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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
LOK SABHA**

**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
(2016-2017)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

NINTH REPORT

‘EMPOWRMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN’

**[Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth
Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women
(2015-2016) on ‘Empowerment of Tribal Women’]**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
*March, 2017/Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)***

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COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2016-2017)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

‘EMPOWRMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN’

[Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2015-2016) on ‘Empowerment of Tribal Women’]

Presented to Lok Sabha on 27th March, 2017

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 27th March, 2017



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2017/ Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
(2016-2017)**

Hon'ble Chairperson - Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Smt. Anju Bala
3. Smt. Renjuka Butta
4. Kum. Sushmita Dev
5. Smt. Rama Devi
6. Smt. Jyoti Dhurve
7. Smt. Bhavana Gawali
8. Smt. Darshanaben Jardosh
9. Smt. Raksha Khadse
10. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
11. Smt. Jayshreeben Patel
12. Smt. Riti Pathak
13. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phoole
14. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
15. Smt. Mala Rajyalakshmi Shah
16. Smt. Supriya Sule
17. Smt. Rita Tarai
18. Smt. P. K. Sreemathi Teacher
19. Smt. Savitri Thakur
20. Smt. R. Vanaroja

RAJYA SABHA

21. Smt. Vandana Chavan
22. Shrit Prabhat Jha
23. Smt. Kanimozhi
24. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
25. Smt Rajni Patil
26. Smt. Kahkashan Perween
27. Ms Dola Sen
28. Shri A. V. Swamy
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
- 30.* Smt. Jharna Das Baidya

* Has been nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 16.12.2016

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | <i>Shri N.C. Gupta</i> | - | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. | <i>Shri T.S. Rangarajan</i> | - | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. | <i>Shri Khakhai Zou</i> | - | <i>Additional Director</i> |
| 4. | <i>Shri. Rajesh Mohan</i> | - | <i>Committee Officer</i> |
| 5. | <i>Shri Aritra Das</i> | - | <i>Senior Committee Assistant</i> |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on Empowerment of Women, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Empowerment of Tribal Women'.

2. The Sixth Report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 03.05.2016. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished the action taken replies to all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report.

3. The Committee on Empowerment of Women (2016-2017) considered and adopted the draft Action Taken Report at their sitting held on 23.03.2017. Minutes of the sitting are given at Annexure I.

4. An Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Annexure II.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations / Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
23 March, 2017
02 Chaitra, 1939, (Saka)

BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT WOMEN

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the subject 'Empowerment of Tribal Women' pertaining to Ministry of Tribal Affairs..

2. The Sixth Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 3rd May, 2016 and was simultaneously laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day.

3. Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 15 observations/ recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been categorized as follows:-

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

Para Nos.: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7,2.8,2.9,2.10,2.12,2.14 & 2.15

Total: 11

Chapter-II

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

Para No.: Nil

Total: 00

Chapter-III

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

Para Nos.: 2.1, 2.2 ,2.11,2.13

Total: 04

Chapter-IV

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

Para Nos. : Nil

Total: 00

Chapter-V

4. The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given by the Government to the implementation of their recommendations. In case where it is not possible for the Government to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reasons, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee further desire that the Final Action Taken Notes on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

5. The Committee will now deal with those actions taken replies of the Government, which need reiteration or merit comments.

NEED TO RECALIBRATE THE ROLE OF THE MINISTRY

(Recommendation Para No. 2.1)

6. The Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not been truly effective in playing the role of a positive catalyst for the welfare of tribal communities in the country. A rather nonchalant approach of the Ministry is reflected in the prevailing ground-realities of tribal societies. Though the Ministry is mandated to provide a focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the tribals in a coordinated and planned manner, the Committee have observed during the examination of the subject that the Ministry has remained a mute spectator to the plight of the tribals in general and tribal women in particular. The Committee also feel that if all the special plans and programmes meant for tribals had been implemented sincerely over the years, the majority of the tribals in the country would not have still been under poverty line, and lacking in crucial health and social parameters like total fertility rate, undernourishment, literacy rate, child mortality rate etc. till today. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should take strongest possible steps to put an end to diversions and lapses of Tribal Sub-Plan funds in all States and identify sham projects in the name of tribal welfare to guarantee maximum returns from available funding. The Committee take serious note of the unavailability of tribal specific information/data with the Ministry on various important issues and welfare measures pertaining to tribals. This is mainly because of lack of unified planning and proper monitoring of implementation mechanism for various programmes. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to continuously co-ordinate with various implementing agencies, keep itself abreast of the latest figures related to the tribal issues especially pertaining to tribal women and come up with a comprehensive database on tribals within six months under intimation to them.

7. The Ministry Tribal Affairs in its action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation has stated as under:

" In this regard, additional guidelines issued on 11th February, 2014 to Central Ministries / Departments and revised guidelines issued on 18th June, 2014 to States/UTs by erstwhile Planning Commission envisage creation of proper institutional mechanism for monitoring of the implementation of TSP. The Guidelines further stipulates for non-diversion of funds meant for tribal areas and comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators, covering provisioning, service delivery standards as well as outcomes. The Guidelines recognizes respective Tribal Welfare Department in the States as the nodal department authorized to lead the process of TSP development.

Regarding the tribal specific information /data all efforts have been made to keep abreast with the latest figures relating to tribal issues especially tribal women from different source. Data related to Scheduled Tribes are collected by various Ministries/Departments. Data relating to Scheduled Tribes on demographic characteristics, condition of houses, household amenities/ assets, number of literates and illiterates, education level, main workers, marginal workers, non –workers, disability, etc. are collected along with other data in decennial Census conducted by the Office of the Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner. National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation carries out large scale surveys on socio economic, demographic, agricultural and industrial subjects for collecting data from households including ST households located in villages and towns across the country. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conducts a number of surveys including National Family Health Survey and District Level Health Survey. Data collected under these surveys provide information on infant and child mortality rate, ante natal care, immunization of children, institutional delivery, health care, nutritional status etc. in respect of STs. Information about STs relating to enrolment, dropout, gender parity index etc. are made available by Ministry of Human Resource Development based on statistics of school education and all India survey of higher education. National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs brings out its annual publication, namely, Crime in India based on data collected from all States/UTs. The publication includes data on State/UT-wise incidence and rate of crime committed against Scheduled Tribes. Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour &

Employment conducts Employment-Unemployment Survey which provides data relating to employment status of STs also. Based on available information/data from these sources comprehensive data-base has been developed."

8. The Committee appreciate the guidelines issued by the Ministry for the creation of a proper institutional mechanism related to implementation of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) as well as the need to prevent non-diversion of such fund. The Committee also desire that the intent of the Ministry in this regard does not remain limited to the guidelines only but also reflect on the tangible actions for the larger benefits of tribal society. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry continuously co-ordinate with various implementing agencies, keep itself abreast of the latest figures related to the tribal issues especially pertaining to tribal women and come up with a comprehensive database to fill void arising out of unavailability of tribal specific information/data with the Ministry. The Ministry, in reply, have mentioned about the different sets of information/data collated by multiple Ministries/Departments, all involved some way or the other with the welfare of tribal society. The Committee feel that such dispersion and diffusion of information/data is a hindrance in the way of adopting a meaningful strategic approach towards the holistic development of tribal community, besides entailing overlapping of similar schemes by different agencies. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that an all-encompassing database on tribals be formed within the Ministry with the view to centralization of information/data with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs or any other Ministry. The Committee further reiterate the essence of National Data Sharing and enable access to Government of India owned data for national planning, development and awareness. NDASP aims to provide an enabling provision and platform for proactive and open access to the data generated by various government of India entities and the focus on openness, flexibility, transparency, quality, security and machine readability. Further, as per the NDSAP, all details need to be published on the OGE platform (data.gov.in). The Ministry may ensure the compliance of the essence of the policy. The, Committee believe, it would help synergizing of inputs, real-time data transfer/sharing with concerned

agencies and facilitation of tribal welfare projects with Ministry of Tribal Affairs being the one-point resource centre to ensure improved implementation of projects and better outcome of resources for the tribals in the country. In this regard, the Committee also expect other Ministries/Departments to use extensively the database created by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to chalk out, implement, monitor and assess the projects/schemes made on their part to cater more efficaciously to the needs of tribal community.

EXPANDING THE ECONOMIC HORIZON OF TRIBAL WOMEN

(Recommendation Para No. 2.2)

9. The Committee are happy to note that of-late tribal women have been engaging themselves in different economic activities that include animal husbandry, livestock management, goaterly, poultry, horticulture, floriculture, handloom, handicraft, hospitality etc, besides agricultural activities. This is indicative of the fact that tribal society in general and tribal women in particular are ready to embrace new employment opportunities, should a favourable condition is created for them. The Committee also consider this diversification essential as, of late, agriculture is going through a rough patch owing to the vagaries of nature and market volatilities. Thus, besides agriculture, tribal women should be encouraged and provided the expertise in other vocations as well. For this, the concerned agencies should chalk out a perspective plan for implementation with a specific time frame. In this regard, the Committee would like to stress the need for 'micro start-ups'/'agro start-ups' especially designed for tribal societies. These ventures may be run on a co-operative model with locally available natural resources, generating employment and sustainable development opportunities for tribal women. Hence, The Committee strongly recommend the Ministry to draw-up a 'Start-up' roadmap for tribal entrepreneurs, particularly emphasizing the role of tribal women entrepreneurs, within the next six months and circulate it to the States/UTs for their comments. Experiences of '*Urlong tea project*', an agro Start-up, a case in point, in Meghalaya, may be worth-exploring and used as a reference point for drafting a roadmap for such initiatives.

10. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in its action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation has stated as under:

"The concessional Loan Schemes of National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) is an organisation under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, aims towards setting up of livelihood enterprises by the Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs for income generation on a sustainable basis. These schemes are

basically for the first generation entrepreneurs having low bankability. NSTFDC has a special scheme costing upto Rs. 1.00 lakh named Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) for exclusively catering to tribal women at an interest rate as low as 4 % p.a. Besides this, NSTFDC also provides term Loan for viable projects costing upto Rs. 25.00 lakh per unit and the interest rate varies from 6-10% p.a.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs also implements Vocational Training in Tribal areas. The main aim of the Scheme is to develop the skills of the ST youth for a variety of jobs as well as self-employment and to improve their socio-economic condition by enhancing their income. The scheme covers all the State and Union Territories. It is not an area-specific scheme, the condition being that free vocational training facilities are extended only to tribal youth 100% grants under the scheme are provided to the State, Union Territories and other Associations implementing the Scheme. Each Vocational Training Centre (VTC) under the Scheme may cater to 5 vocational courses in traditional skills depending upon the employment potential of the area. Keeping in view the limited potential of even skilled persons in interiors areas, each ST boy/girl is trained in two trades of his/her choice, the course in each trade being for duration of three months. Each trainee is to be attached at the end of six months to a master craftsman in a semi-urban area for a period of six months, to learn his/her skills by practical experience. The scheme has been revised with effect from 1.4.2009 to provide enhanced financial norms and to ensure linkages of vocational courses with recognized certificate/diploma through affiliation/accreditation of courses and institutions under Modular Employable Skills and Craftsman Training Scheme by National Council of Vocational Training of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The Government has constituted a National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub in the MSME Ministry in partnership with industry associations. This Hub will provide professional support to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs to fulfil the obligations under the Central Government procurement policy 2012, adopt global best practices and leverage the Stand Up India initiative. The Prime Minister launched the National SC/ST hub, and the Zero Defect, Zero Effect on environment (ZED) scheme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

The Stand Up India Scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 5.04.2016 to facilitate composite bank loans between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore to at least one SC/ST and for woman borrower, including tribal woman, per bank branch in the manufacturing, services or the trading sector for greenfield enterprises through 1.25 lakh branches of all Scheduled Commercial Banks. Effective handholding support is available before loan sanction and post disbursement of the loan to borrowers. A corpus of Rs. 5,000 crore has been approved for credit guarantee of the loans through national Credit Guarantee Trustee company Ltd. (NCGTC). A dedicated portal (www.standupmitra.in) for the Stand Up India scheme is active. The portal as a virtual

market place endeavours to provide 'End to End' solutions not only for credit delivery but also for a host of hand holding services. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has organized training programs, state level awareness programs, entrepreneurship development program, sensitization programs and district level workshops for stakeholders. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has organized national level training programs and also state level awareness programs (in all states) in may for stakeholders. As on 3.09.2016, an aggregate amount of Rs. 1990.74 crore has been disbursed by Bank to 13450 accounts of which 10856 pertain to women and 552 pertain to Schedule tribes beneficiaries."

11. The Committee have been made aware by the Ministry of the various organizations involved and opportunities offered to inculcate a spirit of entrepreneurship among tribal youth, including women, as well as options available to engage them in gainful economic activities. The Committee in their original report had stressed upon the need for specially designed 'micro start-ups/agro start-ups' based on locally available resources to generate employment and provide sustainable development opportunities to tribal women and rest of their communities. The recommendation also urged the Ministry to draw-up a 'Start-up' roadmap, emphasizing and exploring the role of women entrepreneurs of 'Urlong tea project', an agro start-up in Maghalaya. Yet, nothing has been pointed out by the Ministry in their reply. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that a study should be conducted immediately with the view to work out a roadmap involving management, marketing, financing and accounting, human resources management, informational technologies, legal and financial aspects of business with a tribal specific orientation to integrate hitherto marginal ST women business aspirants into the mainstream business activities of the country. The Committee would also like the Ministry to engage actively with states/UTs while drawing up such a roadmap and reflect upon diversities they possess for becoming a vehicle of upward economic mobility for the tribal entrepreneurs in the country.

NEED TO ACT AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF TRIBAL WOMEN

(Recommendation Para No 2.11)

12. The Committee strongly condemn the attitude of the Ministry with regard to trafficking of tribal women. It is a pity that the Government has no reliable data on the number of tribal women trafficked from tribal belts to big cities and metropolises. Adding insult to the injury, the Ministry has gone ahead stating before the Committee that there is no reliable record available to indicate that tribal women, trafficked from tribal belts to cities, are engaged as maid servants, etc., when our newspapers and electronic media are flooded with such stories. Even Non Governmental Organizations working amongst tribals contradict the data of National Crime Records Bureau on trafficking of tribals and put it in tens of thousands instead of two digit numbers. The Committee are utterly dismayed to see that the Government have been insensitive to this gigantic problem. The need of the hour is to have seamless co-operation between all agencies, Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities, Police, local administration and society, to keep the traffickers at bay. The Committee desire that a dedicated web-portal against trafficking and traffickers, with regular inputs from the Centre and all States/UTs, ought to be launched and given ample publicity nationally. Moreover, the Committee propose thoroughgoing campaigns in vulnerable areas involving school teachers, tribal chieftains, people's representatives and village heads, who can play vital roles in making growing girls and their parents aware about the intrigues of the whole process of trafficking. The measures taken by the State of Odisha, which has set up 12 Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units, can be replicated in others States as well, especially the States from which most cases of trafficking are reported, namely, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

13. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in its action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation has stated as under:

" As informed by M/o. Home Affairs, 'Police and Public Order' being State subjects, the primary responsibility for preventing and combating the crime of human trafficking lies with the State Governments. However, the Government of India is concerned about the trafficking in persons and has adopted a multi-pronged approach to combat human trafficking. MHA is developing another web portal on missing persons through NIC as

an extension to 'Track Child' and 'Khoya Paya' portals, with additional features covering details of missing persons of all age and gender as well as details of culprits like defaulter placement agencies, kingpins, gangs, etc. It would also have the provision of log in for BSF and SSB alongwith Police.

Letter has been sent to all State Governments to create awareness about the process of trafficking through campaigns as proposed by the Committee."

14. The Committee have been deeply concerned about the growing cases of trafficking of tribal women and, therefore, had recommended in its original report a number of measures to tackle this menace effectively. The Committee are unhappy with the fact that the crucial recommendations have been rather ignored by the Ministry on the pretext of it being a state subject. The Ministry have only perfunctorily replied that letters have been sent to all state governments to create awareness about trafficking. The Committee desire the Ministry to be more dynamic and pro-active to put an end to the sufferings of tribal women/girls caused by ever-growing cases of human trafficking in the country. The Committee, hence, reiterate their earlier recommendation and insist on the Ministry to have a mechanism for a seamless co-ordination between Centre and state/UTs that can only be achieved through frequent interactions of the Ministry with the states/UTs. In this regard, the Committee also desire the monthly monitoring of ground level situations and objective assessment of challenges therein with the active involvement of Ministry officials and highest level functionaries of states/UTs. Drawing on the recommendation made by the Committee in its original report, the Committee would further like the Ministry to launch a well-designed campaign involving print, electronic, local, traditional and other forms of media, not least the social media, against trafficking. These campaigns should mostly focus on vulnerable areas in Hindi and languages that would be better understood by people of the areas prone to such dreadful activities. The Committee also desire that a special cell within the Ministry be created without delay to bring all the agencies together, co-ordinate between the Centre, states and NGOs, take decisions for judicious use of resources, act on recommendations made by constitutionally mandated bodies, constitute study groups to go deep into the root causes behind trafficking and to make it become

a response centre for the victims of trafficking in the county. The Committee would further like the Ministry to replicate the successes achieved by 'Save the Children' initiative of South 24 Paraganas district of West Bengal in other trafficking hotspots of the country and adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards this barbarity.

ATROCITIES AGAINST TRIBAL WOMEN

(Recommendation Para No 2.13)

15. The Committee are of the view that existing laws to safeguard tribal women against atrocities have not been responsive enough to protect them from such crimes. This grim reality is reflected in the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as well. Apart from being hoodwinked by non-tribal people, crimes of grievous nature, such as, murder, rape, molestation and grave hurt etc. against tribal women are not rare, notwithstanding the existence of stringent laws. The Committee are also perturbed by the inaction of police and administration to such injustices, unwarranted delay in reporting of those cases, failure to register cognizable offences, time-lag in visits to the scene of crimes and also by the delays in charge-sheeting the accused persons. Thus, the Committee would suggest an overhauling of the administration, particularly the police force, in tribal dominated areas to make them responsive, alert and sensitive to the crimes against tribal women. The Committee, therefore, recommend to operationalize a 'Special Cell' under the Station House Officer (SHO) in each police station, particularly in tribal-dominated areas, to take on-time cognizance and remain accountable for any lapses in taking note of such offences. The Committee would also like these cells to periodically send reports to offices of Director General of Police, National Human Rights Commission, Commission in respective States and to National Commission for Scheduled Tribes for their subsequent scrutiny, validation and necessary follow up action.

16. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in its action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation has stated as under:

" Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that they have been issuing advisories from time to time with a view to help the States/ UTs to deal with crimes against women regarding "The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act 2015".

17. The Committee in their original report had recommended to operationalize a 'Special Cell' under the Station House Officer (SHO) in each police stations in tribal dominated areas to take on-time cognizance and be accountable for any lapses therein. The Committee also recommended these cells to periodically report to offices of Director General of Police, National Human Rights Commission, Commissions in respective states and to National Commission for Scheduled Tribes for their subsequent scrutiny. However, the Ministry, in its reply, have remained non-committal and nothing specific has been mentioned about the recommendations of the Committee. The Committee desire that the intent of the Government is visible not just in advisories but also in actions to minimize the injustices and atrocities committed against tribal women in the country. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and would like the concerned Ministry to take all necessary steps, in consultation with the other Ministries involved, to implement in right earnest the recommendations of the Committee. It is also desired that the status of implementation of the recommendation may be communicated within the time span of six months to the Committee.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 2.3)

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and various Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments are implementing many schemes/programmes for the welfare of tribal communities. The Committee feel that the onus of resource mobilization for the welfare of tribals and tribal women need to be broad-based. The nation's burgeoning corporate sector should also contribute to the welfare of tribal population. Keeping this in view, it is imperative that a part of the mandatory corporate social responsibility fund (CSR) in India is directed to the welfare of tribal women. Presently, there is no such obligation on the companies to mandatorily spend a part of their CSR fund on the welfare of tribal societies and it is left to their discretion to decide the areas of philanthropy. The Committee, therefore, desire that an amendment to the Companies Act may be initiated so that Companies contribute a part of their CSR funds for the welfare of tribal women and their welfare activities.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Corporate Affairs has informed that the recommendation of Committee has been examined and the considered view of the Ministry is as follows:

(1) Development sectors as specified in Schedule VII have cross cutting themes and are aligned with the National Development Priorities. It is not considered appropriate to confine Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure to one specific sector.

(2) Item No. (iii) and (viii) of Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 read with general circular dated 18.6.2014 allows the corporates to undertake activities for empowerment and welfare of tribal women. As per Section 135 (4) and (5) of the Act the Board of the company has the flexibility to take decision on allocation of their CSR expenditure across development sectors, listed under Schedule VII of the Act, keeping in view their

local area priorities and management skills. Ministry of Corporate Affairs neither gives direction nor issues advisory to corporate in this regard.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.4)

The Committee have been apprised of the social security schemes directed towards women in the country. Though there is no dearth of schemes, none of these schemes are tribal-specific. The Committee find that many States have certain schemes which are tribal-centric, taking good care of tribal girls and women, but, no such worthwhile scheme is made available by Central Government as yet. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to chalk out a flagship scheme exclusively for welfare and empowerment of tribal women.

Reply of the Government

Before examining the feasibility of bringing out a flagship social security scheme for tribal women, this Ministry has invited comments from Ministry of Labour & Employment and Department of Financial Services. The comments have been received are as follows:

Department of Financial Services informed that for creating a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor and the underprivileged the Hon'ble Prime Minister launched three Social Security Schemes in the Insurance and Pension sectors; namely the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and the Atal Pension Yojana on Pan India basis on the 9th of May, 2015. All these three Schemes are for all persons including tribal women.

Ministry of Labour & Employment informed that at present there is no proposal for new scheme relating to tribal women and domestic workers. However, the Ministry of Labour & Employment implements the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 which provides for registration of Unorganised workers and issuance of portable smart card by District Administration to them and formulation of suitable welfare schemes for

Unorganised workers including tribal women workers and domestic workers on matters relating to: (i) life and disability cover, (ii) health and maternity benefits, (iii) old age protection and (iv) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government through the National Social Security Board.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.5)

The Committee cannot remain oblivious to the troublesome reality that malnutrition among tribals is alarmingly high despite the existence of many schemes/programmes to address the problem. It is observed that the prevalence of chronic energy deficiency among tribals is as high as 49% and even in a State like Kerala, where the health standards match with international standards, malnutrition among tribals is incredibly high. The Committee, hence, infer from the available facts that there exists serious flaws in the conception and execution of such schemes/programmes so far, otherwise the issue of tribal malnutrition, especially the nutritional indices of tribal women and children, would have definitely shown marked improvements. The Committee believe that primary focus has so far been on coverage rather than on improving the quality of those schemes/programmes; hence the lack of tangible outcomes in the efforts to deal with the problems. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend the focus to be shifted to improving the quality of such actions. The Committee would also like the Government to concentrate on community-based management of malnutrition with the focus primarily on preventive promotive and curative interventions. Tribal communities need to be made aware of personal hygienic practices, feeding and weaning practices, etc. Regular monitoring of growth parameters of children and medical support in case of diseases is necessary to prevent many tribal communities from getting extinct. One of the major reasons of malnutrition, the Committee recognize, is the faulty feeding practices, resulting in undernourishment both in the general as well as tribal populace. Therefore, poor nutritional status of tribal children and women may also be a upshot of it. Thus, the Committee advise the Government to disseminate information in tribal languages on healthy feeding practices, preferably with indigenous foods that are cheap, nutritious, easily available and culturally and geographically rooted.

Reply of the Government

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) is an organisation under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, is in the process of implementing an innovating project called Community Plus in West Bengal & Jharkhand. Community Plus model is an offshoot research amongst the scholars of IIM Kolkata in partnership with some of India's leading non-profit & research institutes which aims to address multiple development goals such as livelihood generation and malnutrition simultaneously. The major thrust of the model is to locally produce Nutrimix, a micro nutrient fortified high calorie cereal. Nutrimix is scientifically made up of locally available ingredients like wheat flour, green gram flour, iron salt and iodised salt and a ready to eat food product. At the villages level this product is widely used in the Government Programmes like Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the SABLA programmes both as take home ration (THR) and food for spot feeding at Anganwadi Centres. The demand of this product will also help in sustainable income generation to ST families.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs issued guidelines to all State Governments /UT administrations for allocation of funds under sectoral activities vide F.No.11015/06/2016-SG-II dated 17.6.2016 with regard to critical gap filling under Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) as an additive to fund flow under Tribal Sub-Plan for tribal development. Under this guideline Inter-State sectoral activities have been prioritised and for health sector has been accorded priority with earmarking of 10-15% of fund allocation of State allocation under Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Similarly, under Grants under Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide F.No.11015/06/2016-SG-I dated 20.6.2016 issued guidelines to all State Governments/UT administrations for allocating funds by earmarking 10-15% of the allocation by State Government/UT administration under sectoral activities to plugging critical gap as an additive to State efforts for tribal development with fund flow under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) strategy.

In addition, Nutrition Supplementary programmes are being implemented by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Women and Child Development which also cover tribal children and women across the country.

Some of the schemes for nutrition and health of children implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are: Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), National Iron Plus Initiative, Janani Surksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Swasthya Karyakram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK). Similarly to take care of maternal health for nutrition and health care Ministry of Health and Family Welfare implements different schemes under National Health Mission including National Iron Plus Initiative, Annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP), Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA). Besides Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also distributes bed nets under Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) schemes and also 184 High Priority Districts (HPDs) have been identified and prioritized for Reproductive Maternal New born Child Health+ Adolescent (RMNCH+A) interventions for achieving improved maternal and child health outcomes.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Women and Children as a joint initiative implements Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) and Mother and Child Protection Card (MCPC) for addressing nutrition concern in Children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Under these scheme Village Health and Nutrition days (VHND) are monthly held at Anganwadi centre to increase awareness and bring about desired changes in dietary practices including breastfeeding.,

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.6)

The Committee strongly feel that the dismal health indicators among the tribals and, especially, the poor status of maternal and child health among them is attributed to lack of access to facilities, faulty delivery mechanisms, serious deficit of dedicated doctors and paramedics as well as to some native causes like unhygienic and primitive practices for child birth, aversion to inoculation , deliberate reduction of food intake with the intention to keep the size of the baby small during delivery and the habit of consuming alcohol even during the days of pregnancy. While it comes to childcare, the Committee are also aware of some harmful practices like discarding of colostrums, delayed initiation to breast-feeding, late introduction of complementary feeds and existence of magic beliefs in tribal societies. The Committee, therefore, feel that present healthcare initiatives are not fully geared-up to address the tribal specific needs and healthcare realities. The Committee, therefore, recommend to include a separate tribal component to all maternal and child health initiatives, taking into consideration the distinctive tribe-specific healthcare urgencies. This should be incorporated in consultation and co-operation with State/local Governments and other implementing agencies. The Committee would urge the Ministry to inform about the steps taken in this regard within a period of three months.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs as a strategic process has adopted “Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY)” which aims at holistic development of tribals including tribal women in 14 thematic areas including health. It converges with 27 line Ministries including Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for Strengthening of delivery of health services among tribal people. Tribal health is being given priority even while sanctioning grants to the States under the schemes of SCA to TSP and Article 275 (1) of Grants. Released of funds in Health Sector during 2014-15 and 2015-16 is Rs. 56.18 crore and Rs. 81.53 crore respectively.

National Health Mission

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed that they implement various activities under National Health Mission (NHM) for promotion of child and maternal health. Some of the activities implemented by the Ministry are: Newborn Care Corners (NBCCs), Janani Shishu Swasthya Karyakram (JSSK), Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC), Facility Based Newborn Care (FBNC) etc.

Child Health

The following interventions are being implemented under NHM for healthy childhood all across the States/UTs, including Tribal areas:

1. Exclusive breastfeeding for first six months, complementary feeding beginning at six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are being promoted in convergence with the Ministry of Woman and Child Development. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched “MAA”- Mother’s Absolute Affection programme in August 2016 in all across States/UTs, including Tribal areas for improving breastfeeding practices (Initial Breastfeeding within one hour, Exclusive Breastfeeding up to six months and complementary Breastfeeding up to two years) through mass media and capacity building of health care providers in health facilities as well as in communities.
2. Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC)-for promotion of essential newborn care including breastfeeding practices, early identification and referral of neonatal illnesses by ASHAs has been initiated, where ASHAs are paid an incentive for visiting each newborn and post-partum mother in the first six weeks of life as per the schedule. More than 65 lakh newborns have been visited by ASHAs in 2014-15 whereas in 2015-16 around 98 lakhs newborns were visited by ASHAs.
3. Facility Based Newborn Care (FBNC) is being scaled up by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare all across the states including Tribal areas as well as in High priority districts for care of small or sick newborns. 661 Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) have been setup in district hospitals and medical colleges to provide round

the clock services for sick newborns. 2,321 Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSUs) at the level of FRUs and 18,323 Newborn Care Corners (NBCCs) at delivery points have been operationalized in the continuum of care.

4. 965 Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) have been set up at facility level to provide medical and nutritional care to Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children under 5 years of age who have medical complications. In addition, the mothers are also imparted skills on child care and feeding practices so that the child continues to receive adequate care at home.
5. To address anaemia, National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI) has been launched which includes provision of supervised biweekly iron folic acid supplementation by ASHA for all under-five children and biannual deworming.
6. Recognising worm infestation as an important cause of anaemia, the first National Deworming Day (NDD) was launched on 10th February, 2015 targeting all children in the age group of 1-19 years (both school enrolled and non-enrolled). A total of 24.6 crore children received deworming tablet (Albendazole) during the National Deworming Day 2016.
7. Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) are also being organized for imparting nutritional counselling to mothers and to improve child care practices.
8. Promotion of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) for early diagnosis and case management of common ailments of children with special emphasis on pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition is being promoted for care of children at community as well as facility level.
9. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) has been launched to provide child health screening and early intervention services by expanding the reach of mobile health teams at block level. These teams also carry out screening of all the children

in the age group 0 – 6 years enrolled at Anganwadi Centres at least twice a year. RBSK covers 30 common health conditions.

Maternal Health

Besides above interventions, other measures being taken for Safe motherhood for pregnant women including tribal areas are as under:-

- ✓ Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana- a scheme giving entitlement to all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery, including caesarean section
- ✓ Promotion of institutional deliveries through Janani Suraksha Yojana
- ✓ Operationalization of sub-centers, Primary Health Centers, Community Health Centers and District Hospitals for providing 24x7 basic and comprehensive obstetric care services
- ✓ Strengthening of Delivery Points for prioritizing and focus attention in terms of strengthening and upgrading the facilities where there is demand for services and which are conducting deliveries above a certain benchmark.
- ✓ Capacity building of health care providers in basic and comprehensive obstetric care with a strategic initiative “Dakshata” to enable service providers in providing high quality services during childbirth at the institutions
- ✓ A new initiative of “Prevention of Post-Partum Hemorrhage (PPH) through Community based advance distribution of Misoprostol” by ASHAs/ANMs for high home delivery districts including tribal districts.
- ✓ Newer interventions to improve quality of ante-natal care such as Calcium supplementation during pregnancy and lactation, De-worming during pregnancy, Screening for Syphilis during pregnancy
- ✓ Village Health and Nutrition Days in rural areas as an outreach activity, for provision of maternal and child health services.
- ✓ Creation of Birth waiting home in tribal and difficult areas which have poor road connectivity and access to health facilities.

- ✓ Special and innovative transportation in tribal and difficult areas where there is no motorable road (e.g. palkis, dolis and carts to the nearest road head that serves as a pickup point for referral transport.
- ✓ Engagement of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) to generate demand and facilitate accessing of health care services by the community.
- ✓ Suitable incentives to ANMs (SBAs) for attending home deliveries in pre-identified and notified villages in remote and inaccessible areas on account of geographical/climatic exigencies.

Other Strategies

- In tribal areas, the population norm for the ASHAs is relaxed.
- Frequent Health Melas and RCH Camps are being organized.
- Special IEC campaign in accordance with the local customs are being undertaken.
- Special Incentives to health care providers can be given for staying at the health facilities.
- Performance based incentives are also being given for rendering delivery services as per PBI guidelines

Priority attention for creating government owned health infrastructure including residential quarters is being implemented.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.7)

The Committee, much to its dismay, have noticed that sickle cell anemia (SCA) continues to be one of the major impediments to healthcare progress of tribal-people, especially to those living in Central and Southern parts of the country, where this disease is prevalent. The Committee also believe that effects of this debilitating disease get compounded by severe malnutrition, poverty and unhygienic living conditions. Although this disease is not curable and can only be controlled through drugs, it can certainly be prevented. The Committee are of the view that Government should have long initiated a massive programme across villages to identify the sickle cell traits

among tribal people, particularly among tribal women. The Committee recommend to begin this at the earliest. It should be followed by issuance of cards, preferably of white, yellow and red, indicating their SCA status as not affected, carriers and affected respectively, all across tribal communities and villages. There is no problem if two individuals with white cards marry. White card holders can also marry yellow and red. But, no two yellow card holders, those who are carriers of SCA traits, should enter into a wedlock as this will result in future occurrence of the disease. The Committee would recommend this approach to be included in the healthcare schemes and community healthcare initiatives in all tribal districts of the country immediately.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized regional training workshops in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to facilitate State/UTs to train adequate manpower to undertake the screening exercise of ST youth and children of school going age using a simple and cost effective screening test developed by ICMR. The information so collected can be used for future marriage counselling. Since there is no worthwhile treatment available for this disease this can be prevented through awareness generation only. Funds are also being provided by this Ministry to State Governments for this purpose. In addition, Departments of Biotechnology and Health Research are involved in research for management of Sickle Cell Anaemia disease.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has initiated a project to arrest its spread so that sickle cell carriers (patients) can be cared for, and also future generations can be saved from this scourge. A protocol for Sickle Cell Management was issued in March 2015 with the objective to control the spread of the disease. In this regard, workshops were conducted in States in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology for mapping of incidence of Sickle Cell Trait and disease among tribal people all over the country through State Governments.

A revised protocol has been issued to the States on 1.11.16 after consultation with Department of Health Research. Apart from screening of children and youth, as per the revised protocol, screening of pregnant women is also to be done, and in case one individual is identified in the family, then family members will also be screened.

Further, as informed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (M/o H&FW), Government of India is implementing Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) to screen all the children up to 18 years of age through early detection of 4 Ds i.e. birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability and to provide comprehensive care including surgeries at the tertiary level free of cost under National Health Mission.

In order to tackle prevalence of diseases like sickle cell anaemia, hypothyroidism, and beta thalassemia all across the country including tribal areas, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with help of experts, has developed a comprehensive, “Guidelines on Haemoglobinopathies in India” and shared with States which will not only help in providing a better future for all patients affected by Thalassemia or Sickle Cell Disease but also prevent the birth of children with such disorders, thereby aiming to reduce the number of children affected by Thalassemia Major and Sickle Cell disease in our country.

National Health Mission

Public Health being a State subject, under the National Health Mission (NHM), support is provided to States/ UTs to strengthen their healthcare system based on requirements posed by the States in their Programme Implementation Plans. Under the NHM, support has been provided to States for sickle Cell Anaemia interventions. The details of approvals given under NHM for Sickle Cell Anaemia are given below:

Total Budget for Blood Disorders (sickle Cell)		
S.No.	State Name	Amount approved (In lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	185.3
2	Gujarat	982.13
3	Maharashtra	1140.89
4	Odissa	78.4
5	Jharkhand	292.15
6	Madhya Pradesh	1139.5

7	Tripura	100
8	Telangana	175.3965
	Total	4093.7665

M/o H&FW has disseminated to all the States/UTs, Guidelines for prevention and control of Hemoglobinopathies in India – Thalassemia, Sickle Cell disease and other variant Hemoglobinopathies. The Guidelines focus on reduction in the prevalence of Hemoglobinopathies through:

- Community education and awareness programmes to remove any myths regarding transmission of disease, gender bias, stigma related to disease and carrier states and informing the community about appropriate prevention options and improving their availability through public health facilities and programmes.
- Implementation of sustainable and cost effective carrier screening programmes at school level for adolescents backed by adequate and effective prescreening educative programmes on genetic disorders in general and Hemoglobinopathies in particular and post screening non directive genetic counseling ensuring confidentiality and generating trust to enable expected outcomes.
- Establishing services at the community level for pre-marital, pre-conceptional screening backed by genetic counseling services.
- Extended family screening of all known and detected carriers and patients

Based on the rights of prospective parents at risk of having a child with a serious genetic disorder

- Establish carrier screening services for screening of pregnant women and their husbands, to prevent the birth of children with Thalassemia major or intermedia and Sickle Cell Disease.
- Create laboratory facilities for testing and confirmation of Hemoglobinopathies carriers at district level in the District hospital laboratory or DEIC labs.
- Establishment of loco- regional centers in States with facilities for prenatal diagnosis and laboratory facilities for DNA analysis. Increase feasibility of

antenatal screening by training of personnel in sampling techniques with help of tertiary centers.

- Train healthcare personnel for delivery of genetic counseling services for families at risk

Based on rights of patients of access to care

- Provide optimal care to all patients of thalassemia and sickle cell disease by establishing day care facilities for transfusion and monitoring with the help of State health departments at the District hospitals or DEIC.
- Ensure availability of safe blood to children with thalassemia, strengthen existing Blood Banks to provide facilities for component separation and leucodepletion, and help the States to set up new Blood Banks or blood storage facilities where there are none. Promote voluntary blood donation to fulfill the blood requirements.
- Provide financial support for obtaining medicines for iron chelation-an essential component of management without which the entire blood transfusion given over years will go waste.
- Developing and implementing protocols for early diagnosis and intervention in cases of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and Thalassemia major (TM). Newborn screening for SCD – in order to provide timely intervention with prophylactic penicillin and vaccinations (see Section C on Management) and targeted screening of children with anemia, to identify those having thalassemia trait or disease. Referral for Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT), also termed Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) and facilitate establishment of more HSCT centres,
- Inform the community about appropriate treatment and management options and making these available through public health facilities.

The Goals of Public Health Strategies as outlined in the guidelines provide for the following:

Implementation strategies would be adopted to achieve the following public health goals:

- Achieving maximum convergence with other health programmes for cost - effectiveness
- Management facilities for day care to be created at District level hospitals or District Early Intervention Centres established under RBSK.
- Newborn screening to be done by Dried Blood Spot samples where these samples can be used to screen other metabolic disorders
- Adolescent screening may be combined with screening and treatment of anemia.
- Antenatal screening for Hemoglobinopathies to be carried out along with testing for HIV, hepatitis B, VDRL diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism etc.
- Preventive strategies adopted are aimed at creation of an informed society that is willing to voluntarily participate in screening programmes to achieve the public health goal of reduction in prevalence of Hemoglobinopathies. All preventive options available at each step should be clearly communicated and non-directive counseling provided to enable the individual to make an informed decision.
- A system of surveillance and registry will be established to track and evaluate outcomes such as number of patients registered under care programme and their record, number of carrier couples opting for prenatal diagnosis and number of carriers detected in school or at premarital stage avoiding marriage with another carrier. Other statistics to be included are the number of couples opting for adoption or limiting family size, and those treated by BMT.
- Training of Doctors, Nurses, Laboratory Technicians, Social Workers and other healthcare personnel: to develop required skills for management of affected patients, clinical and laboratory diagnostic procedures including fetal DNA sampling by Chorionic Villus Sampling, community education and counseling and data recording and reporting procedures This would be an important component for optimum prevention and management of thalassemia.
- Research and Analysis: Research, documentation, data analysis and evidence generation for future strategies.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.8)

The Committee are appalled by the fact that the drop-out rate among tribal girls from elementary to higher levels of education is distressingly high. This rate among the tribal girls between classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X is 30.7%, 46.4% and 61.4% respectively as per the provisional figures for 2013-14. The Committee understand that there are many factors that are inseparably linked to this high rate of drop-outs among tribal girls, viz. lack of awareness about importance of education, migration of family to other places, need to help parents in domestic works, illness of parents, death in family etc. To overcome this alarmingly high rate of drop-outs among them, the Committee would urge the Government to embark on urgent initiatives to construct more hostels for tribal girls and ensure physical security and safety of girl students studying in such schools. The wardens of such hostels should be women. Every tribal school should have separate toilets for girls with running water facility. The Committee would also underline the need to realign holidays in tribal schools to tribal festivities.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing following schemes :

- (i) **Scheme of Girls & Boys Hostels for STs:** Under the scheme, Central assistance is given to States/UTs/Universities for construction of new hostel buildings and/or extension of existing hostels. State Governments are eligible for 100% central share for construction of all Girls' hostel and also for construction of Boys' hostel in naxal affected areas (identified by Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time). The funding pattern for the other Boys' Hostel to State Governments is on 50:50 basis. In case of UTs, the Central Government bears the entire cost of construction of both Boys' and Girls' hostels. Hostels for Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) for ST Girls and Boys are funded on the same criteria as other hostels. Members of Parliament could also provide funds as a substitute of State share from their MPLAD scheme for this purpose. Maintenance of the hostel is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. The hostels may be for middle, secondary, college or university level education.

- (ii) **Scheme of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Area:** The objective of the scheme is to provide residential schools for STs in an environment conducive to learning to increase the literacy rate among the tribal students and to bring them at par with other population of the country. State Governments are eligible for 100% central share for construction of all Girls' Ashram Schools and also for construction of Boys' Ashram Schools in naxal affected areas (identified by Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time). The funding pattern for the other Boys' Ashram Schools is on 50:50 basis, while cent percent assistance is given to UTs for construction of both Girls and Boys' Ashram Schools. The scheme covers primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary level of education.
- (iii) **Scheme of Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts:** This scheme is being implemented in 54 identified low literacy Districts where the ST population is 25% or more, and ST female literacy rate is below 35%. The scheme aims to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women, through facilitating 100% enrolment of tribal girls in the identified Districts or Blocks. Government provides 100% assistance for running and maintenance of educational complexes for ST girls which include free education, boarding and lodging, books, uniforms, medical help, coaching, incentives to girls, periodical awards, etc.
- (iv) **Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), with capacity of 480 students in each school, are set up in States / UTs under Special Area Programme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India on the pattern of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV). Objective is to provide quality middle and secondary education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors, but also to access best opportunities in education at par with others. For about 50,000 students studying in EMRSs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides recurring funds @ Rs. 42000/- per students per year.

Besides, to facilitate tribals and encourage continuing education, scholarships are provided to tribal students for their education. The name of scholarships are Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, National Overseas Scholarship, Scheme of Top Class Education for ST students and National Fellowship Scheme for ST students.

State Governments are in-charge of operation and day to day running of schools / hostels. Hence staff recruitment (women wardens), toilets for girls with running water facility, realignment of holidays with festivals period need to be addressed by the States. For this, the observations / recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been sent to the States for appropriate action.

The Schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs are demand driven i.e., construction funding is considered only if there is requisition from State(s).

Although issue of safety of girls / day to day operations are administered by the States concerned, this Ministry has taken up the any matter which comes to notice, with the States / UTs. Reports have also been called for from the States regarding action by police authorities and present status of prosecution in case of sexual abuse of tribal children. States have also been requested in October 2016, to provide details of measures taken by them to provide safety and security to girl students in residential schools and hostels.

Focus on tribal areas and tribal populations

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has identified 177 tribal districts with ST concentration of 25% or above. These include 14 districts which have <25% ST population but are Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected. Out of these 177 districts, in 65 districts, not even one Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) is available for quality education of STs. MHRD has been requested to take necessary steps for establishing at least one KV in each of these 65 uncovered districts.

Of the 177 districts, in 94 districts ST population is more than 50% of total district population. MHRD has been requested to take necessary steps for

establishing at least two Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs) in each of the 94 uncovered districts.

Ministry of Human Resource Development (D/o School Education & Literacy) informed that the following schemes are implemented by them:

(I) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) norms provide for provisioning of residential schools and hostels to the following categories of children:-

1. Children in sparsely populated, or hilly and densely forested areas with difficult geographical terrain where opening a new primary or upper primary school may not be viable, and
2. Urban deprived children, homeless and street children in difficult circumstances and without adult protection, who require not merely day schooling, but also lodging and boarding facilities.

In Schedule Tribes (ST), Special Focus Districts (SFDs); Two (2) residential hostels were sanctioned in the year 2015-16 and four (4) residential schools and 10 Hostels were sanctioned in the year 2016-17. A total of 200 Hostels and 110 Residential Schools have been sanctioned for ST, SFDs. The financial norms of residential facilities are as per Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBVs) which are in accordance with the Schedule of Rates notified by the concerned States. A total of 508 KGBVs, which are residential schools at upper primary level have been sanctioned in which 507 KGBVs are operational till 31.03.2016 in ST, SFDs. In Jharkhand, 72 KGBVs have been sanctioned and operational till 31.03.2016. At present, all the schools have separate toilets for girls with running water facility.

Ministry of Human Resource Development (D/o School Education & Literacy) informed that the Ministry is issuing advisory on shifting school vacations to overlap with local festivals of the tribal areas comes in the domain of the respective State government.

(II) The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme envisages enhancing the enrolment for classes IX-X by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removal of gender, social-economic and disability barriers, 90% GER by 2017, and universal retention by 2020.

In order to eliminate enrolment gaps and improve access for secondary schools in tribal areas, the districts with high concentration of population of SCs, STs and Minority have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs). The criteria for identification of the SFDs in case of STs is percentage population of 25% and above. Total 109 districts have been identified as ST concentration districts.

Under RMSA, till date the following items have been approved in ST concentration districts:

Sl. No.	Component	Total Number approved	Approved in ST concentration districts	Percentage
1	New Schools	12394	2812	22.69
2	Strengthening of schools	37382	4826	12.91
3	Girls Hostel	2483	474	19.09
4	ICT in school	87878	8273	9.41
5	Vocational Education in schools	7448	806	10.82

Out of the above, the items approved under RMSA in the year 2016-17 are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Total Number approved	Approved in ST concentration districts	Percentage
1	New Schools	1073	348	32.43
2	Strengthening of schools	2957	377	12.75

3	Girls Hostel	449	88	19.60
4	ICT in school	4475	649	14.50
5	Vocational Education in schools	3798	542	14.27

Besides, providing access through physical infrastructure as indicated above, other steps taken for improving enrolment and reducing dropout of ST girls include provision of learning enhancement programme for weak students, enrolment and retention drives, guidance and counseling programmes, self-defence training for girl students, provision of separate toilets for girls, residential quarters for female teachers in remotely located area, study visits to higher educational institutions etc.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.9)

The Committee believe that lack of vernacular instruction in schools may have been a causative factor for high number of drop-outs among tribal children in India. While most of the tribal communities have a language of their own and in some cases also even the scripts, barring a few States, these are not part of medium of instructions in schools for tribal children. As a result, the Committee feel, the tribal children struggle to comprehend the texts and pedagogical interventions in schools. Proficiency in the mother language is essential for further learning as mother-tongue is considered to be the seed for basic thoughts, more so for school-tots. Thus, the Committee, emphasize the urgent need for quality primers in tribal dialects using regional scripts understood by them. For this to happen, the Committee recommend the Centre and State Governments to pull resources and entrust competent agencies to carry out the tasks in a time-bound manner as per the NCERT's National Curriculum Framework, 2005. The process must involve local experts from tribal communities, tribal school teachers, tribal-language experts from linguistic fields and people with immaculate credentials on pedagogical experiences. The Committee would also urge the Government to take this as a project of national importance to help prevent tribal dialects from getting enlisted as endangered /extinct.

Reply of the Government

Ministry Tribal Affairs has asked the Tribal Research Institute to development Bilingual Primers containing text both in regional and tribal language.

A new “National Policy on Education 2016” is being prepared by Ministry of Human Resource Development based upon recommendations of Subramanian Committee, which has recommended that there should be local dialect use in initial stages, in schools in tribal areas. The issue of medium of instruction in schools is also being deliberated by Central Advisory Board of Education under Chairmanship of Hon’ble Minister of HRD.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development informed that The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) in the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 (NCF) makes it clear that language and culture are important to children learning.

Initiatives for promoting multi –lingual education for tribal children by initiating with the children’s mother tongue and slowly bridging with States’ official language and English. Development of wide range of textual materials/ primers in children’s mother tongue based on their experience and culture for use in classroom. Orientation of teachers (mostly non-tribal teachers) on attitudinal issues. State-wise initiatives of bridging materials for tribal languages for teachers and student, which are given below:

State wise list of Bridging Materials for Tribal Languages

Sl. No.	State	Class	Languages	Materials	
				Teacher	Student
1	A & N Island	I & II	Nicobarese	-	Textbook
2	Andhra Pradesh (762 schools)	I-V	Savara, Adivasi Oriya, Konda, Kuvi, Koya	Digital Learning Resource Material, glossaries, teacher handbook, MLE	Alphabet charts, textbooks, story books, pictorial stories,

Sl. No.	State	Class	Languages	Materials	
				Teacher	Student
				teacher training module, socio - linguistic study note	pictorial charts, language games, tribal magazine
3	Assam		Sadri		-
		I - VIII	Bodo	Condensed Materials	-
			Bishnupriya, Manipuri, Garo, Bodo, Karbi, Hmar	-	Textbook
4	Bihar		Bhojpuri, Angika, Magahi, Maithili, Bajjika	Picture Dictionary	-
5	Chhattisgarh		Gondi, Halbi, Chhattisgarhi, Kuduk, Surgujaya	Varnamala Chart, Song book, Poster	Story book (big book and small book)
		III – V	Gondi, Halbi, Chhattisgarhi, Kuduk, Surgujaya	-	Textbook, Toys made by children
6	Gujarat	Nursery and Lower Primary classes	Gamit, Madari, Dungra Bhili, Dehwali Bhili, Dungri Bhili, Garasiya Bhili, Panchamahali Bhili, Kunkna Bhili, Chaudhari, Nayki, Rathwi, Pavari Bhili & Dehwali	Pictorial Glossary	-

Sl. No.	State	Class	Languages	Materials	
				Teacher	Student
7	Jharkhand		Mundari, Nagpuri, Panchparganiya, Kurmali, Khadiya, Kudukh, Khortha, Santhali	Picture Glossary (Meri Bhasha me Meri Duniya)	-
			State has developed Material in 6 tribal languages.		
		I - V	Mundari, Santhali, Ho	-	Textbook
8	Maharashtra		Thakri, Marathi	-	Dictionary
			MahadeoKoli, Marathi	Handbook	-
			MahadeoKoli, Thakri	Reference Material	Self study material
			Thakri	-	Geetmala
			Katkari	-	Songs
		I	K-Thakur	Pictorial Glossary	Marathi Dictionary Selective Translated Text
			Kokna, Katkari, Varli, Marathi	-	Dictionary
			Thakri and Milau	Wall Charts	Dictionary
			Pawri, Bhilori	Pictorial Friend	Dictionary
		Nursery	Tadvi, Pawri, Banjara, Bhili	-	Rhymes, Self study cards
			Gondi and Banjara Dialect	-	Dictionary
			State has developed		

Sl. No.	State	Class	Languages	Materials	
				Teacher	Student
			supplementary readers for children in class I & II in 10 tribal languages		
9	Odisha(1249 schools)	I – IV	Oram, Kissan, Munda, Kui, Kuvi, Juanga, Saura, Koya, Bonda, Santhali	-	Textbook
		I – IV	Oram, Kissan, Munda, Kui, Kuvi, Juanga, Saura, Koya, Bonda, Santhali	-	Story Books (Big books & small books)
			MLE programme is operational in 1485 schools in 21 tribal languages in 17 tribal dominated districts		
10	Telangana (762 schools)		Gondi, Kolami, Banjara, Koya	Digital Learning Resource Material	-
11	Tripura	I - V	Lushai, Halam, Mog	-	Textbook

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.10)

The Committee are pleased to note that the Government are alert to the need of skill development of tribals and take note of the fact that Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) plays a pro-active role to impart training to tribal women on many fields, including shouldering the task of a facilitator and

service provider to tribal business ventures. While, handicrafts made by the tribal women are accorded the status of heritage items by connoisseurs, the Committee feel that there is a need to align these products to prevailing markets demands and tastes of consumers. This mass acceptability is needed to make tribal products cost-effective, thereby generating revenues for tribal artisans in the long-run. The Committee believe that TRIFED has a crucial responsibility to play in this regard. To bridge the gap between tribal traditions and market demands, the Committee, recommend that TRIFED, while imparting training to artisans, weavers etc., should also rope in experts from prominent centers of excellences, like National Institute of Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Govt. Arts Colleges, etc. to prepare newer designs for their products according to the contemporary trends. The Committee also suggest that the Ministry should encourage Corporate entities to fund these initiatives and promote the products both within the country and for overseas markets.

Reply of the Government

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs is imparting two types of training i.e. Comprehensive Training Programme (CTP) and Design Workshop Training (DWT) of development of handicraft products and tribal artisan including tribal women artisan. Comprehensive Training Programme (CTP) is given for a batch of 20 trainees in 60 days with a view to upgrade their skills through design and technical inputs to enhance the marketability of their handicrafts products and empower them for entrepreneurship development. DWT is given for a batch of 20 artisans in 21 days with the view to hone their skills through design inputs on the basis of market feedback to enhance the quality and marketability of their products. Designers for both these trainings are selected, who are empanelled with the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts/Handlooms)/National Institute of Design (NID)/professional Designers passed out of National institute like National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) or from any other Design Institute of repute and National Awardees in the craft.

Besides, Ministry of Tribal Affairs also implements scheme of Vocational Training in Tribal areas. The main aim of the Scheme is to develop the skills of the ST youth for a

variety of jobs as well as self-employment and to improve their socio-economic condition by enhancing their income. The scheme covers all the State and Union Territories. It is not an area-specific scheme, the condition being that free vocational training facilities are extended only to tribal youth 100% grants under the scheme are provided to the State, Union Territories and other Associations implementing the Scheme. Each Vocational Training Centre (VTC) under the Scheme may cater to 5 vocational courses in traditional skills depending upon the employment potential of the area. Keeping in view the limited potential of even skilled persons in interiors areas, each ST boy/girl is trained in two trades of his/her choice, the course in each trade being for duration of three months. Each trainee is to be attached at the end of six months to a master craftsman in a semi-urban area for a period of six months, to learn his/her skills by practical experience. The scheme has been revised with effect from 1.4.2009 to

provide enhanced financial norms and to ensure linkages of vocational courses with recognized certificate/diploma through affiliation/accreditation of courses and institutions under Modular Employable Skills and Craftsman Training Scheme by National Council of Vocational Training of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.12)

The Committee also feel the urgent need to regulate placement agencies which act as conduits for trafficking tribal girls to metropolitan cities. The Committee have learnt that many a times, the young women/girls are lured to the city in the name of domestic jobs and are traded hands putting them into a life of misery, bonded laborers or sex slavery in the absence of a regulatory mechanism. Since domestic workers form a huge chunk of work force and the metro women are truly dependent and indebted to them, it is long overdue that their work is given dignity and recognition. The Committee, hence, recommend that the Government should come up at the earliest with a legislation to regulate placement agencies and recognise domestic workers as a work

force. It should be made mandatory for placement agencies to get registered with the department concerned and submit the details of women getting placed by them as domestic workers to the Government. Strict action should be taken against illegal agencies working without registration.

Reply of the Government

Ministry has written to all the State Governments to take appropriate steps in this regard. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has also been apprised to take suitable steps in this regard.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.14)

The Committee welcome the initiatives taken by the Government for rehabilitation of surrendered Naxalites. These efforts, the Committee find, have proven to be effective in bringing down left-wing extremism in troubled areas of the country to some extent. Yet, the Committee, desire the police and Para-military forces to be more pro-active as they work towards assimilating the tribal people to the national mainstream. The aim should be to connect with the people, particularly with tribal women and make a bridge with them emotionally, to bring about a change on ground to help the State gain a benevolent face. The Committee are also aware that a large chunk of extremist foot-soldiers are women and many of them are exploited, abused and later abandoned by insurgent groups, eventually leaving them to fend for themselves in pitiable conditions. These women can be trained and given jobs as mid-day meal cooks in primary schools, anganwadi workers, midwives and jobs in many such areas where their rehabilitation is possible and self-sustenance ensured. The Committee, therefore, urge upon Government to chalk out a programme for the rehabilitation of such women in all insurgency affected districts in the country and implement it in a time bound manner.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Human Resource Development (D/o School Education & Literacy) informed that for the rehabilitation of such women in the entire insurgency affected district in the country, it will be a very effective initiative. However, in Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme a total of 25.53 lakh cook-cum-helpers have been engaged by the States/UTs under Mid-Day Meal Scheme and more than 90% are women. Out of 25.53 lakh cooks, 21% are from SC community, 15% are from ST community, 42% are from OBC community and 7% are from Minorities. It will be fruitful in empowering of Tribal Women. Ministry of Human Resource Development will write to State Governments to include these women as cook-cum-helper under MDM scheme as per their requirement and resources.

Ministry of Women and Child Development informed that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States have already been requested to give priority to the tribal women in the families of surrendered naxals in providing training and employment in the Anganwadi Centres as Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Helpers.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.15)

The Committee understand that participation of tribal women in political processes, made possible through reservation of seats in Panchayats and Municipal bodies, have so far been proven favorable for political empowerment of tribal women. It has also opened up the scope for meaningful social engagement. Yet, the Committee are of the view that the quality of their participation has been scarcely satisfactory. Tribal women, more often than not, are forced to act as stooges in local bodies and seldom seen asserting themselves in terms of identification of beneficiaries, assigning contacts, preparation of budgets, planning etc. The Committee are also aware of the root causes that come in their way to enjoy the maximum benefits of such political entitlements. Among others, these include low level of education, lack of leadership skills and awareness, household pressures, dependence on male family members, role of patriarchy and social outlook. Thus, the Committee believe that the Ministry and State Governments need to engage voluntary organizations, women groups, social organizations and competent NGOs to politically engage tribal women representatives

through an array of short duration camps, workshops, seminars throughout the year across such bodies with the aim of instilling confidence among them with the adjunct goal of preparing them for such responsibilities. The Committee would urge the authorities to prepare a list of such organizations State-wise and arrange resources to undertake those initiatives. The Government may also, the Committee would suggest, come up with special incentives for the bureaucrats who show exemplary contribution in fields of political empowerment of tribal women through their novel initiatives.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Panchayati Raj informed that they have written demi-official letters to all 10 PESA States to give wide publicity to the Committee Report by including such topics as part of the curriculum of various training programmes conducted exclusively for tribal women. They have also been requested to give their personal attention on initiating needful action on recommendations for enhancing the political empowerment of tribal women for their meaningful engagement.

This Ministry has also written to State Governments to take appropriate steps in this regard.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

CHAPTER III

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

NIL

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Para No. 2.1)

The Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not been truly effective in playing the role of a positive catalyst for the welfare of tribal communities in the country. A rather nonchalant approach of the Ministry is reflected in the prevailing ground-realities of tribal societies. Though the Ministry is mandated to provide a focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the tribals in a coordinated and planned manner, the Committee have observed during the examination of the subject that the Ministry has remained a mute spectator to the plight of the tribals in general and tribal women in particular. The Committee also feel that if all the special plans and programmes meant for tribals had been implemented sincerely over the years, the majority of the tribals in the country would not have still been under poverty line, and lacking in crucial health and social parameters like total fertility rate, undernourishment, literacy rate, child mortality rate etc. till today. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should take strongest possible steps to put an end to diversions and lapses of Tribal Sub-Plan funds in all States and identify sham projects in the name of tribal welfare to guarantee maximum returns from available funding. The Committee take serious note of the unavailability of tribal specific information/data with the Ministry on various important issues and welfare measures pertaining to tribals. This is mainly because of lack of unified planning and proper monitoring of implementation mechanism for various programmes. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to continuously co-ordinate with various implementing agencies, keep itself abreast of the latest figures related to the tribal issues especially pertaining to tribal women and come up with a comprehensive database on tribals within six months under intimation to them.

Reply of the Government

In this regard, additional guidelines issued on 11th February, 2014 to Central Ministries / Departments and revised guidelines issued on 18th June, 2014 to States/UTs by erstwhile Planning Commission envisage creation of proper institutional mechanism for monitoring of the implementation of TSP. The Guidelines further stipulates for non-diversion of funds meant for tribal areas and comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators, covering provisioning, service delivery standards as well as outcomes. The Guidelines recognizes respective Tribal Welfare Department in the States as the nodal department authorized to lead the process of TSP development.

Regarding the tribal specific information /data all efforts have been made to keep abreast with the latest figures relating to tribal issues especially tribal women from different source. Data related to Scheduled Tribes are collected by various Ministries/Departments. Data relating to Scheduled Tribes on demographic characteristics, condition of houses, household amenities/ assets, number of literates and illiterates, education level, main workers, marginal workers, non –workers, disability, etc. are collected along with other data in decennial Census conducted by the Office of the Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner. National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation carries out large scale surveys on socio economic, demographic, agricultural and industrial subjects for collecting data from households including ST households located in villages and towns across the country. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conducts a number of surveys including National Family Health Survey and District Level Health Survey. Data collected under these surveys provide information on infant and child mortality rate, ante natal care, immunization of children, institutional delivery, health care, nutritional status etc. in respect of STs. Information about STs relating to enrolment, dropout, gender parity index etc. are made available by Ministry of Human Resource Development based on statistics of school education and all India survey of higher education. National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs brings out its annual publication, namely, Crime in India based on data collected from all States/UTs. The publication includes data on State/UT-wise incidence and rate of crime committed against Scheduled Tribes. Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour &

Employment conducts Employment-Unemployment Survey which provides data relating to employment status of STs also. Based on available information/data from these sources comprehensive data-base has been developed."

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part/IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 08 of Chapter I)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.2)

The Committee are happy to note that of-late tribal women have been engaging themselves in different economic activities that include animal husbandry, livestock management, goatery, poultry, horticulture, floriculture, handloom, handicraft, hospitality etc, besides agricultural activities. This is indicative of the fact that tribal society in general and tribal women in particular are ready to embrace new employment opportunities, should a favourable condition is created for them. The Committee also consider this diversification essential as, of late, agriculture is going through a rough patch owing to the vagaries of nature and market volatilities. Thus, besides agriculture, tribal women should be encouraged and provided the expertise in other vocations as well. For this, the concerned agencies should chalk out a perspective plan for implementation with a specific time frame. In this regard, the Committee would like to stress the need for 'micro start-ups'/'agro start-ups' especially designed for tribal societies. These ventures may be run on a co-operative model with locally available natural resources, generating employment and sustainable development opportunities for tribal women. Hence, The Committee strongly recommend the Ministry to draw-up a 'Start-up' roadmap for tribal entrepreneurs, particularly emphasizing the role of tribal women entrepreneurs, within the next six months and circulate it to the States/UTs for their comments. Experiences of '*Urlong tea project*', an agro Start-up, a case in point, in Meghalaya, may be worth-exploring and used as a reference point for drafting a roadmap for such initiatives .

Reply of the Government

The concessional Loan Schemes of National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) is an organisation under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, aims towards setting up of livelihood enterprises by the Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs for income generation on a sustainable basis. These schemes are basically for the first generation entrepreneurs having low bankability. NSTFDC has a special scheme costing upto Rs. 1.00 lakh named Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) for exclusively catering to tribal women at an interest rate as low as 4 % p.a. Besides this, NSTFDC also provides term Loan for viable projects costing upto Rs. 25.00 lakh per unit and the interest rate varies from 6-10% p.a.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs also implements Vocational Training in Tribal areas. The main aim of the Scheme is to develop the skills of the ST youth for a variety of jobs as well as self-employment and to improve their socio-economic condition by enhancing their income. The scheme covers all the State and Union Territories. It is not an area-specific scheme, the condition being that free vocational training facilities are extended only to tribal youth 100% grants under the scheme are provided to the State, Union Territories and other Associations implementing the Scheme. Each Vocational Training Centre (VTC) under the Scheme may cater to 5 vocational courses in traditional skills depending upon the employment potential of the area. Keeping in view the limited potential of even skilled persons in interiors areas, each ST boy/girl is trained in two trades of his/her choice, the course in each trade being for duration of three months. Each trainee is to be attached at the end of six months to a master craftsman in a semi-urban area for a period of six months, to learn his/her skills by practical experience. The scheme has been revised with effect from 1.4.2009 to provide enhanced financial norms and to ensure linkages of vocational courses with recognized certificate/diploma through affiliation/accreditation of courses and institutions under Modular Employable Skills and Craftsman Training Scheme by National Council of Vocational Training of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The Government has constituted a National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub in the MSME Ministry in partnership with industry associations. This Hub will provide professional support to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs to fulfil the obligations under the Central Government procurement policy 2012, adopt global best practices and leverage the Stand Up India initiative. The Prime Minister launched the National SC/ST hub, and the Zero Defect, Zero Effect on environment (ZED) scheme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

The Stand Up India Scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 5.04.2016 to facilitate composite bank loans between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore to at least one SC/ST and for woman borrower, including tribal woman, per bank branch in the

manufacturing, services or the trading sector for greenfield enterprises through 1.25 lakh branches of all Scheduled Commercial Banks. Effective handholding support is available before loan sanction and post disbursement of the loan to borrowers. A corpus of Rs. 5,000 crore has been approved for credit guarantee of the loans through national Credit Guarantee Trustee company Ltd. (NCGTC). A dedicated portal (www.standupmitra.in) for the Stand Up India scheme is active. The portal as a virtual market place endeavours to provide 'End to End' solutions not only for credit delivery but also for a host of hand holding services. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has organized training programs, state level awareness programs, entrepreneurship development program, sensitization programs and district level workshops for stakeholders. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has organized national level training programs and also state level awareness programs (in all states) in May for stakeholders. As on 3.09.2016, an aggregate amount of Rs. 1990.74 crore has been disbursed by Bank to 13450 accounts of which 10856 pertain to women and 552 pertain to Schedule tribes beneficiaries.

(O.M. No. 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 11 of Chapter I)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.11)

The Committee strongly condemn the attitude of the Ministry with regard to trafficking of tribal women. It is a pity that the Government has no reliable data on the number of tribal women trafficked from tribal belts to big cities and metropolises. Adding insult to the injury, the Ministry has gone ahead stating before the Committee that there is no reliable record available to indicate that tribal women, trafficked from tribal belts to cities, are engaged as maid servants, etc., when our newspapers and electronic media are flooded with such stories. Even Non Governmental Organizations working amongst tribals contradict the data of National Crime Records Bureau on trafficking of tribals and put it in tens of thousands instead of two digit numbers. The Committee are utterly dismayed to see that the Government have been insensitive to this gigantic problem. The need of the hour is to have seamless co-operation between all agencies, Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities, Police, local administration and society, to keep the traffickers at bay. The Committee desire that a dedicated web-portal against trafficking

and traffickers, with regular inputs from the Centre and all States/UTs, ought to be launched and given ample publicity nationally. Moreover, the Committee propose thoroughgoing campaigns in vulnerable areas involving school teachers, tribal chieftains, people's representatives and village heads, who can play vital roles in making growing girls and their parents aware about the intrigues of the whole process of trafficking. The measures taken by the State of Odisha, which has set up 12 Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units, can be replicated in others States as well, especially the States from which most cases of trafficking are reported, namely, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

Reply of the Government

As informed by M/o. Home Affairs, 'Police and Public Order' being State subjects, the primary responsibility for preventing and combating the crime of human trafficking lies with the State Governments. However, the Government of India is concerned about the trafficking in persons and has adopted a multi-pronged approach to combat human trafficking. MHA is developing another web portal on missing persons through NIC as an extension to 'Track Child' and 'Khoya Paya' portals, with additional features covering details of missing persons of all age and gender as well as details of culprits like defaulter placement agencies, kingpins, gangs, etc. It would also have the provision of log in for BSF and SSB alongwith Police.

Letter has been sent to all State Governments to create awareness about the process of trafficking through campaigns as proposed by the Committee.

(O.M. N o 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No.14 of Chapter I)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.13)

The Committee are of the view that existing laws to safeguard tribal women against atrocities have not been responsive enough to protect them from such crimes. This grim reality is reflected in the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as well. Apart from being hoodwinked by non-tribal people, crimes of grievous

nature, such as, murder, rape, molestation and grave hurt etc. against tribal women are not rare, notwithstanding the existence of stringent laws. The Committee are also perturbed by the inaction of police and administration to such injustices, unwarranted delay in reporting of those cases, failure to register cognizable offences, time-lag in visits to the scene of crimes and also by the delays in charge-sheeting the accused persons. Thus, the Committee would suggest an overhauling of the administration, particularly the police force, in tribal dominated areas to make them responsive, alert and sensitive to the crimes against tribal women. The Committee, therefore, recommend to operationalize a 'Special Cell' under the Station House Officer (SHO) in each police station, particularly in tribal-dominated areas, to take on-time cognizance and remain accountable for any lapses in taking note of such offences. The Committee would also like these cells to periodically send reports to offices of Director General of Police, National Human Rights Commission, Commission in respective States and to National Commission for Scheduled Tribes for their subsequent scrutiny, validation and necessary follow up action.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that they have been issuing advisories from time to time with a view to help the States/ UTs to deal with crimes against women regarding "The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of atrocities) Amendment Act 2015.

(O.M. N o 12015/3/2014-Eco Part IV/Stats. Dated 21st November 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No.17 of Chapter I)

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES

NIL

**NEW DELHI;
23 March, 2017
02 Chaitra, 1939, (Saka)**

**BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2016-2017)

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

TUESDAY, 23 MARCH, 2017

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1615 hrs. in Committee Room No. 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Rama Devi
3. Smt. Darshanaben Jarodsh
4. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
5. Smt. Supriya Sule
6. Smt. Rita Tarai
7. Smt. Savitri Thakur
8. Smt. Renuka Butta

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Rajani Patil
10. Smt. Kahkashan Perween
11. Ms. Dola Sen
12. Shri Jharna Das Baidya
13. Smt. Vandana Chavan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N.C. Gupta. - Joint Secretary
2. Shri T.S. Rangarajan - Director
3. Shri Khakhai Zou - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting convened for consideration and adoption of draft Action Taken Report of the Committee on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee on the subject 'Empowerment of Tribal Women'.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the draft Action Taken Report of the Committee on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Empowerment of Tribal Women'. After discussing the Draft Report in detail, the Committee also authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Draft Report and present the same to both Houses of Parliament.

4. *** *** *** ***

5. *** *** *** ***

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE II

(Vide Para 4 of the Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SIXTH REPORT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2015-2016) ON 'EMPOWRMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN'.

(i)	Total No. of Recommendations	15
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:	11
	Para Nos. 2.3, 2.4 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9,2.10,2.12,2.14 & 2.15	
	Percentage	73%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:	Nil
	Percentage	Nil
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration Para Nos. 2.1, 2.2, 2.11, and 2.13.	04
	Percentage	27%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:	Nil
	Percentage	Nil

