10 January, 2002. In this campaign 16,460 allotments were made in Udaipur division of which 9910 (60.21%) were SCs and 1837 (11.16%) STs. Total Allotment in the State was 30,884 (29109 Acres) of which 12,268 (39.27%) were ST and 12784 (41.40%) were SC. There are no separate Courts for dealing with land alienation cases, but it remains a very sensitive matter. Effective measures have been devised for speedy disposal of cases and periodic and stringent monitoring is conducted which is supplemented by the allotment of Government land for agricultural purposes to SC/ST on priority basis.

Comments of the Committee

1.25 The Committee had specifically urged the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to issue guidelines for setting up of Special Courts in tribal areas for quick disposal of cases of land alienation. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their reply have stated

that they have brought the recommendations of the Committee to the notice of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) for necessary action. The Committee would, therefore, like to know the action taken by the Ministry of Rural Development in this regard.

The State Government in their reply have mentioned that 84 and 38 cases were pending under Sections 175 and 183 respectively of Rajasthan Tenancy Act 1955 in ITDP areas as on 31.12.2002. It has also been stated that effective measures have been devised for speedy disposal of cases and periodic and stringent monitoring is conducted. These measures, however, have not been elaborated. The Committee are of the view that one of such measures should be of setting up of Special Courts. If this measure is undertaken in the right spirit, it would go a long way in ensuring speedy disposal of cases by the State Government. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Government should set up Special Courts in tribal areas to dispose of cases of land alienation.

Education

Recommendation (Sl.No. 15, Para No. 4.19)

1.26 The Committee are distressed to note that scholarship is not being disbursed to SC/ST students on time. In the opinion of the Committee since inadequate amount is allotted for such schemes it causes erratic disbursement of scholarship and this delay is one of the reasons for drop out of students. They therefore urge upon both Central Government and State Government of Rajasthan to evolve a mechanism where the disbursement of scholarship is on time. The Committee desire that the erring officials who are responsible for not disbursing the scholarship on time should be punished.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.27 State Government has been requested to ensure the timely disbursement of Post Matric Scholarship meant for ST students. The concern expressed by the Committee was brought to the notice of the State Government in a meeting which was held in June, 2003. Further the State Government has been requested vide Ministry's letter No.19012/19/2003-Schemes dated 29.07.2003 to identify the area of improvement in the existing system so that a better mechanism for quick and smooth disbursement of the scholarships could be evolved. They have also been requested to identify the erring officials and fix responsibility for the delay so that action could be taken against the defaulters (if any).

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.28 The various incentives given by Tribal Development Department are being distributed in time. There are standing orders to distribute the scholarship on 15 August and 28 January every year. If some are found guilty then action will be taken against the responsible officer for delay in scholarship distribution. Many times scholarships are not being released in time by State and Central Governments.

Comments of the Committee

1.29 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had asked the State Government of Rajasthan to ensure timely disbursement of post matric scholarships meant for ST students whereas the State Government in their reply have stated that various incentives given by the Tribal Development Department are being distributed in time and there are standing orders to distribute scholarships on 15 August and 28 January every year. The State Government have also stated that many times scholarships are not being released in time by State and Central Governments. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised by both the Governments about the exact position with regard to delay in releasing the scholarships. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the action taken by the State Government to improve the existing mechanism for quick and smooth disbursement of scholarships as also the action taken against Government officials responsible for late disbursement of scholarships.

Recommendation (Sl.No. 16, Para No. 4.20)

1.30 The Committee are of the view that the present rate of stipend to tribal boys and girls is very low and not at all sufficient to meet the expenditure of

students specially with reference to the increase in price index. The Committee, therefore, urge the State Government to review the existing stipend being given to the tribal students which will help to solve the drop out cases among the tribal students and will also enhance the literacy rate among them.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.31 The recommendation of the Committee is reasonable looking to the increased price index. Efforts will be made to enhance stipend rates from next financial year.

Comments of the Committee

1.32 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Government that they will make efforts to enhance stipend rates from next financial year. The Committee reiterate that the State Government should review the stipends being given to the tribal students regularly taking also into consideration the increase in price index so that more tribal children could be benefited.

Health

Recommendation (Sl.No. 18, Para No. 4.28)

1.33 The Committee note that as per prescribed norms, many posts of medical staff have remained vacant for long time in Rajasthan. The Committee feel with great concern that vacant posts in TSP area specially in case of Senior Specialists, Junior Specialists, Senior Medical Officer, Medical Officer, IV Class/Ward Boy, almost in all categories have not been filled up. The Committee recommend that the Government should take immediate steps to fill up all the vacancies of medical staff within a period of six months positively and apprise the Committee in this regard.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.34 Meetings of Departmental Promotion Committee are being held on priority basis. Hence Senior Posts will be filled after these meetings are completed. As

per the State Policy, vacant posts of Medical Department are now being filled on consolidated salary basis on priority. This has resulted into minimising the number of vacancies.

Comments of the Committee

1.35 The Committee note that the State Government have initiated action for filling up the post of medical staff by calling meetings of Departmental Promotion Committee on priority basis. The Committee would like the State Government to complete filling up of all vacant posts within a specific time frame. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

Recommendation (Sl.No. 19, Para No. 4.29)

1.36 The Committee note that the posts of para medical staff are being filled up on priority basis and Infrastructure facilities are being provided in TSP area. The Committee are at a loss to understand that how primary health centre and community health service could function with inadequate number of doctors. It is obvious that access to health facilities in tribal area is not satisfactory, because of inadequate staff, absence of doctors and lack of incentives provided to the medical staff. The Committee strongly recommend that the State Government should evaluate the working of public health care system in tribal areas and take necessary measures to improve the smooth functioning of public health facilities.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.37 Advertisement has already been published for filling up vacancies of para medical staff, all over the State. It is expected that these posts will be filled very soon. Vacancies of Male Nurse, Lab-Technician & ANMs shall be filled on consolidated pay basis.

Comments of the Committee

1.38 The Committee in their recommendation had specifically recommended that the State Government should evaluate the working of public health care system in tribal areas and take necessary measures to improve smooth functioning of public health facilities. The State Government in their action taken reply have stated that advertisement has already been published for filling up vacancies of para medical staff all over the State and it is expected that these posts will be filled very soon. The Committee feel that without evaluating the working of public health system properly the State Government have taken ad hoc action in the matter. The Committee, would, therefore reiterate their earlier recommendation that the State Government should evaluate the working of public health care system in tribal areas and accordingly take necessary measures to improve the smooth functioning of public health facilities.

Recommendation (Sl.No. 20, Para No. 4.30)

1.39 The Committee are dissatisfied to note that no additional benefit to medical staff working in TSP area is given due to large area of the State being desert area and tribal area is in the interior. Though the State Government have stated that monetary and non-monetary benefits would require huge amount for such a large number of employees working in TSP and desert areas yet the Committee are of the view that State Government should examine the feasibility of giving some incentives to medical staff working in TSP area so that people of those area get better medical attention. The Committee also recommend that sufficient TSP funds be allocated for this purpose in the State.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.40 The proposal to provide monetary incentives to medical staff posted in the TSP area has not been found feasible by the State Government. As far as non-monetary incentives are concerned, residential quarters are being provided to doctors and para medical staff on priority basis. Some more quarters are under construction.

Comments of the Committee

1.41 The Committee are not convinced by the reply of the State Government that the proposal to provide monetary incentives to medical staff in TSP area has not been found feasible but non-monetary incentives like residential quarters are being provided to doctors and para medical staff on priority basis. Unless some attractive incentives are provided to doctors and other medical staff, the problem of shortage of medical staff will persist in TSP area. The State Government should not forget that their primary goal in TSP areas is to improve the quality of life of tribal communities. If this objective is lost, there will be excuses all around. The State Government, therefore should not harp on the excuse of heavy burden on their funds. Also nothing has been said about enhancing TSP funds by both the Central and State Governments. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that sufficient TSP funds be allocated for giving monetary and non-monetary incentives to medical staff working in TSP areas. They would like to be apprised of the action taken in this matter.

Animal husbandry

Recommendation (Sl.No. 21, Para No. 4.38)

1.42 The Committee are not satisfied over the casual approach of the State Government of Rajasthan that it is upto the beneficiary to decide whether to take a milch cattle or not. The Committee also note that the welfare of tribals largely depends on the success of allied activities like animal husbandry, agriculture, etc. The Committee desire that the Central and the State Governments should review and restart the scheme of providing milch cattle to tribals and also to motivate them to take the maximum benefit of these schemes.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.43 The above mentioned recommendation of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was brought to the notice of Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying). That Department has informed that the agriculture including animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries is a State subject. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has mainly been providing assistance to the State Government for strengthening of their infrastructure for the development of these sectors. The Department is therefore not implementing any scheme through which milch animals can be distributed to any segment of population.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.44 In view of the fact that the economy of tribals largely depends on allied activities like animal husbandry, agriculture, etc., the scheme of providing milch cattle to tribals will be taken up in future.

Comments of the Committee

1.45 The Committee are not satisfied with the casual reply of the State Government that the scheme of providing milch cattle to tribals will be taken up in future. It appears from the reply that the scheme of providing milch cattle to tribals is not operative at present. The Committee urge the State Government to find out the reasons why there is decrease in demand for milch cows by the tribal over the years and accordingly make necessary changes in the scheme of providing milch cattle to tribals.

Recommendation (Sl.No. 22, Para No. 4.39)

1.46 The Committee note that there are around 138 veterinary hospitals, 55 veterinary dispensaries, 7 Mobile Surgical Units, 6 Sub-Divisional Mobile Surgical Units and 305 sub centres in TSP area for cattle treatment. The Committee are happy to note that there is no shortage of improved cattle breed, qualitative medicines, vehicles for staff of A.H. Department but unhappy to note that out of 6071 dairy cooperatives in Rajasthan only 4026 dairy cooperatives are functional and the rest are non-functional. The Committee note that shortage of basic infrastructure, refrigeration, chilling plant machinery are the main reasons for non-functioning of dairy cooperatives in Sawai Madhopur District. The Committee note that around 35% of dairy cooperatives in Rajasthan are non-functional. The Committee, therefore, suggest that prompt and corrective steps should be taken by the Rajasthan Government to evaluate the functioning of dairy cooperatives and concrete measures taken to improve their functioning.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.47 As regards to dairy cooperatives operating in the State of Rajasthan, the Department has informed that there are 6854 registered dairy cooperatives in Rajasthan as in February 2003, of which 5144 cooperatives are functional. The dairy cooperatives in Rajasthan are being run by Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF) and State Government will be in proper position to comment

on the causes of sickness of dairy cooperatives. The Department has already sent the recommendations of the Committee to the State Government of Rajasthan for taking necessary action.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.48 State Government has taken several steps for revival of non-functional dairy cooperatives. Revamping of management of dairy cooperatives and extension programmes have been undertaken to put these cooperatives back on path of dairy development activities.

Comments of the Committee

1.49 The reply does not specifically state the steps taken for revival of non-functional dairy cooperatives. The Committee are concerned that out of 6854 registered dairy cooperatives, 1710 dairy cooperatives in Rajasthan were non-functional as in February, 2003. No doubt non-functioning of such a large number of dairy cooperatives is affecting the lives of rural poor including the tribal people to some extent. The Committee would like the State Government to identify the cause of sickness and take remedial measures to revive these non-functional dairy cooperatives.

Irrigation

Recommendation (Sl.No. 24, Para No. 4.52)

1.50 The Committee note that out of 2 major, 6 medium and 66 minor irrigation schemes, only one medium and eleven minor irrigation projects could be completed in VIII Five Year Plan period in TSP areas. In the opinion of the Committee, on completion of the schemes most of the land will be irrigated and it will benefit marginal and small tribal farmers. The Committee therefore recommend that both Central Government and State Government may

accelerate completion of the process of the remaining irrigation schemes within the stipulated time.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.51 During VIII Plan, these projects were not sanctioned by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs out of SCA to TSP or grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to the State Government of Rajasthan.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.52 There were 1 major, 2 medium and 17 minor irrigation projects in TSP area during fifth Five Year Plan. All these schemes have been completed except one minor scheme of Bhanwar Semala Project which is under construction and will be completed in 2004.

Comments of the Committee

1.53 The Committee are surprised by the replies furnished by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Government of Rajasthan. Having noted that some irrigation projects had been undertaken in the TSP areas of Rajasthan and many projects had not yet been completed during VIII Five-Year Plan period, the Committee had recommended the both the Central and State Governments might accelerate completion of the remaining irrigation schemes. Instead of giving action taken notes on completion of projects, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Government of Rajasthan have replied otherwise. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have stated that during the VIII Plan period, they had not sanctioned these projects out of SCA to TSP for grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to the State Government of Rajasthan. The State Government have stated that there were 1 major 2 medium and 17 minor irrigation projects in

TSP area during fifth Five-Year Plan and that all these schemes have been completed except one minor scheme of Bhanwar Semala Project which would be completed in 2004. The Committee take a serious view of the matter and advise both the Central Government and the State Government to be careful in furnishing replies to them. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Central Government and the State Government may accelerate completion of the remaining irrigation projects undertaken in the TSP areas of Rajasthan.

Recommendation (Sl.No. 25, Para No. 4.53)

1.54 The Committee note with concern that physical targets in respect of “Dug cum bore wells” and distribution of PVC pipes, could not be achieved due to late release of funds. The Committee are also constrained to note that funds released under Special Central Assistance (SCA) are not reaching on time. The Committee takes a serious view of these lapses on the part of both Central and State Governments. Therefore, the Committee opine that any Centrally sponsored scheme aimed at the benefit of Scheduled Tribes would prove useless until protective legislation is adequately implemented in favour of the tribals and proper administrative arrangements are made to supervise and review the implementation. The Committee also strongly recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should gear up all the machineries at their command for ensuring expeditious removal of the shortcomings for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.55 SCA to TSP is normally released in three instalments by the end of third quarter of the financial year, to the State Governments. However, sometimes,

there is delay in release of SCA funds due to non-submission or delay in submission of utilization reports by the State Governments.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.56 Efforts are being made to utilise funds received from Government of India in the same year. However, if funds are received at the fag end of the year then it is transferred into the P.D. Accounts. Hence funds do not lapse and can be utilized in the next financial year without any problem.

Comments of the Committee

1.57 In their earlier recommendation, the Committee had opined that any Central Sponsored Scheme aimed at the benefit of Scheduled Tribes would prove useless until protective legislation is adequately implemented in favour of the tribals and proper administrative arrangements are made to supervise and review implementation. The Committee find that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have not made efforts to improve the existing system. That is why the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have stated that the Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan is normally released in three instalments by the end of third quarter of the financial year, to the State Governments and that sometimes there is delay in release of SCA funds due to non-submission or delay in submission of utilization reports by the State Governments. The State Government are equally complacent and have stated in their reply that efforts are being made to utilize funds received from Government of India in the same year. However, if funds are received at the fag end of the year, then it is transferred into the P.D. Accounts and it can be utilized in the next financial year without any

problem. The Committee find that the State Government are not at all worried since according to them the funds finally reach the tribals the next year. The Committee deplore the complacent attitude of both the Central and State Governments in the matter of release of SCA funds. Reiterating the earlier recommendation, the Committee desire that all out efforts be made by the Central Government and the State Government of Rajasthan to see that the SCA funds are released in time and utilized on priority basis on schemes meant for Scheduled Tribes.

Credit facilities

Recommendation (Sl.No. 27, Para No. 4.61)

1.58 The Committee note that branches of Regional Rural Bank have spread all over the Tribal Sub-plan Areas alongwith branches of commercial and central cooperative banks. Some new branches of RRBs and commercial banks are proposed to be opened to provide credit facilities to all the tribals. The Committee further note that no assessment has been made by the Government about the impact of these banks in transforming the economy of tribal areas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that State and Central Government should undertake a study to review the impact of these banks in transforming the economic conditions of tribals and also analyse the position regarding setting up of new branches of RRBs and commercial banks. Necessary guidelines in this regard should also be issued for the smooth functioning of these banks.

Reply of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.59 The above-mentioned recommendation of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been brought to the notice of Department of Banking for necessary action.

Reply of the State Government of Rajasthan

1.60 Tribal Research Institute, Udaipur has been entrusted to conduct an assessment about the impact of these banks in transforming the economy of tribal areas. TRI will start the assessment very soon.

Comments of the Committee

1.61 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have already brought the recommendation to the notice of the Department of Banking for necessary action. The Committee would like to know the review received in this regard from the Department of Banking. They would also like to be apprised of the outcome of the assessment carried out by the Tribal Research Institute, Udaipur about the impact of banks in transforming the economy of tribal areas.

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Bhadrapada, 1927 (Saka)

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Committee on the Welfare
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Scheduled Tribes

