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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2013 - 2014)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

FORTY-THIRD REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2014/Magha, 1935(Saka)

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Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Presented to Lok Sabha on 7.2.2014

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 7.2.2014



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2014/Magha, 1935(Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2013-2014)**

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Devidhan Besra
5. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
6. Smt. Rama Devi
7. Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal
8. Shri Mohan Jena
9. Shri Dinesh Kashyap
- *10. Shri Madhu Kora
- ##11. Shri Kirodi Lal Meena
12. Kumari Meenakshi Natarajan
13. Smt. Mausam Noor
14. Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab R.
15. Smt. Sushila Saroj
16. Shri N. Dharam Singh
17. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh
18. Dr. Naramalli Sivaprasad
19. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
20. Shri Kabir Suman
21. Vacant

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

- **22. Shri K.R. Arjunan
23. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
24. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
25. Shri Mangala Kisan
- #26. Dr. V. Maitreyan
27. Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi
28. Prof. Mrinal Miri
29. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
30. Shri Mohammad Shafi
31. Shri Shivpratap Singh
32. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

* Shri Madhu Kora nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 18.9.2013.

** Shri K.R. Arjunan nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 7.9.2013.

Dr. V. Maitreyan ceased to be a Member of Committee w.e.f. 7.9.2013.

Ceased to be Member consequent upon his resignation from Lok Sabha w.e.f. 19th December, 2013.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Anita Jain - Director
3. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director
4. Shri Yash Pal Sharma - Senior Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2013-14) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Forty-third Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Thirty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2013. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 2.8.2013. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 20.1.2014.

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

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

NEW DELHI;

20 January, 2014
30 Pausa, 1935 (Saka)

HEMANAND BISWAL
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants-2013-14 relating to Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

1.2 The Thirty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and was laid in Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2013. It contained 24 recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:

- (i) Observations/Recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government :

Paragraph Nos. 2.30, 2.31, 2.33, 2.35, 2.54, 2.55, 2.56, 2.57, 2.66, 2.73, 2.85, 2.86, 2.92, 2.93, 2.104, 2.128, 2.130, 2.141 and 2.142.

(Total 19 – Chapter II)

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government :

Paragraph Nos. 2.34, 2.129 and 2.140
(Total 3 - Chapter III)

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted :

Paragraph No. 2.32

(Total 1 – Chapter IV)

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature :

Paragraph Nos. 2.115

(Total 1 – Chapter V)

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

1.4 The committee will now deal with some of the replies received from the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

A. Budgetary Allocation to the Ministry

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 2.30)

1.5 The Committee were dismayed to note that the Budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for 2012-13 were drastically reduced from Rs. 4090.00 crore to Rs. 3100.00 crore in the Revised Estimate by the Ministry of Finance. To their disbelief the reduction was made despite the Ministry having met the prescribed expenditure norms. It was all the more distressing that the cut had not been restored despite the Minister for Tribal Affairs having taken up the matter with Minister of Finance and the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 29.11.2012 and 18.12.2012. This is unfortunate, to say the least. The Committee were deeply concerned to note that this reduction had adversely affected the two Special area Programmes viz. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) and Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution. Expressing their strong disapproval over the reduction on the budgetary allocation of the Ministry, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Finance enhanced the budget allocation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs adequately, which

is working for the development of disadvantaged tribals who are lagging far behind in all socio-economic and educational parameters as also against the average development indices of the country. Mindful of the overriding developmental needs of the tribals and the mandatory provision of Article 275 (1) of the Constitution, the Committee wish to caution the Ministry of Finance not to tinker with the charged provision meant for promoting the welfare of STs or raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas. The Committee had, therefore, urged the Government earnestly to reinstate the cuts approved lest an impression is created that the Government is not responsive enough and alive to the welfare of the tribals.

1.6 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

"The matter of restoration of Budget allocation at B.E. level has been suitably taken up with Ministry of Finance at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs. Committee's observations have also been brought to the notice of Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs for compliance & future guidelines.

The matter for submission of utilization certificates in respect of grants released earlier has been vigorously taken up with the respective State Governments during the year 2013-14. The matter is vigorously pursued through meetings, Telephone calls, letters and visits of Senior Officers of the Ministry".

1.7 The Committee are happy to note that in pursuance of their recommendation, the Ministry has earnestly taken up the issue of Budget cuts with the Ministry of Finance. As Ministry of Finance is yet to respond favorably, the Committee desire that there should not be any let up in their efforts to ensure that there are no cuts in budgetary allocation of the Ministry at Revised Estimates stage so that Special Area Programmes viz. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) and Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution are not adversely affected due to paucity of funds.

B. Expansion of Scope of new Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 2.32)

1.8 The Committee observed that from 1961 to 2001, the Literacy rate for STs has increased from 8.53% to 47.10%, yet the gap between the literacy rate of STs compared to all population groups is about 18%. Similarly, dropout rates of STs i.e. Boys and Girls from classes I-X are also high among all categories, which is about 15%. Responding to the anxiety of the Committee, the Ministry had informed that a new scheme for pre-matric scholarship for classes 9th and 10th had been launched during the year 2012-13. The Committee hoped that that launching of Pre-matric scholarship would help motivate ST students to attend schools in large number and increase their literacy rate and reduce the dropout rates. The Committee hoped that such a laudable scheme like Pre-matric Scholarship scheme did not suffer for want of funds. Since the dropout is significant from Class I to Class VIII, the Committee had recommended that the Government consider to extend the scheme to include the ST boys & girls for Class I to VIII under the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme.

1.9 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

"At present, there is no such proposal for extending the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST boys & girls for students studying in Classes I to VIII".

1.10 Taking note of the huge gap in literacy rate and dropout rates in Class I to X for tribal students, the Committee had recommended to the Ministry to take all possible proactive measures including grant of scholarships to all the needy students from Class I to X and not restricting them to only IX and X class students as is being done presently. The Committee are constrained to note the curt reply of the Ministry that there was no such proposal under the consideration of the Government. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Scholarship be extended to the tribal students from Class I to VIII as well and desire the Ministry to place before the Planning Commission a well formulated proposal in this regard for their consideration and approval.

C. Utilization of funds earmarked for the various Ministries under Tribal-Sub Plan

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 2.55)

1.11 The Committee noted that the Task Force constituted by Planning Commission in 2010-11 which had been headed by Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission had recommended differential earmarking of funds for Central Ministries categorizing in various groups on the basis of minimum percentages. Accordingly, since 2011-12 Central Ministries are allocating funds under TSP component out of the total Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). As regards power of monitoring of TSP funds utilization of Central Ministries, the Ministry had informed that the TSP funds utilization and its monitoring is mainly the subject matter of the Planning Commission. Keeping in view the mandate of the Ministry of overall policy planning and coordination of programmes for the development of Scheduled Tribes and the accountability of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the Parliament on matters relating to tribal welfare and development, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should coordinate with the line Central Ministries, and monitor the TSP funds utilization by them so that TSP became a more effective instrument of bridging the critical gaps. Taking cognizance of the fact that it is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which has the actual database with regard to developmental indices of tribals, tribal institutions and their way life and culture, the Committee are unanimously of the view that the line Ministries interact closely with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for a more coherent, composite and efficient strategy of development of tribals. The Committee are of the considered view that the

utilization of TSP funds of the line Ministries on consolation and clearance of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will bring greater synergy and accelerate the all round development of the tribals.

1.12 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

"This Ministry in its recent initiatives has suggested revision of guidelines in a new approach to planning of Tribal Sub-Plan after detailed examination and consideration of various valuable recommendations/suggestions of the Parliamentary Committee on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and National Advisory Committee. The recommendations have been sent to Planning Commission for consideration by the Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the former in January, 2013 to achieve ways and means for 'inclusive growth' by revising the existing guidelines on Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Regular interaction with the Central line Ministries/Departments is being made closely for efficient strategy for development of Scheduled Tribes and greater synergy with the schemes/programmes of the Central Ministries / Departments for the purpose".

1.13 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have sent their proposals/recommendations to the Planning Commission for revision of guidelines on the Tribal Sub-Plan with a aim to devising ways and means for 'inclusive growth'. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs pursue the matter with the Planning Commission in right earnest for early revision of guidelines on the Tribal Sub Plan.

D. Non-utilization of funds under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para No. 2.73)

1.14 The Committee noted that the objective of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme is to provide fellowship in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The Committee, however, noted that the BE for the year 2012-13 for such a laudable scheme had been reduced from Rs. 90.00 crore to Rs. 45.00 crore at RE stage. On the issue of reduction of funds, Ministry had stated that during the year 2012-13 an amount of Rs.45 crore had been released to the implementing agency i.e. University Grants Commission (UGC) towards 1st installment of the grant-in-aid for the year 2012-13 on ad-hoc basis to expedite the implementation of the scheme. However, UGC had reported in the month of December, 2012 that there was no need for further release of grant-in-aid as an amount of Rs.61.72 crore had been available being unspent balance from the earlier releases. The Committee were anguished to note that the funds, which otherwise could be used for needy tribal students lay unspent with the UGC. As Assured by the Ministry, the Committee had, hoped that the Ministry would take up the matter with the Chairman, UGC so that more tribal students benefit from the scheme.

1.15 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

"As observed by the Committee, this Ministry has written a letter to Chairman, UGC vide letter No.17014/06/2012-Education dated 4th July, 2013. Reply is still awaited".

1.16 The Committee note that the Ministry has taken up the matter of non-utilization of funds under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme with the Chairman, UGC *vide* the Ministry's letter on 4th July, 2013. As more than five months have since elapsed and the reply is still awaited, the Committee would like the Ministry to pursue the matter again with the Chairman, UGC and also with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. They would also like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard in due course.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 2.30)

2.1 The Committee are dismayed to note that the Budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for 2012-13 were drastically reduced from Rs. 4090.00 crore to Rs. 3100.00 crore in the Revised Estimate by the Ministry of Finance. To their disbelief the reduction was made despite the Ministry having met the prescribed expenditure norms. It is all the more distressing that the cut was not restored despite the Minister for Tribal Affairs having taken up the matter with Minister of Finance and the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 29.11.2012 and 18.12.2012. This is unfortunate, to say the least. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that this reduction has adversely affected the two Special area Programmes viz. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) and Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution. Expressing their strong disapproval over the reduction on the budgetary allocation of the Ministry, the Committee recommend that the Ministry of Finance enhance the budget allocation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs adequately, which is working for the development of disadvantaged tribals who are lagging far behind in all socio-economic and educational parameters as also against the average development indices of the country. Mindful of the overriding developmental needs of the tribals and the mandatory provision of Article 275 (1) of the Constitution, the Committee wish to caution the Ministry of Finance not to tinker with the charged provision meant for promoting the welfare of STs or raising the level of

administration of the Scheduled Areas. The Committee, therefore, urge the Government earnestly to reinstate the cuts approved lest an impression is created that the Government is not responsive enough and alive to the welfare of the tribals.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The matter of restoration of Budget allocation at B.E. level has been suitably taken up with Ministry of Finance at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs. Committee's observations have also been brought to the notice of Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs for compliance & future guidelines.

The matter for submission of utilization certificates in respect of grants released earlier has been vigorously taken up with the respective State Governments during the year 2013-14. The matter is vigorously pursued through meetings, Telephone calls, letters and visits of Senior Officers of the Ministry.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 2.31)

2.3 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had requested for allocation of funds amounting to Rs 8,901.91 crore during 2013-14 for different schemes. However, the Planning Commission allocated only Rs.4,279.00crore,

which is less than half of the projected requirement. On being asked by the Committee, the Ministry submitted that due to reduction in allocation, major schemes i.e. centrally sponsored, Central sector schemes and Special Areas Programmes would be affected. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Budgetary allocation of the Ministry be augmented substantially at RE stage for effective implementation of welfare schemes for scheduled Tribes. Taking note of the assurance of the Ministry that they would make all out efforts to get the budgetary allocation enhanced by Planning Commission at RE stage, the Committee desire that their considered views may be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission. The Committee would also review the utilization of funds after the three months of the presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

2.4 Concerns of the Committee are appreciated. the matter of restoration of Budget allocation at B.E. level has been suitably taken up with Ministry of Finance at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs.

The augmentation of budget will be proposed at RE stage.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 2.33)

2.5 The Committee note that the Ministry has outsourced evaluation study of NGO projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh to an independent agency namely M/s Development Research

Services (DRS) Limited during the current year and the draft report has been submitted by the agency which is under examination in the Ministry. The Committee were informed that the evaluation study highlighted, among other issues, the strengths and weaknesses of the schemes implemented by VOs/NGOs. On the status of implementation of the Report, the Ministry have informed that the report was yet to be circulated among the States for their comments and that final view would be taken by the Ministry only after taking into consideration the views of the States. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take an early call on the above Report based on the views of the States and keep the Committee apprised.

Reply of the Government

2.6 As on date the Evaluation agency has submitted a quick evaluation report and the final evaluation report is expected in near future. The observation of the Committee is noted for compliance and on receipt of the final report, it shall also be circulated among the State Governments for their views.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.35)

2.7 The Committee find that the Ministry proposes to launch a new scheme "Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP" during 2013-14. The Committee have been informed that the Scheme is expected to give a huge

social dividend for MFP gatherers, majority of whom are tribals, by enhancing their income level and ensuring fair returns to their efforts at collecting MFP. The Committee urge the Ministry to take speedy action so that the scheme could be launched during the current year and the benefit of the scheme accrue to the needy Tribals without further loss of time.

Reply of the Government

2.8 Sentiments and views of the Committee have been noted for appropriate action.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 2.54)

2.9 The Committee note that the ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand based income-generation programmes and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals. However, the Committee are dismayed to note that the budgetary allocation of Rs.1200.00 crore for SCA to TSP during 2012-13 was scaled down to Rs.852.54 crore in the revised estimates by the Ministry of Finance as it imposed an overall cut of Rs. 990.00 crore in the budget of the Ministry. The Committee note that due to slashing of the budget, no grant could be released by the Ministry to seven States namely Bihar, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and nine States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Tripura and West Bengal could receive only partial allocation. Deploring the callousness with which the grant for the tribals

was slashed, the Committee exhort the Ministry of Finance to desist from such cuts so that the developmental programmes for the welfare of the tribals are not adversely affected or slowed down for want of funds.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The matter of restoration of Budget allocation at B.E. level has been suitably taken up with Ministry of Finance at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 2.55)

2.11 The Committee note that the Task Force constituted by Planning Commission in 2010-11 which was headed by Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission had recommended differential earmarking of funds for Central Ministries categorizing in various groups on the basis of minimum percentages. Accordingly, since 2011-12 Central Ministries are allocating funds under TSP component out of the total Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). As regards power of monitoring of TSP funds utilization of Central Ministries, the Ministry have informed that the TSP funds utilization and its monitoring is mainly the subject matter of the Planning Commission. Keeping in view the mandate of the Ministry of overall policy planning and coordination of programmes for the development of Scheduled Tribes and the accountability of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the Parliament on matters relating to tribal welfare and development, the Committee recommend that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should coordinate with the line Central Ministries, and monitor the TSP funds utilization by them so

that TSP becomes a more effective instrument of bridging the critical gaps. Taking cognizance of the fact that it is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which has the actual database with regard to developmental indices of tribals, tribal institutions and their way life and culture, the Committee are unanimously of the view that the line Ministries interact closely with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for a more coherent, composite and efficient strategy of development of tribals. The Committee are of the considered view that the utilization of TSP funds of the line Ministries on consulation and clearance of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will bring greater synergy and accelerate the all round development of the tribals.

Reply of the Government

2.12 This Ministry in its recent initiatives has suggested revision of guidelines in a new approach to planning of Tribal Sub-Plan after detailed examination and consideration of various valuable recommendations/suggestions of the Parliamentary Committee on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and National Advisory Committee. The recommendations have been sent to Planning Commission for consideration by the Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the former in January, 2013 to achieve ways and means for 'inclusive growth' by revising the existing guidelines on Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Regular interaction with the Central line Ministries/Departments is being made closely for efficient strategy for development of Scheduled Tribes and greater synergy with the schemes/programmes of the Central Ministries / Departments for the purpose.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para No. 2.56)

2.13 The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should utilize more funds under the scheme for training and develop leadership quality among the tribal people enabling them to take up various higher and responsible positions in various fields like bureaucracy, defence and sports. They should also find more innovative ways for spending the money for fillingup the gaps in human development indicators and infrastructural sections like roads, electricity, housing, etc. in the tribal areas.

Reply of the Government

2.14 This Ministry of Tribal Affairs has already been engaged for releasing funds under Special Area Programme SCA to TSP for skill development training and income generation activities. Under Special Area Programme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India, funds are also released to the State Governments for innovative project / schemes for filling up of the gaps in various human development indices and infrastructural development for bringing the quality of life of tribal people at par with the rest of population. Under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India, funds are also released for Ekalvy Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) which have the objective of providing quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote

areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and jobs in government, public and private sectors but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non-ST population and are envisaged on the lines of JawaharNavodayaVidyalas with State centered management.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10, Para No. 2.57)

2.15 The Committee also recommend that no money under TSP should be allowed to lapse or diverted. TSP should be made a right based law on the pattern of Andhra Pradesh. The matter should be pursued with Ministries concerned. The Committee further recommend that a quarterly status of funds utilized by all the Ministries for tribal welfare and development be placed in Parliament by the nodal Ministry of Tribal Affairs for concurrent Parliamentary scrutiny.

Reply of the Government

2.16 Funds earmarked under TSP are non-divertible and non-lapsable as per the existing guidelines. States/UTs and Central Ministries / Departments are regularly reminded of the provision for compliance. The Committee's recommendations are noted for further appropriate action.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 2.66)

2.17 The Committee observe that under the scheme of Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution, the Revised Estimate during 2012-13 was drastically reduced to Rs. 820.00 crore against Budget Estimates 2012-13 of Rs. 1317.00 crore and the actual expenditure upto 31.12.2012 was Rs. 756.90 crore. Thus only a meager amount of Rs. 63.10 crore was available for the last quarter (January-March 2013). The Committee consider the cut in the revised estimates by the Ministry of Finance as grossly unfair and unjustified as it left only a meager Rs. 63.10 crore to be spent in the last quarter from January 2013 to March, 2013. The Committee also feel that in view of the fact that the human development indices of the tribal population are far lower than the developmental indices of the rest of the social groups and since infrastructure in the tribal areas is not at par, funds under such an important scheme which seeks to bridge the critical gaps should not have been slashed. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should vigorously pursue with the Ministry of Finance/Planning Commission not to cut funds under the scheme of Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) for maintaining the sanctity of the Constitutional provision and accelerating the development of the tribals.

Reply of the Government

2.18 The matter of restoration of Budget allocation at B.E. level has been suitably taken up with Ministry of Finance at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para No. 2.73)

2.19 The Committee note that the objective of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme is to provide fellowship in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The Committee, however, note that the BE for the year 2012-13 for such a laudable scheme has been reduced from Rs. 90.00 crore to Rs. 45.00 crore at RE stage. On the issue of reduction of funds, Ministry stated that during the year 2012-13 an amount of Rs.45 crore was released to the implementing agency i.e. University Grants Commission (UGC) towards 1st installment of the grant-in-aid for the year 2012-13 on ad-hoc basis to expedite the implementation of the scheme. However, UGC reported in the month of December, 2012 that there is no need for further release of grant-in-aid as an amount of Rs.61.72 crore was available being unspent balance from the earlier releases. The Committee are anguished to note that the funds, which otherwise could be used for needy tribal students lay unspent with the UGC. As Assured by the Ministry, the Committee, hope that the Ministry would take up the matter with the Chairman, UGC so that more tribal students benefit from the scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.20 As observed by the Committee, this Ministry has written a letter to Chairman, UGC vide letter No.17014/06/2012-Education dated 4th July, 2013. Reply is still awaited.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para No. 2.85)

2.21 The Committee note that the expenditure under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship, Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit of ST students has been quite satisfactory during the last three years. In view of popularity of the scheme, the Committee desire that more funds should be allocated under the scheme so that more ST students get benefit of the scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.22 The budget allocation under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship, Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit of ST Students for 2013-14 is Rs.750.00 crore, which is sufficient budget.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14, Para No. 2.86)

2.23 The Committee note with concern that as against a target set under Component of Upgradation of Merit of ST students during the years 2010-11 and 2011-12 of 1053 students each year, the achievements were mere 329 and 958 students respectively. During the year 2012-13, against the same target (1053), achievement is only 73. The Ministry laid the responsibility for under-achievements at the door steps of the State Governments which are stated to

have not been able to utilize their respective quota of awards. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should pursue with State Governments for submitting adequate number of complete proposals so that target set under the scheme are achieved.

Reply of the Government

2.24 The Ministry has written to the various State/UT Administrations to submit their proposals for the current year at the earliest.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para No. 2.92)

2.25 The Committee note that the objective of the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme is to provide financial assistance to selected ST students pursuing higher studies (Master, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral level) in certain specified fields of Engineering, Technology and Science only in accredited foreign Universities. However, the Committee are dismayed and shocked to note that out of 39 selected candidates in previous selection years i.e. from 2004-05 to 2010-11, only 17 selected candidates actually got admission in foreign accredited Universities during the years 2007-08 to 2012-13. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take up the matter earnestly with the Ministry of External Affairs for disseminating information about the Scheme among foreign Institutions through the respective High Commissions/Embassies and also to facilitate that the selected candidates are invited to attend orientation workshops in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs.

Reply of the Government

2.26 Based on the evaluation study report of National Institute of Rural Development(NIRD), Hyderabad, this Ministry is in the process of revising the scheme for continuation during 12th Plan period. Some suggestions of NIRD namely wide publicity among universities through advertisement, payment of TA to the students, coaching facility for TOEFL and GRE/GMAT, revision of scholarship amount etc. are being incorporated in the revised scheme guidelines.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para No. 2.93)

2.27 The Committee find that the evaluation study on National Overseas Scholarship Scheme on the following terms of references namely Non achievement of target, Problems in getting admission in foreign accredited universities, Reason for joining late in foreign universities and measures to make the scheme effective/accessible has been entrusted to the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad. The Committee urge the Ministry to emphasize upon NIRD to expedite the submission of the evaluation Report so that necessary remedial measures could be taken by the Government in the matter.

Reply of the Government

2.28 Based on the draft report of National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, this Ministry has circulated Standing finance

Committee(SFC) Memo for inter-ministerial consultation on the proposed revision of the scheme vide this Ministry letter No.11016/1/2011-Edu dated 07.06.2013.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 2.104)

2.29 The Committee are deeply concerned to observe that there has been under utilization of funds during 2010-11 and 2011-12 under the scheme of Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts. The Committee also observe that the Budget Estimate during 2012-13 was Rs. 40 crore which was reduced to Rs. 14.61 at Revised Estimate stage and actual expenditure as on 22.3.2013 was Rs. 7.42 crore. Moreover, the target set under the scheme during 2012-13 was 25,000 ST girls for 67 projects while the achievement was education of only 2183 ST girls. The Ministry stated that receipt of lesser number of complete proposals was the main reason for low expenditure and non-achievement of target. The representatives of the Ministry conceded the sense of underachievement of the Ministry but gave a solemn assurance to the Committee that they were committed to bringing a revised, revamped education umbrella scheme for accelerating the literacy among ST girls. The Committee hardly need to emphasize that education of girl child and that too among the ST can not be held hostage just for the delay in receipt of proposals from the States. The Committee are dismayed to note that despite the Right to Education (REA) Act and adequate availability of funds for STs the achievement is only a miniscule of the original target. The Committee therefore recommend that the matter be taken up with the State Governments vigorously as the stakes are very high in terms of achieving a lofty goal of educating the tribal girl child.

Reply of the Government

2.30 The objective is to release 100% of funds budgeted for the schemes by the end of the financial year. However, prior to the actual release of funds, the Ministry exercises prescribed checks for compliance with terms and conditions of the scheme and General Financial Rules (GFRs), by State Organisations/Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) while applying for Grants-in-aid. These include inter alia conditions of submission of copy of pass book indicating the transactions, funds utilization certificate, recommendations from State Level Committees and District Level Inspection report. All the conditions have to be complied with before any sanction for grants-in-aid is issued.

The recommendations of the State Governments are also normally received late, despite the scheme guidelines prescribing that these should be sent to Ministry of Tribal Affairs by 30th April. The Scheme guidelines also prescribe that “No recommendation may be made after the month of April in order to streamline the funding pattern”. Yet this is generally not adhered to by the State Governments.

The Ministry is totally committed to education of the tribal girls child and all the State Governments have been addressed to submit the proposals for 2013-14 in time. Also this Ministry had a meeting with the State Secretaries on 16th-17th May, 2013, wherein the State Governments were requested to expedite the proposals.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 19, Para No. 2.128)

2.31 The Committee observe that TRIFED is functioning both as a service provider and market developer for tribal products and also imparts training to ST Artisans and Minor Forest Produce (MFP) gatherers. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs extends Grants-in-Aid to TRIFED under the Scheme "Market Development of Tribal Product". However, the actual expenditure has been constantly on the higher side exceeding the Grant Provided. The Committee were apprised that the excess expenditure was met from TRIFED's own resources. The Committee feel that time has come that the TRIFED makes new and innovative endeavors to develop and enhance the entrepreneurial skills of the tribals and encourages them to take up new enterprises. Keeping in view the laudable objective of the TRIFED that is, the socio-economic development of the tribal people, the Committee urge the Ministry to examine the feasibility of increasing grant to TRIFED, commensurate with its achievements, the overall objectives and the enormity of the task of market development for the tribals.

Reply of the Government

2.32 Efforts are made to enhance grants to TRIFED within available resources

With a view to undertaking new and innovative endeavors to develop and enhance the entrepreneurial skills of the tribals and encourage them to take up new enterprises, TRIFED has initiated the following actions:-

- I. **Training on Minor Forest Produce:-** This training programme being organized by TRIFED was undertaken to incorporate marketing linkages and enterprise building as integral parts of the training. Awareness about marketing linkages is also proposed to be provided as part of the training programme also and plans to impart training to 3520 beneficiaries.

- II. **Training to the Tribal Artisans:-**The training plan for the tribal artisans has been modified to make it more effective and meaningful through hand holding in the post training period for entrepreneurship development. TRIFED has also planned to establish Adivasi Bahu Uddeshiya Vikas Kendra in some States for linking training and skill up gradation with value addition, manufacturing, storage, marketing and other income-generating and promotional activities for the benefit of tribals.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 21, Para No. 2.130)

2.33 Mindful of the fact that the human resource of an organization is responsible for, to a great extent, for its successful functioning, the Committee would like to be apprised of the staff strength of TRIFED, the opportunities available for their career progression, the result of cadre review if any done in the recent past and the grievances redressal mechanism for them within the organization. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry submit a detailed note in this behalf to

Committee also suggesting measures for revamping the TRIFED for effective cohesion, synergy and better delivery of services in terms of the assigned mandate.

Reply of the Government

2.34 TRIFED had staff strength of 277 regular employees and 28 persons engaged on contractual basis. In addition TRIFED had 47 persons engaged under the hiring policy for retail marketing operations as approved by the Board of Directors of TRIFED.

During 2012-13, TRIFED promoted 57 personnel and provided financial upgradation to 91 employees in accordance with the Recruitment & Promotion Rules of TRIFED which are framed under the policy of DOPT. TRIFED has also sponsored 08 officials for Post Graduate Diploma in Tribal Development through National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad through their Distance Learning Programme.

As regards grievance redressal, a mechanism in this regard is already in place since 2009 in accordance with the directions of D/o Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances.

Recently, in order to improve the situation, cadre review exercise has been taken up by TRIFED with the following objective:-

- (a) To rationalize the whole manpower requirement;
- (b) To redeploy the manpower with suitable training and orientation;

(c) To compulsorily retire the personnel who are found unproductive and unfit for the job and are liability for the Federation;

To draw job charts and job description pin-pointing responsibilities and performance indicators against which the performance of each employee be assessed.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 23, Para No. 2.141)

2.35 The Committee also feel that as per the provision of the Constitution, a Council of Governors in respect of the States (including blocks/districts) which come under the ambit of the fifth or sixth Schedule, should have been formed for monitoring the TSP scheme, PESA Act and Forest Rights Act. This would have given the right to the Union and the Council of Governors to monitor the provisions of these Acts. The Committee recommend that the Ministry take appropriate steps to put in place an appropriate mechanism in this direction.

Reply of the Government

2.36 The concerns for proactive intervention vis-à-vis powers under the provisions of Article 244 read with provision of Schedule V to the constitution for ensuring good governance, securing the rights of Scheduled Tribes and forest dwellers have been taken up at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs with

Governors. The recommendation of the Committee has been noted for appropriate action.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 24, Para No. 2.142)

2.37 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for implementation of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. However, dedicated Forest Rights Division in the Ministry to address the issues related thereto more effectively in a focused manner was yet to be created in the Ministry. The Committee were informed that there is a separate unit called FRA Unit in the Ministry specifically for this purpose. The Committee, therefore, desire that a separate dedicated Forest Rights Division be created in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to address the issues more effectively in a focused manner relating to implementation of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Reply of the Government

2.38 The Ministry has since set up FRA Division on 1.5.2013 to monitor the progress and address among others the issues relating to implementation of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

CHAPTER III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 2.34)

3.1 The Committee are pleased to note that a Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is meeting regularly to monitor the planning and progress of the schemes/programmes being implemented by the line Ministries for the overall development of Scheduled Tribes. However, the Committee feel that unless the PESA Act is implemented in all the States, the benefits of tribal welfare schemes can not be extended to the target groups. The Committee, therefore, strongly feel that there is an urgent need to implement the PESA Act in all the States on the lines of the schemes of the Panchayati Raj Ministry.

Reply of the Government

3.2 Implementation of PESA is in the mandate of Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Ministry's schemes primarily provide State Grants or have universal coverage to the scholarship. However, Gram Sabha/Panchayat's would be involved in dissemination of the information with reference to scholarship schemes.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (SI. No. 20, Para No. 2.129)

3.3 The Committee note with concern the increasing number of court cases and arbitration proceedings involving the TRIFED. The Committee were informed that the total payment made to lawyers defending these 45 cases was Rs.26.57 lakhs (approx.) as on 8.4.2013. The Ministry have stated that a legal Division in TRIFED is already in existence which is equipped with two legal officers in the rank of Deputy Manager. The cases in different Courts are defended through a legal adviser, three senior counsels and five junior counsels having expertise in different Branch/Field of Law who are empanelled in TRIFED. The Committee desire that the legal Cell of the TRIFED be strengthened so as to save money which is paid to the lawyers as also to solicit legal advice on the contracts/agreements being entered into by the TRIFED with their business clients.

Reply of the Government

3.4 The present system of empanelling lawyers having expertise in different fields is more economical for TRIFED to make payments to the lawyers for defending the cases in the Courts and get advice on legal matters on the rates prescribed by the Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India. In case TRIFED appoints officers of the level of one Senior Manager and one DGM in order to strengthen Legal Cell in addition to the existing two Legal Officers, the additional financial burden would be Rs.21.00 lakh approximately.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Recommendation (SI. No. 22, Para No. 2.140)

3.5 The Committee are unhappy to note the slow progress with regard to distribution of title deeds under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as against 32,45,191 claims only 12,80,710 titles have been distributed so far and 16,226 are ready for distribution. The total number of claims rejected is 15,12,695. The Committee take a serious view of the large scale rejection of claims apparently to the detriment of the tribals. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that till date it has not been possible to decide authoritatively how much land is forest land. The Committee feel that so long as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Forest and Environment do not have a common view point with respect to the rights of the tribals on forest land, the problem will persist. In the light of this observation the Committee recommend that the Ministry should review the rejected cases, so that no genuine claimant is debarred of his rightful claim while expressing judicious disposal of pending claims.

Reply of the Government

3.6 As regards the concern expressed by the Committee about large scale rejection of claims, it may be stated that the claims filed under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 for vesting of rights are adjudicated at three levels, namely, the Gram Sabha, the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and the District Level Committee. The claims filed under this Act are finally approved by District Level Committee. Accordingly, out of the total number of 32,44,191 claims filed till 28.2.2013, a total number of 27,93,405 claims (86.60%) were disposed of, and out of the

27,93,405 claims disposed of, 12,80,700 claims were approved and the same number of titles were distributed. 16,226 titles were made ready for distribution and the remaining 15,12,695 claims were rejected.

As regards review of the rejected claims it may be stated that the Forest Rights Act and the Rules framed there under do not envisage the review of the cases where claims have been rejected. However, in order to minimize the incidence of rejection of claims filed under the Act, the Ministry has issued comprehensive guidelines to the State/ UT Governments on 12.7.20012 and also notified the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Rules, 2012 on 6.9.2012, which inter-alia prescribe the following process of recognition of rights:

- (1) On receipt of intimation from the Forest Rights Committee, the officials of the Forest and Revenue departments shall remain present during the verification of the claims and the verification of evidences on the site and shall sign the proceedings with their designation, date and comments, if any.
- (2) If any objections are made by the Forest or Revenue departments at a later date to a claim approved by the Gram Sabha, for the reason that their representatives were absent during field verification, the claim shall be remanded to the Gram Sabha for re-verification by the committee where objection has been raised and if the representatives again fail to attend the verification process the Gram Sabha's decision on the field verification shall be final.
- (3) In the event of modification or rejection of a claim by the Gram Sabha or a recommendation for modification or rejection of a claim forwarded by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee to the District Level Committee, such decision or recommendation on the claim shall be

communicated in person to the claimant to enable him to prefer a petition to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee or District Level Committee as the case may be, within a period of sixty days which shall be extendable to a period of thirty days at the discretion of the above said committees.

(4) If any other state agency desires to object to a decision of the Gram Sabha or the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, it shall file an appeal before the Sub-Divisional Level Committee or the District Level Committee, as the case may be, which shall be decided by the Committee (in the absence of the representative of the concerned agency, if any) after hearing the claimant.

(5) No petition of the aggrieved person shall be disposed of, unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity to present anything in support of his claim.

(6) The Sub-Divisional Level Committee or the District Level Committee shall remand the claim to the Gram Sabha for re-consideration instead of modifying or rejecting the same, in case the resolution or the recommendation of the Gram Sabha is found to be incomplete or prima-facie requires additional examination.

(7) In cases where the resolution passed by the Gram Sabha, recommending a claim, with supporting documents and evidence, is upheld by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee with or without modifications, but the same is not approved by the District Level Committee, the District Level Committee shall record detailed reasons for not accepting the recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Sub-Divisional Level Committee as the case may be, in writing, and a copy of the order of the District Level Committee along with the reasons shall be made available to the claimant or the Gram Sabha or the Community as the case may be.

(8) The land rights for self-cultivation recognised under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 3 shall be, within the specified limit, including the forest lands used for allied activities ancillary to cultivation, such as, for keeping cattle, for winnowing and other post-harvest activities, rotational fallows, tree crops and storage of produce.

(9) On completion of the process of settlement of rights and issue of titles as specified in Annexure II, III and IV of these rules, the Revenue and the Forest departments shall prepare a final map of the forest land so vested and the concerned authorities shall incorporate the forest rights so vested in the revenue and forest records, as the case may be, within the specified period of record updation under the relevant State laws or within a period of three months, whichever is earlier.

(10) All decisions of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and District Level Committee that involve modification or rejection of a Gram Sabha resolution or recommendation of the Sub Divisional Level Committee shall give detailed reasons for such modification or rejection, as the case may be:

Provided that no recommendation or rejection of claims shall be merely on any technical or procedural grounds:

Provided further that no committee (except the Gram Sabha or the Forest Rights Committee) at the Block or Panchayat or forest beat or range level, or any individual officer of any rank shall be empowered to receive claims or reject, modify, or decide any claim on forest rights.

(11) The Sub-Divisional Level Committee or the District Level Committee shall consider the evidence specified in rule 13 while deciding the claims and shall not insist upon any particular form of documentary evidence for consideration of a claim.

Explanation: 1. Fine receipts, encroacher lists, primary offence reports, forest settlement reports, and similar documentation by whatever name

called, arisen during prior official exercise, or the lack thereof, shall not be the sole basis for rejection of any claim.

2. The satellite imagery and other uses of technology may supplement other form of evidence and shall not be treated as a replacement.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 2.32)

4.1 The Committee observe that from 1961 to 2001, the Literacy rate for STs has increased from 8.53% to 47.10%, yet the gap between the literacy rate of STs compared to all population groups is about 18%. Similarly, dropout rates of STs i.e. Boys and Girls from classes I-X are also high among all categories, which is about 15%. Responding to the anxiety of the Committee, the Ministry informed that a new scheme for pre-matric scholarship for classes 9th and 10th has been launched during the year 2012-13. The Committee hope that that launching of Pre-matric scholarship will help motivate ST students to attend schools in large number and increase their literacy rate and reduce the dropout rates. The Committee hope that such a laudable scheme like Pre-matric Scholarship scheme does not suffer for want of funds. Since the dropout is significant from Class I to Class VIII, the Committee recommend that the Government consider to extend the scheme to include the ST boys & girls for Class I to VIII under the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme.

Reply of the Government

4.2 At present, there is no such proposal for extending the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST boys & girls for students studying in Classes I to VIII.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE

Recommendation (Sl. No. 18, Para No. 2.115)

5.1 The Committee feel that the existing system and the research institutes under the Ministry are grossly inadequate in carrying out meaningful research work in as much as the issues of tribals and their problem have not been understood in proper perspective. The Committee are of the considered view that Universities are more suitable for such a type of research approach and work. The Committee, therefore, recommend that while giving guidance to genuine NGOs about research, the Universities should also be involved so that the outreach of research programme becomes comprehensive enough to cover the rich arts, culture, traditions and languages and dialects of the tribals with focus on their welfare and development. Further, the procedure for submitting proposals may also be simplified to make available grant-in-aid to genuine NGOs and the Committee apprised.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The Ministry appreciates the concern of the Standing Committee on carrying out meaningful research work in proper perspective. Revision of scheme guidelines would attempt to incorporate issues raised by the committee.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM No. 16015/05/2013-PC&V dated 02.08.2013]

NEW DELHI:
20 January, 2014
30 Pausa, 1935 (Saka)

HEMANAND BISWAL
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

ANNEXURE - I

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON MONDAY, 20th JANUARY, 2014

The Committee met from 1130 hrs. to 1400 hrs. in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Devidhan Besra
5. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
6. Smt. Rama Devi
7. Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal
8. Shri Mohan Jena
9. Shri Dinesh Kashyap
10. Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab R.
11. Smt. Sushila Saroj
12. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh

RAJYA SABHA

13. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
14. Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi
15. Shri Mohammad Shafi
16. Shri Shankarbai N. Vegad

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Anita Jain - Director
3. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee then considered and adopted the draft Forty-third Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants, 2013-14 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs without any modification/amendment.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalize the draft Report and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament.

5. *****

6. *****

7. *****

8. *****

9. *****

10. *****

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	24	
II.	Observations/Recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.30, 2.31, 2.33, 2.35, 2.54, 2.55, 2.56, 2.57, 2.66, 2.73, 2.85, 2.86, 2.92, 2.93, 2.104, 2.128, 2.130, 2.141 and 2.142)	19	79.17
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.34, 2.129 and 2.140)	3	12.50
IV.	Observations/Recommendations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted (Paragraph No. 2.32)	1	4.17
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph No. 2.115)	1	4.16