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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2015-2016)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2016-2017)**

TWENTY-NINTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2016/Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 28.4.2016

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 28.4.2016



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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2015-2016)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
4. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
5. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
6. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
7. Shri Jhina Hikaka
8. Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri
9. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
10. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
11. Smt. K. Maragatham
12. Shri Kariya Munda
13. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
14. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
15. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
16. Dr. Udit Raj
17. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
18. Prof. Sadhu Singh
19. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
20. Smt. Mamta Thakur
21. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Dr. Tazeen Fatma
23. Shri Ahamed Hassan
24. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
25. Shri Prabhat Jha
26. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
27. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
28. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
29. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
30. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
31. Vacant*

* Smt. Jharna Das Baidya, MP, Rajya Sabha retired w.e.f. 2.4.2016.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2015-16) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Twenty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants, 2016-17 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the current year i.e. 2016-17 which was laid on the Table of the House on 14.3.2016 in Lok Sabha and on 16.3.2016 in Rajya Sabha. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 30.3.2016. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 27.4.2016.

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

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

New Delhi;
27th April, 2016
7th Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment.

CHAPTER 1

Introductory

1.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs came into existence in 1999 after bifurcation of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is responsible for looking after welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes (STs) who are among the most backward sections of Indian society. Schemes and programmes of the Ministry are implemented with the help of States Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Institutions of Local Self Government. All schemes/programmes are focused on integrated development of Tribal people. There are nine central sector schemes, two centrally sponsored schemes and two Specific Area Programmes.

1.2 Article 275(1) of 'Constitution of India' guarantees grant from Consolidated Fund of India each year for promoting welfare of STs and up gradation of administration in Scheduled Areas. In pursuance to this constitutional obligation, MoTA provides funds through a Special Area Programme "Grants under Article 275(1) of Indian Constitution" to 27 States.

The Programme covers all Tribal Sub Plan(TSP) States and 4 tribal majority States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland. 100% grants are provided by MoTA to meet cost of such projects for tribal development as may be undertaken by concerned State Governments with approval of Government of India for raising level of Administration of scheduled areas in and for welfare of tribal people to bring them at par with rest population of the State.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) to TSP is a special area programme, administered by the Ministry wherein funds are provided to State Governments

as an additive to State TSP for filling up of critical gaps in tribal development initiatives.

1.3 The Ministry has also been given the responsibility in respect of "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" which seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of State forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them.

1.4 In order to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes with regard to land and other social issues, provisions are in the Fifth and Sixth Schedules to the Constitution.

1.5 The Ministry gives grants to NGOs and Autonomous Societies of State Governments under various schemes in order to supplement the efforts of State in ensuring that benefits reach to large number of ST population, especially in service deficient areas. At present four schemes are open to their participation namely (a) Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for welfare of STs including Coaching and Allied Scheme (b) Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe(ST) Girls in Low Literacy Districts (c) Vocational Training in Tribal Areas, and (d) Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups(PVTGs).

Following schemes for education of ST children are being implemented as education and access to education is most effective instrument for empowering STs:

1. Construction of Ashram Schools
2. Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Tribe Boys and Girls
3. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
4. Grant of Pre Matric Scholarship for Tribal Students
5. Grant of Post Matric Scholarship for Tribal Students
6. National Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education for STs.
7. National Overseas Scholarships.

Schemes mentioned at S. No.1 to 5 have been subsumed in a single scheme namely "Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Children".

1.6 National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is a statutory Body under the Ministry which has been created under Article 338A of the Constitution. In accordance with Clause (9) of Article 338A of the Constitution, the Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Tribes. The Commission while investigating matters relating to the safeguards provided under the Constitution monitors the implementation and working of safeguards.

1.7 The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. It was set up in 1987 under the Multi State Cooperative Act, 1984 (now the Multi State Cooperative Act, 2002). The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) was incorporated in April, 2001 as a Government company and granted license under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (A company not for profit).

1.8 The Ministry has been implementing following Plan programmes for the welfare and development of STs.

Central Sector Schemes

- i) Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organization working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.
- ii) Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups(PVTGs).
- iii) Institutional support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce.
- iv) Support to National/State St Finance & Development Corporations
- v) Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for S.T. Students.
- vi) National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students.
- vii) World Bank project - Improving Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas.
- viii) Research, Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and others.
- ix) Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

- x) Umbrella scheme for Education of ST Children
- xi) Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through minimum support price (MSP) and Development of value chain for MFP.

Special Area Programmes

- xii) Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan including Development of Forest Villages
- xiii) Grants under first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India.

CHAPTER II

REPORT

A. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2016-17 are given under Demand No 89. The detailed Demand for Grants were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 16 March, 2016. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished the following statements showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the last four years along with the Budget Estimates for 2016-17 under Plan and Non- Plan Expenditure.

PLAN

Rs.(in crore)

| Year | BE | RE | Actual Exp. | % age of expenditure over RE |
|-----------|---------|---------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 2013-2014 | 4279.00 | 3879.00 | 3821.6685 | 98.53 |
| 2014-2015 | 4479.00 | 3850.00 | 3002.31 | 77.98 |
| 2015-2016 | 4792.19 | 4550.00 | 4465.47* | 98.14 |
| 2016-2017 | 4800.00 | -- | -- | -- |

NON-PLAN

| Year | BE | RE | Actual Exp. | % age of expenditure over RE |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 2013-2014 | 16.94 | 17.05 | 17.66 | 103.58 |
| 2014-2015 | 18.96 | 21.88 | 15.74 | 71.94 |
| 2015-2016 | 27.02 | 23.80 | 22.32* | 93.78 |
| 2016-2017 | 26.60 | -- | -- | -- |

* Upto 31.03.2016

Details of expenditure by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on its various Tribal development Schemes during 2015-16.

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No | Name of Scheme | RE | Expenditure up to 31.03.16 |
|-------------|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | Scheme under Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution | 139278.00 | 139246.45 |
| 2 | Scheme under Tribal Sub-Plan | 113227.00 | 113217.12 |
| 3 | Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTGs) | 21735.00 | 21354.43 |
| 4 | Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organisation working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes | 7565.00 | 7505.00 |
| 5 | Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP) | 14300.00 | 11769.06 |
| 6 | Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce | 4000.00 | 3484.72 |
| 7 | Research Information & Mass Education , Tribal Festivals and Others | 2120.00 | 1834.30 |
| 8 | Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Children | 121064.00 | 117333.40 |
| 9 | National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Children | 4881.00 | 4070.14 |
| 10 | Scholarship to the students of Scheduled Tribes for Studies abroad | 72.00 | 39.03 |
| 11 | Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojna | 20000.00 | 20000.00 |
| 12 | Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations | 6333.00 | 6333.00 |
| 13 | Monitoring and Evaluation | 200.00 | 189.52 |
| 14 | Information Technology - Secretariat | 100.00 | 34.03 |
| | Information Technology - NCST | 25.00 | 0.00 |
| 15 | World Bank Project- Improving Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas | 100.00 | 136.60 |
| | Total | 455000.00 | 446546.80 |

The Ministry have stated that against the Budget proposal of Rs. 8566.64 crore (BE) for Annual Plan 2016-17, the Ministry of Finance have actually provided Rs. 4800.00 crore (RE). The Ministry have submitted the following details showing allocation of funds for various schemes for the year 2016-17.

Actual allocation of funds received by the Ministry for 2016-17 for its various Tribal welfare schemes for the financial year 2016-17

(Rs. in crores)

| S.No | Name of Scheme | RE (Actual allocation) |
|------|--|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 1 | Scheme under Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution | 1400.00 |
| 2 | Scheme under Tribal Sub-Plan | 1250.00 |
| 3 | Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTGs) | 200.00 |
| 4 | Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organisation working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes | 120.00 |
| 5 | Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP) | 158.00 |
| 6 | Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce | 49.00 |
| 7 | Research Information & Mass Education , Tribal Festivals and Others | 17.39 |
| 8 | Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Children | 1454.32 |
| 9 | National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Children | 50.00 |
| 10 | Scholarship to the students of Scheduled Tribes for Studies abroad | 1.00 |
| 11 | Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojna | 1.00 |
| 12 | Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations | 70.00 |
| 13 | Monitoring and Evaluation | 8.00 |
| 14 | World Bank Project- Improving Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas | 0.39 |
| | Total | 4800.00 |

2.2 The Committee note that the Ministry's Budget for 2015-16 of Rs. 4792.19 crore (BE) was reduced to Rs. 4550.00 crore (RE). When asked which schemes were affected due to this cut and what were the reasons for this reduction, the Ministry in their written reply stated that, "The reduction at RE stage was done by the Finance Ministry as per their decision. No specific reason was given by the Ministry of Finance. In so far as this Ministry is concerned, there was no shortfall in expenditure on part of this Ministry as 60% expenditure out of BE was incurred upto 30.09.2015. Hence, there was no adverse impact on schemes being implemented by the Ministry... No significant impact on major schemes as the reduction has been apportioned to the schemes having low demand from the States".

2.3 When asked what is the strategy in place by the Ministry to ensure that implementation of its vital/flagship schemes is not affected, the Ministry in their written reply stated that, " The overall and scheme-wise proposed for the Financial Year 2016-17 is not less than Financial Year 2015-16. Hence, there would not be overall adverse impact on on-going schemes. Shortfall, if any, during course of implementation felt, would be made up during RE stage.

2.4 The Committee find that during 2015-16, the Ministry could not spend around Rs. 84.90 crore out of the total allocation of Rs. 4550.00 crore. When asked the reasons for spending less on some Schemes during 2015-16 due to which funds had to be surrendered by the Ministry, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:

" Main reason for surrender of funds under some Schemes was due to non-receipt of complete proposals along with pending UCs from the State Governments within the stipulated period"

The Ministry have further stated that unspent balance (for which UCs are outstanding as per the provisions of FRBM Act, 2003) as on 31.12.2015 is Rs. 889.16 crore from State Governments. Unspent balance as on 31.12.2014 was Rs.1759.95 crore.

2.5 When enquired regarding the strategy proposed by the Ministry to address the issue of outstanding UCs, besides taking routine meetings of Project Appraisal Committees (PAC) and discussing the matters of UCs/Inspection Reports/Progress Reports with the respective State Governments, the Ministry in their written reply informed that UCs are insisted from the State Governments at the earliest. Further funds are released to State Governments only on receipt of complete proposals and Utilization Certificates/ physical progress report of the previous grant from them. The requirement insisted upon is necessarily required to be met as per Government guidelines. Due to this process unspent amount has come down.

2.6 When the Committee desired to know the reasons for demanding an increased allocation of Rs. 8566.64 (BE) while actually getting Rs. 4800.00 crore (RE) for the year 2016-17 and the manner in which the Ministry intend to utilize the enhanced amount and the schemes proposed to be implemented with this enhanced budget, the Ministry in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that, "The increase in allocation was only 5% above allocation of Rs.4550.00 crore at RE stage. The funds will be utilized towards implementation of ongoing schemes being run by Ministry, mainly scholarship and scheme under proviso Article 275(1) of the Constitution. No new schemes are proposed for the Financial Year 2016-17, rather enhanced 5% of outlay is to meet demand of scholarship primarily..."

Displacement/Rehabilitation of tribal people

2.7 When the Committee asked whether information regarding, locations where the development projects have resulted in displacement of tribal people in Fifth and Sixth Scheduled Areas, the number of tribal people affected, displaced and rehabilitated, State-wise, has been collected by the Ministry from Department of Land & Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, as the information is not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their written submission stated that, "The Department of Land & Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is in the process of collection of the data from State Governments being a nodal Ministry under the LARR Act, 2013. Ministry is pursuing with them to expedite collection of these on priority".

2.8 The Committee note that out of total allocation of Rs. 4550.00 crore during 2015-16, the Ministry could spend only Rs. 4465.47 crore under Plan Head and the Ministry had to surrender around Rs 84.94 crore. The reason(s) advanced by the Ministry for surrender of funds was due to non-receipt of complete proposals along with pending UCs from the State Governments within the stipulated period. The Committee further note that as on 31.01.2016, the Ministry had spent only Rs. 3621.96 crore which comes to around 75% of the total allocation. In fact in just two months viz., February and March, 2016, the Ministry spent Rs. 843.51 crore. As per the instructions of the Ministry of Finance, the ceiling of 33 percent expenditure in the last quarter and 15 percent expenditure in the month of March of a financial year have to be observed by all the Ministerial Departments. The Committee feel that this might be one of the reasons for the Ministry of finance to curtail the budgetary proposal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2016-17 as the expenditure during 2015-16 was not in sync with their instructions. The Committee, therefore, desire that the utilization of funds during 2016-17 should be evenly spread and in no case should exceed the prescribed ceiling so that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs could gain the confidence of the Ministry of Finance and avoid any curtailment of allocation during RE 2016-17 and beyond.

2.9 The Committee are happy to note that unspent balance (for which UCs are outstanding, from the State Governments, as per the provisions of FRBM Act, 2003) as on 31.12.2014 was Rs.1759.95 crore which came down to Rs. 889.16 crore as on 31.12.2015. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry which were, insisting for UCs at the earliest from the State Governments, release of funds on receipt of complete proposals and utilization certificates/physical progress report of the previous grant etc. The Committee, however, feel that still the amount of Rs. 889.16 is huge and definitely impacts the budgetary proposal of the Ministry adversely. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should make more intensive efforts in getting the timely and complete proposals from the State Governments besides insisting for early UCs from the State Governments by building an incessant pressure on them.

2.10 The Committee find that in some of the very important schemes for tribal people there is a shortfall in expenditure. The Ministry have reasoned that this shortfall is due to receipt of incomplete proposals/non- submission of Utilization Certificates/Physical Progress Report. The Ministry have further informed that "submission of proposals complete in all respects has been emphasized in review meetings and communications to the States/UTs from time to time". The Committee

would like to draw attention of the Ministry towards the following schemes:

- (i) Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) - expenditure was Rs. 21354.43 lakhs against the allocation of Rs. 21735.00 lakhs.**
- (ii) Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP) for MFP - expenditure was Rs. 11769.06 lakhs against the allocation of Rs. 14300.00 lakhs.**
- (iii) Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce - expenditure was Rs. 3484.72 lakhs against the allocation of Rs. 4000.00 lakhs.**
- (iv) Research Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and Other - expenditure was 1834.30 lakhs against the allocation of Rs. 2120.00 lakhs**
- (v) National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Children - expenditure was Rs. 4070.14 lakhs against the allocation of Rs. 4881.00 lakhs**
- (vi) Scholarship to the Students of Scheduled Tribes for Studies Abroad - expenditure was Rs 39.03 lakhs against the allocation of Rs. 72.00 lakhs**

The Committee note that non- receipt of complete proposals, non-submission of Utilization Certificates in time and non receipt Physical Progress Report are the causes of less expenditure on these Schemes.

The Ministry have also informed that "submission of proposals complete in all respects has been emphasized in review meetings and communications to the States/UTs from time to time". The Committee find that these efforts by the Ministry are not yielding the results to the desired extent. Keeping in view the fact that, these Schemes not only have a direct bearing on the welfare of tribal people/students but are immensely vital for their economic upliftment, the Committee feel that it is high time the Ministry not only streamlined their plan of expenditure particularly on these Schemes prudently but also undertake more and new endeavours so as to maximize the utilization of the earmarked funds meant for them.

2.11 The Committee note that for the last two years they have been repeatedly asking the Ministry information regarding locations where the development projects have resulted in displacement of tribal people in Fifth and Sixth Scheduled Areas, the number of tribal people affected, displaced and rehabilitated. In turn, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been informing the Committee that, "The Department is already collecting data relating to land acquisition for various developmental projects and rehabilitation and resettlement of the people affected by such projects...Department of Land & Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is in the process of collection of the data from State

Governments being a nodal Ministry under the LARR Act, 2013. Ministry is pursuing with them to expedite collection of these on priority." The Committee are distressed to note that for the last two years, the Ministry have neither been able to collect the desired information nor have it got collected by the Department of Land & Resources, Ministry of Rural Development which reflects the amount of seriousness by the Ministry towards those poor and hapless tribal people who have been uprooted in the name of development without having been properly resettled and rehabilitated. The Committee desire the Ministry to take up the matter with the Ministry of Rural Development at the highest level and gather the requisite data without any further delay.

B. UMBRELLA SCHEME FOR EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED TRIBES CHILDREN

2.12 Education is considered as the backbone of development, both at the individual household and societal levels. But educating the tribal children has been a challenge for the Government for various socio-cultural, economic, ecological and administrative reasons. Despite Government initiatives and efforts to promote education among STs the literacy among STs as compared to national average has remained low and the female literacy rate has been still lower compared to national literacy rate. The Ministry, with its mandate of critical gap filling, is re-engineering the education Schemes, wherein the existing schemes are merged and subsumed under an Umbrella Scheme. The merger and reorganization of the existing schemes is expected to expand the scope and flexibility of interventions that are presently available under the individual stand-alone schemes. It would provide a cafeteria mode of options for States and Union Territories to draw upon, according to their specific needs and priorities in a bottom up approach. The objective of re-engineering is to provide adequate educational infrastructure for STs and incentive for education for ST children through scholarships. This is to be achieved through convergence of schemes of line ministries along with simplification of process for availing scholarships and also through technological aids in improving learning activities. The proposed Umbrella Scheme subsumes following existing schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs:

- (i) Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Area.
- (ii) Hostels for the Scheduled Tribe Boys and Girls.
- (iii) Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.
- (iv) Pre Matric Scholarship.

(v) Post Matric Scholarship.

2.13 When asked the reasons for low utilization of funds up to 31.12.2015 and whether the Ministry would be in a position to exhaust the remaining funds by the end of 2015-16 financial year, the Ministry in their written submission stated that, "The reason for low utilization up to 31.12.2015 is due to late receipt of detailed proposals from State Governments...The actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 1173.19 crores as on 31.03.2016."

VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN TRIBAL AREAS

2.14 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 five 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/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.

2.15 When enquired why during the year 2015-16 BE and RE for the Scheme, namely, Vocational Training in Tribal Areas was shown as 'nil' and the reason given is that "RE proposal received in March, 2014, but funds could not be released due to ceiling of 15% in March by the Ministry of Finance.", the Ministry in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that, " The Scheme of Vocational Training being a part of Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST children, no separate allocation was made either at BE or RE stage. However, the Budget Allocation under the scheme of Grant in aid to Voluntary Organizations for the welfare of STs for the year 2014-15 was Rs. 35.00 crore BE and Rs. 44.50 crore RE, for 2015-16 Rs. 77.00 crore BE and Rs. 75.05 crore RE (also includes two more schemes viz., Strengthening of Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts and Vocational Training in Tribal Areas {NGO component}) and for 2016-17 Rs. 120.00 crore BE (this too includes two schemes viz., Strengthening of Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts and Vocational Training in Tribal Areas {NGO component}) ."

2.16 When asked the number of vocational trainees trained during 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Ministry stated that in 2014-15 940 trainees were trained. As regards 2015-16, the budget allocated under the scheme for 2015-16 was utilized for funding the projects run by NGOs for the year 2013-14 and as such, due to paucity of funds Vocational Training Centres could not be funded..."

2.17 The Committee note that the Scheme namely, Vocational Training in Tribal Areas which was an independent scheme till the year 2014-15 and there was separate allocation for it, is now part of the Umbrella Scheme. The Ministry informed the Committee that, "During the year 2015-16, the ongoing schemes viz., 'Grant in aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of STs', 'Strengthening of Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts', and 'Vocational Training in Tribal Areas' were merged under one Scheme, namely, 'Grant in aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of STs' and budget allocated under the Scheme for the year 2015-16 was utilized for funding the projects run by NGOs for the year 2013-14 and as such, due to paucity of funds Vocational Training Centres could not be funded during 2015-16. Pending proposals for the subsequent period are being taken up in the current financial year." The Committee are of the considered view that merging the scheme of Vocational Training in Tribal Areas with other two schemes has diluted its import and also defeated its very purpose keeping in view the fact that achievements under this scheme in the past have not been very encouraging. Even going by the data of the year 2013-14 where only 940 trainees were trained among the vast number of tribal youths in the country, the Committee have apprehensions over the seriousness of NGOs/VOs in

imparting vocational training in tribal areas. It is also not clear to the Committee if any check is conducted on the working of these NGOs/VOs and if so, what kind of check is done besides the monitoring mechanism available with the Ministry. More so, the Committee also feel that proposed target of 700 trainees during 2016-17 is on the lower side. The Committee, therefore, desire that, (i) strict vigilance and regular monitoring be done on the working of all the NGOs/VOs engaged in the field of imparting vocational training in tribal areas, (ii) before releasing funds to these NGOs/VOs physical inspection be carried out of the trainees so trained so as to ascertain the type of vocational training they have received, and (iii) to ensure that after having received the vocational training, those tribal youths became employable skilled and to what extent they actually got employment as the very purpose of the Scheme is to provide skill up-gradation training to tribal youths for better employment avenues.

C. DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS (PVTGs)

2.18 Since PVTGs constitute the most vulnerable section among Scheduled Tribes, it becomes necessary to allocate adequate funds from Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored and State Plan schemes for the socio-economic development of PVTGs. However, it was observed that funds provided under other schemes for STs were not reaching the PVTGs adequately. Therefore, in 1998-99, a separate 100% Central Sector Scheme for exclusive development of PVTGs was started. The scheme covers only the 75 identified Primitive Tribal Groups among Scheduled Tribes. The scheme is extremely flexible because it enables every State to focus on areas that they consider is relevant to their PVTGs and their socio-cultural environment. Activities include housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, construction of link roads, and installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security including Janshree Beema Yojana or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs. Most of the State Governments and Union Territory of A&N Islands formulated a "Conversation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan" for the 12th Plan period keeping habitat/hamlet development approach in view and in the format prescribed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The CCD Plans indicate the annual provisions for each financial year and also the agency involved in implementation of that activity. The State Government/UT Administration have been asked to ensure proportionate flow of financial resource for all PVTGs in their State and the activities to be taken with a proper mix of interventions through the State/UT Government and NGOs. The funds are released to States/NGOs in accordance with the annual

programme proposed for a particular financial year in the CCD Plan. Funds in favour of NGOs are released directly by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in accordance with CCD plan.

2.19 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing amount released to NGOs under PVGTs Scheme during 2013-14 to 2015-16.

| S.No. | Name of the State / Implementing Agencies. | Amount Released during 2015-16 (Rs. in lakhs) | Remarks |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti, A & N Islands | 0.00 | Out of Rs.75.00 lakhs released during the year 2013-14, an amount of Rs.19.07 lakhs remaining unutilised as on 31.12.2015 with the organisation, and hence further funding could not be considered. |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh (i) Vishwas, Narayanpur, Distt Bastar (ii) Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Naryanpur, Distt. Bastar | 0.00 0.00 | Grants to these organisations were released for the year 2014-15 during the year 2014-15. As per revised scheme w.e.f. 1.4.2015, NGOs are excluded from the Scheme, and hence grants for the year 2015-16 have not been considered. |
| 3. | Jharkhand (i) Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangh, Sonari, Jamshedpur | 0.00 | |

| | | | |
|----|--|--------------|--|
| | ii) Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Pakur | 0.00 | Grants for the year 2014-15 released during 2014-15. |
| | (iii) Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Barajuri, Ghatshila, Jharkhand | 52.38 | Grant for the year 2014-15. released on 31.3.2016 |
| 4. | Tamil Nadu Nilgiris Adiwasi Welfare Association, Kotagiri, Niligris. | 70.75 | Grant for the year 2014-15 released on 3.3. 2016 |

2.20 As may be seen from the above, the States/UTs namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu have not been released any funds during 2015-16. When asked the reasons for not releasing the funds to them, the Ministry in their written reply stated that, " Due to non-receipt of complete documents from the State Govts./UTs, the funds could not be released to NGOs under the Central Sector Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups during 2015-16."

2.21 On being asked what steps have been taken by the Ministry to release the funds to these States/UTs, the Ministry in their written reply stated that, the Ministry have vigorously pursued the matter with the concerned State Governments/Organisations for obtaining the requisite documents and grants were released as per details given in the above table.

2.22 The Committee take note of the Ministry's contention that due to non-receipt of complete documents from the State Govts./UTs, the funds could not be released to NGOs under the Central Sector Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups during 2015-16. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that as per revised scheme *w.e.f.* 1.4.2015, projects run by NGOs have been excluded from funding under the Scheme, and hence grants for the year 2015-16 have not been considered. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry have vigorously pursued the matter with the concerned State Governments/ Organisations for obtaining the requisite documents. The Committee still feel that even having vigorously pursued the matter, the issue of non-furnishing of complete documents by the State Govts/Organisations remains a matter of serious concern which hampers the development of PVTGs. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should not merely have more frequent customized interactions with the stakeholders but also consider simplifying the procedure *viz.*, reducing the quantum of paperwork and number of documents required by them for clearing the proposals, which, to a large extent, would address the problem of non-furnishing of complete documents/proposals.

2.23 As the Committee do not find any data/information as to what extent those 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes have been protected, developed, their declining population checked, they desire that the Ministry should periodically gather these specific data/information and not only make it public but also put in on Ministry's website including in Ministry's Annual Report too. Such a step will not only help in knowing the success of the Ministry's schemes for them but also the extent to which funds under the Scheme have been gainfully utilized.

D. EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (EMRSs)

2.24 The objective of setting up of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) is to provide quality middle and high level education to the Scheduled Tribe students in remote areas, 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 have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non-ST population.

As per EMRS Guidelines, 2010, at least one EMRS is to be set in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA)/Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) having 50% ST population in the area. The capital cost for setting up the school complex, including hostels and staff quarters has been earmarked as Rs. 12.00 crore with a provision to go up to Rs. 16.00 crore in hill areas, deserts and islands. Recurring cost during the first year for schools would @ Rs. 42000/- per child, with provision of raising it by 10% every second year to compensate for inflation etc.

2.25 The Committee desired to know how many EMRSs have been set up in States during last four years, what was the target and how many EMRSs were sanctioned during each of the last four years, the Ministry submitted in their written reply that, "during the last four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15, a total of 60 EMRSs have been sanctioned to different State Governments out of which 20 reported functional. The setting up of EMRS is a component under programme Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The sanction of EMRS depends upon the proposal received from State Governments, who have to provide 15-20 acres of land for construction of EMRS. Therefore, targets are not set up for setting up of number of EMRSs."

2.26 On being enquired regarding the funds sanctioned to State Governments during each of the last four years and the funds utilized by the State Governments during the same period, the Ministry submitted in their written reply that, " the release of grant-in-aid for setting up of EMRS is a component under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The grant-in-aid is provided for the all activities including EMRSs under programme Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The State Govt. submits the Utilization Certificate against the grant-in-aid released under programme Article 275(1) during a particular year and not activity-wise. The details of grants-in-aid released under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and utilization reported during the last four years is as follows:

Statement of Funds Released & Utilization Reported under Art.275(1) of the Constitution (as on 31.03.2016)

(Rs.in Lakh)

| S. N | States | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | | 2014-15 | | 2015-16 | |
|------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | | Total Release | Utilization Reported | Total Release | Utilization Reported | Total Release | Utilization Reported | Total Release | *Utilization Reported |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 4834.00 | 4834.00 | 350.00 | 350.00 | 2139.00 | 1260.00 | 5500.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 832.19 | 832.19 | 1880.40 | 1190.40 | 3000.80 | 0.00 |
| 3 | Assam | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3540.25 | 59.82 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4 | Bihar | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 586.00 | 586.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 8534.00 | 8534.00 | 9172.11 | 9172.00 | 10778.00 | 7826.79 | 11904.31 | 0.00 |
| 6 | Delhi | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 65.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | Goa | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 | 0.00 |
| 8 | Gujarat | 4629.60 | 4629.60 | 10275.69 | 10275.69 | 8592.45 | 5213.10 | 11680.00 | 0.00 |
| 9 | Himachal Pradesh | 474.00 | 474.00 | 474.00 | 474.00 | 190.99 | 190.99 | 523.20 | 0.00 |
| 10 | Jammu & Kashmir | 150.34 | 150.34 | 1146.75 | 1146.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2000.00 | 0.00 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 11 | Jharkhand | 7369.50 | 7369.50 | 9280.40 | 9280.40 | 9873.00 | 9873.00 | 12202.96 | 0.00 |
| 12 | Karnataka | 4800.00 | 4800.00 | 4800.00 | 4800.00 | 4880.40 | 4060.70 | 6300.00 | 0.00 |
| 13 | Kerala | 510.00 | 510.00 | 510.00 | 510.00 | 748.94 | 748.94 | 1085.44 | 0.00 |
| 14 | Madhya Pradesh | 16518.04 | 16518.04 | 15793.47 | 14275.76 | 17321.42 | 6752.98 | 14845.15 | 0.00 |
| 15 | Maharashtra | 2911.00 | 2911.00 | 12489.00 | 12489.00 | 11701.29 | 11701.29 | 13374.00 | 0.00 |
| 16 | Manipur | 1031.00 | 1031.00 | 1031.00 | 1031.00 | 1600.01 | 1600.01 | 1216.00 | 0.00 |
| 17 | Meghalaya | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2924.38 | 1477.50 | 2334.03 | 286.32 | 1507.68 | 0.00 |
| 18 | Mizoram | 810.75 | 810.75 | 1133.61 | 1133.61 | 1877.78 | 1877.78 | 3617.37 | 0.00 |
| 19 | Nagaland | 2454.00 | 2454.00 | 2886.93 | 2886.93 | 2067.15 | 2067.15 | 5469.34 | 0.00 |
| 20 | Odisha | 11283.99 | 11283.99 | 14706.50 | 14706.50 | 12728.22 | 12728.22 | 15200.00 | 0.00 |
| 21 | Rajasthan | 7737.98 | 7737.98 | 9437.80 | 9437.80 | 9755.95 | 3208.14 | 11000.00 | 0.00 |
| 22 | Sikkim | 272.58 | 272.58 | 302.90 | 302.90 | 370.30 | 370.30 | 1250.30 | 0.00 |
| 23 | Tamil Nadu | 0.00 | 0.00 | 901.00 | 901.00 | 639.60 | 639.60 | 852.80 | 0.00 |
| 24 | Telangana | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3894.40 | 3494.40 | 6090.00 | 0.00 |
| 25 | Tripura | 1375.00 | 1375.00 | 1355.00 | 1355.00 | 1218.99 | 1218.99 | 1600.68 | 0.00 |
| 26 | Uttar Pradesh | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 743.49 | 476.46 | 1514.74 | 0.00 |
| 27 | Uttarakhand | 0.00 | 0.00 | 267.00 | 0.00 | 1530.36 | 0.00 | 92.02 | 0.00 |
| 28 | West Bengal | 6104.00 | 6104.00 | 6104.00 | 6104.00 | 5747.00 | 3976.00 | 7000.00 | 0.00 |
| Grand Total | | 81999.78 | 81999.78 | 109713.98 | 103001.85 | 113264.17 | 81347.56 | 139226.79 | 0.00 |

* Utilization Certificate not due

2.27 The Committee find that there is a huge gap between the number of EMRSs sanctioned and the number of EMRSs functional in the States. The Committee asked the reasons for the same and also regarding the concrete steps taken to bridge the gap, the Ministry informed that:

"Some-times the grants-in-aid for construction of EMRS are released on installment basis as per the demand/requirement of State Governments or as per the availability of funds under scheme during a particular year. Accordingly, the grants-in-aid for EMRS is taken by State Governments in multiple installments. Due to this reason completion of construction work of EMRS building takes time. The Ministry emphasis upon State Governments from time to time during the meetings of Project Appraisal Committee to complete construction of EMRSs on priority basis and avail of the grants-in-aid for EMRS on priority. EMRS which have the sanctioned start their operation through rental and other premises and move to their own once the construction is completed. Most of the EMRSs schools sanctioned till Financial Year 2014-15 are operational accordingly."

2.28 The Committee note that as per EMRS Guidelines, 2010, at least one EMRS is to be set in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA)/Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) having 50% ST population in the area. The Committee have been informed that "during the last four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15, a total of 60 EMRSs have been sanctioned to different States out of which 20 reported functional...The sanction of EMRS depends upon the proposal received from State Governments, who have to provide 15-20 acres of land for construction of EMRS. Therefore, targets are not set up for setting up of number of EMRSs." The Committee find it intriguing that though 60 EMRSs have been sanctioned in last four years only 20 are reported functional. The Ministry have reasoned that sometimes the grants-in-aid for construction of EMRS are released on installment basis as per the demand/requirement of State Governments or as per the availability of funds under scheme during a particular year. Accordingly, the grants-in-aid for EMRS is taken by State Governments in multiple installments. Due to this reason completion of construction work of EMRS building takes time. The Ministry emphasis upon State Governments from time to time during the meetings of Project Appraisal Committee to complete construction of EMRSs on priority basis and avail of the grants-in-aid for EMRS on priority. The Committee observe that meetings of Project Appraisal Committee with the

State Governments are not yielding any fruitful results which is evident from the fact that 40 EMRSs, out of 60 so sanctioned, are yet to see the light of the day. The Committee are not even sure when these 40 EMRSs will be constructed, become functional and when Scheduled Tribe students of those remote areas of these State will have the opportunity to get quality middle and high level education. This uncertainty in construction of these EMRSs, in Committee's view, does not only deprive these ST students to avail reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors, but also denies them to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non-ST students. The Committee desire that the Ministry should explore other avenues including paradigm shift in their policy, if need be, to get these Schools constructed within a definite timeframe.

2.29 The Committee find that State Governments are hardly evincing any interest in setting up of EMRSs. As these Schools are fully funded by the Ministry under central sector scheme, once the land has been allotted by the concerned State Government for such School, the Committee desire that the Ministry may explore the possibility of assigning the entire construction activity of the School, hostels and staff quarters to any central agency viz., CPWD, NBCC etc. so that they don't have to depend on State

Government(s) any more, which would also obviate the problem of delay in construction of these Schools and other related paraphernalia. Needless to say, a time limit may also be set for these agencies for completion of these Schools.

E. ASHRAM SCHOOLS IN TRIBAL SUB PLAN AREAS

2.30 The objective of the scheme is to promote expansion of educational facilities for Scheduled Tribe students including PVTGs. Ashram Schools provide education with residential facilities in an environment conducive to learning. The Scheme has been revised with effect from the financial year 2008-09 (w.e.f. 01-04-2008).

This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States. However, Central Government provides 100% Central Share for construction of all Girls' Ashram Schools and also for construction of Boys' Ashram Schools in Left Wing Extremism affected areas (identified by Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time). For the Boys' Ashram Schools other than those mentioned above, funding to State Government is on 50:50 basis. In case of UTs, the Central Government bears the entire cost of construction of both Boys' and Girls' Ashram Schools. Members of Parliament could also provide funds as a substitute of State share from their MPLAD scheme.

Salient Features:

The salient features of the scheme are:

- (i) The scheme provides funds for the construction of school buildings from the primary to the senior secondary state and also provides for the up-gradation of the existing Ashram Schools for Scheduled Tribes Boys and Girls including PVTGs.
- (ii) Under the scheme, besides school buildings, construction of students' hostels and staff quarters are also undertaken. State

Government/UT Administration provides land for the Ashram Schools free of cost.

- (iii) Financial assistance on 50:50 basis is also provided for other non-recurring items of expenditure like the purchase of furniture, equipment, sets of books for the school library etc.
- (iv) Only capital cost is provided under the scheme. Recurring expenses are to be met by the State Governments.
- (v) Location of new schools and admission policy should be decided by State/UT.
- (vi) Ashram Schools shall be completed within a period of 2 years from the date of release of the Central assistance. However, for the extension of existing Ashram Schools period of Construction is 12 months.

2.31 The Ministry have informed that target set under the scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas during 2014-15 was 2000 seats while the achievement was 'nil'. Similarly during the year 2015-16 the target set was 'nil',. The reasons given are non receipt of complete proposals from States.

2.32 On being asked why no specific steps were taken by the Ministry so as to get complete proposals were received from the State Governments/UTs and what is the target fixed for the current year, the Ministry informed that under Umbrella Scheme of Education, the main emphasis was on fulfillment of State demands of scholarship. However, residential schools, in the lines of Ashram schools, were sanctioned under Special Area Programmes and scheme for development of PVTGs.

2.33 The Committee desired to know about number of educational complexes set up and the number of ST girls enrolled in these complexes during each of the last three years, State-wise, the Ministry furnished a statement as under:

| Scheme of Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| S.No. | State | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | | 2014-15 | | 2015-16 | |
| | | No .of Educational Complex | No. of ST girls | No .of Educational Complex | No. of ST girls | No .of Educational Complex | No. of ST girls | No .of Educational Complex | No. of ST girls |
| 1 | ANDHRA PRADESH | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3898 | 44 | 14702 |
| 2 | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | CHHATTISGARH | 1 | 180 | 1 | 192 | 1 | 192 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | GUJARAT | 0 | 0 | 40 | 9036 | 40 | 10999 | 45 | 7742 |
| 5 | JHARKHAND | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 150 | 1 | 100 |
| 7 | MADHYA PRADESH | 0 | 0 | 22 | 4148 | 25 | 2661 | 3 | 512 |
| 8 | MAHARASHTRA | 4 | 540 | 3 | 440 | 2 | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | ODISHA | 33 | 6835 | 26 | 5974 | 7 | 1236 | 22 | 9601 |
| 10 | RAJASTHAN | 1 | 100 | 3 | 438 | 3 | 452 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | TELANGANA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 3129 | 16 | 3459 |
| Total | | 40 | 7755 | 96 | 20328 | 103 | 23017 | 131 | 36116 |

2.34 The Committee are dismayed to note that the target set under the scheme of establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas during 2014-15 was 2000 seats while the achievement was 'nil' and in 2015-16 too, the target set was 'nil',. The reason given by the Ministry is non receipt of complete proposals from States. In this scenario, how and in what manner, the Ministry would fulfill their objective of promoting expansion of educational facilities for Scheduled Tribe students including PVTGs in Left Wing Extremism affected areas, is beyond the comprehension of the Committee. More so, not furnishing the complete proposals by the State Governments shows the extent and quantum of seriousness on their part in setting up of these Ashram Schools. The Ministry have also not apprised the Committee regarding steps taken and efforts made by them to address the of non receipt of complete proposals from the State Governments. The Committee are of the firm view that in the present situation neither the tribal students are getting any benefit of the Scheme in Low Literacy Districts nor funds meant for the Scheme are being put to any gainful use. The Committee, therefore, desire that it is high time the Ministry may either revamp the Scheme or re-consider its entire funding pattern as solely depending on State Governments for sending complete proposals is not only a wastage of time but also making mockery of the Scheme particularly in States like Arunachal

Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Rajasthan etc.

2.35 The Committee find that for the Boys' Ashram Schools, other than Girls' Ashram Schools and Boys' Ashram Schools in Left Wing Extremism affected areas, funding to State Government is on 50:50 basis. In case of UTs, the Central Government bears the entire cost of construction of both Boys' and Girls' Ashram Schools and Members of Parliament could also provide funds as a substitute of State share from their MPLAD scheme. In Committee's view, expecting funds from MPLADS is neither practical nor a sensible idea keeping in view the fact that quantum of fund under MPLADS per annum is not that much so as to expect any Members of Parliament to provide the same for these Boys' and Girls' Ashram Schools as a substitute of State share, taking into consideration the size of their constituency and the myriad activities they have to undertake within that Fund. The Committee, hence desire that the Ministry should work out some other ways and means, instead of funds from MPLAD Scheme, as a substitute of State share for these Ashram Schools.

F. POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (PMS)

2.36 The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education. The scheme has been revised w.e.f. 1.7.2010 with some modifications.

The scheme is open to all ST students whose parents' annual income is Rs.2.50 lakh or less w.e.f. 1.4.2013. Scholarships are awarded through the State Government/UT Administration where he/she is domiciled. Commercial Pilot Licence Course (CPL) is also included in the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for ST students and 10 Scholarships are to be given to the eligible ST students per year. Selection of the 10 ST meritorious students for CPL course is to be made through written examination conducted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Applications for CPL course are to be invited through advertisement.

Salient features of the scheme

- (i) Students are provided different rates of scholarships depending on the course. Courses have been divided into four categories and the rates vary from Rs.230/- per month to Rs.1200/- per month. Besides, the compulsory fees are also being reimbursed.
- (ii) There is provision for readers' allowance for visually handicapped students and escort and transport allowance for physically handicapped students.
- (iii) Scholarship covers the whole duration of the course and is paid on an annual basis and is subject to the satisfactory performance of the student and good conduct.

- (iv) Commercial Pilot License Course (CPL) is covered under Group-I.

Funding Pattern:

2.37 Under the Scheme, State Governments and UT Administrations receive 100% assistance from the Ministry over and above their committed liability. Committed liability is the actual expenditure incurred by the State Government under the scheme during the terminal year of the preceding Five Year Plan. Committed liability is borne by States/UTs. North Eastern States have, however, been exempted from making their own budgetary provisions towards committed liability from 1997-98 and the State Government of Sikkim has also been exempted from 2007-08. The entire expenditure under the scheme in respect of the North East States is borne by the Ministry.

2.38 The Ministry have also informed that an amount of Rs.760.11 crore was spent till 31st December, 2015 against the Budget allocation of BE Rs.1023.36 crore (general component of Umbrella Scheme) during 2015-16. State-wise coverage of beneficiaries and central assistance released during the years 2013-14 to 2015-16 (till 31.12.2015) has been given as under in a Tabular Form:-

State-wise Releases of Grant-in-aid and number of Beneficiaries Under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for ST Students from 2013-14 to 2015-16 (As on 31.12.2015)

| SL. No. | NAME OF STATE/UT | 2013-14 | | 2014-15 | | 2015-16 (As on 31.12.2015) | | (Rs. in Lakh) |
|---------|-------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | | Amount | No. of Beneficiaries | Amount | No. of Beneficiaries | Amount | No. of Beneficiaries | |
| | | 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 4895.17 | 229360 | 5070.01 | 82091 | 0.00 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 1366.85 | 630 | 2.29 | 630 | 0.00 | 0 | |
| 3 | Assam | 4756.81 | 102800 | 1114.00 | 102800 | 6748.28 | 116693 | |
| 4 | Bihar | 23.00 | 6463 | 23.00 | 6463 | 0.00 | 0 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 1341.47 | 106231 | 4066.75 | 139447 | 4764.83 | 148660 |
| 6 | Goa | 2.00 | 1332 | 2.00 | 1332 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 7138.58 | 218570 | 3929.23 | 218000 | 5520.40 | 163989 |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | 282.83 | 5189 | 237.00 | 5189 | 1350.00 | 8079 |
| 9 | Jammu & Kashmir | 177.00 | 18700 | 2494.17 | 21000 | 2494.17 | 21000 |
| 10 | Jharkhand | 3267.40 | 72878 | 4927.23 | 81768 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 11 | Karnataka | 3340.76 | 132376 | 3691.00 | 134988 | 5839.00 | 140891 |
| 12 | Kerala | 625.53 | 12705 | 647.00 | 13225 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 13 | Madhya Pradesh | 5276.71 | 192437 | 2385.00 | 188145 | 3065.00 | 197176 |
| 14 | Maharashtra | 11996.04 | 178146 | 7451.83 | 175000 | 5209.83 | 175000 |
| 15 | Manipur | 6111.01 | 53965 | 3615.48 | 57828 | 3588.00 | 66928 |
| 16 | Meghalaya | 3438.00 | 79011 | 438.00 | 79011 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 17 | Mizoram | 5393.89 | 56873 | 886.00 | 62410 | 4927.91 | 57330 |
| 18 | Nagaland | 2626.19 | 39867 | 2329.59 | 40133 | 2646.34 | 0 |
| 19 | Odisha | 3459.87 | 89115 | 4512.00 | 130960 | 4050.00 | 165100 |
| 20 | Rajasthan | 2216.02 | 288020 | 6440.00 | 246249 | 10890.43 | 275669 |
| 21 | Sikkim | 845.49 | 2643 | 414.00 | 2705 | 400.00 | 3053 |
| 22 | Tamil Nadu | 1436.02 | 11092 | 44.00 | 11092 | 2266.86 | 20060 |
| 23 | Telangana | 0 | 0 | 2630.94 | 171329 | 9650.00 | 171329 |
| 24 | Tripura | 1390.99 | 24270 | 974.82 | 22261 | 1700.00 | 28374 |
| 25 | Uttar Pradesh | 56.00 | 7500 | 56.00 | 7500 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 26 | Uttrakhand | 1086.50 | 24812 | 164.00 | 25269 | 900.00 | 27796 |
| 27 | West Bengal | 2277.63 | 79230 | 237.00 | 79230 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 28 | A. & N. Islands | 0.75 | 28 | 0.75 | 28 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 29 | Daman & Diu | 10.90 | 320 | 1.00 | 320 | 0.00 | 0 |
| | Total | 74839.41 | 2034563 | 58784.09 | 2106403 | 76011.05 | 1787127 |

2.39 Elaborating on the Scheme further, explaining its present status, the changes being effected and how its current hurdles are being addressed, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs during deposition before the Committee stated that , "I want to apprise the Committee regarding actual situation of this Scheme. In this Scholarship Scheme, there was a commitment by the Government of India that 75% of the Scheme will be funded by the Central Government and 25% by the State Government. However, the fact is, due to paucity of funds we could only finance the Scheme upto or between 45 - 50%. As a result, at present there is an accumulated dues of Rs.111 crore to be given to Gujarat State only. This is one issue which has to be dealt with

regarding Gujarat and other States too. On this issue recently there was a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary in which it was decided that DBT may be done in the case of National Scholarship Schemes also and hence from the next year, the amount of this scholarship will be directly sent to students' account so that there is no shortage or delay. At present what is happening, after paying to the State Governments we keep silent and think that now it is for the State Governments and their responsibility whether or not to give this scholarship amount to the students in time. Politically speaking, no State Government can deny this amount of Scholarship to this category of students. State Governments are demanding their backlog of money from us which are looking into and clearing the backlog in a phased manner. We hope to clear the dues of all the State Governments by the next year and for this we will write to and also take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance for additional funds so that this issue is sorted out once for all. In fact, Central Government also cannot withhold the money of these tribal students. That's why there was a meeting with Cabinet Secretary over this backlog in which it was decided that once dues of all State Governments are paid then only this issue can be put to rest once and for all..."

2.40 On being asked about the future of those students who are already studying but are not being paid the scholarship amount, the Secretary responded by stating that, " State Governments are already somehow paying the scholarship amount to students in most of the cases. But they too have compulsions. If they don't pay then students suffer. But somehow they are paying, may be always not on time. But it is also true that if the State Governments do not get share of scholarship funds from the Central Government, they have financial burden on them too... As I told you earlier, we were supposed to give Rs 75 out of our commitment of Rs 100 but in last few years we have been able to give only Rs. 45 and there was a deficit of Rs.

30 every year. Since State Governments could not stop this amount to be paid to students, these States are now asking that Rs. 30 deficit from us. We were not able to pay due to paucity of funds. But this will be resolved in future, most likely in next financial year..."

2.41 The Ministry in their ' Notes on various Schemes /Projects/Programmes under implementation' furnished to the Committee stated that evaluation study of the seven schemes of the Education Division of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra was conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad. One of the seven educational schemes, which was evaluated, was Post Matric Scholarship for ST students. The Ministry have, however, not furnished the details of any findings made by NIRD, Hyderabad regarding Post Matric Scholarship. The Ministry have merely stated that recommendations of NIRD, except on 'Early Childhood Care and Education', have been incorporated in the proposed Umbrella Scheme and will be implemented immediately on receipt of Cabinet approval.

2.42 The Committee note that Post Matric Scholarship meant to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education is not doing well and suffering from fund crisis severely. No doubt, as a result, the poor ST students are in distress and facing lot of difficulties in completion of their education. The Committee hold the Ministry responsible for this situation to a great extent and for playing with the life and future of these ST students who with great difficulties and hardships somehow try to come to mainstream of society. The Committee also note that problem of insufficient fund and mounting dues of State Governments was brewing up for past some years, a fact which has also been endorsed by the Secretary, Tribal Affairs before the Committee but was never addressed by the Ministry in the beginning itself. The Committee, however, appreciate the interest evinced by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in addressing the issue by taking it up with the Cabinet Secretary. The Committee are happy to find now that from the next financial year the scholarship amount will be deposited in students' account directly as assured by the Secretary, Tribal Affairs besides clearing the dues of the State Governments simultaneously. The Committee, however, desire the Ministry to ensure that requisite

scholarship amount is invariably deposited in the bank accounts of students that too in time so that the it serves their purpose timely.

2.43 The Committee are surprised to find that in the year 2015-16 (up to 31.12.2015), there was not a single beneficiary in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Goa, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland etc., not even in States like Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal due to the fact that funds were not released to these States under the Scheme. As these States have a large number of ST population, the Committee have serious apprehensions the extent to which the State Governments there would have provided funds to students for their scholarships. The Committee desire the Ministry to gather the data regarding the number of students benefitted in these States during 2015-16 by the help of the respective State Governments and also the quantum of funds provided by the States Governments to these students. The Committee further desire that all dues of the State Governments under this Scheme may be cleared by the end of the financial year 2016-17.

2.44 As the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad has conducted an evaluation study of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme of the Ministry and made certain recommendations which have been already incorporated in the Umbrella Scheme, the Committee would like

to know the recommendations so made by NIRD and to what extent these would benefit not only the students but also smooth functioning of the Scheme as well.

**New Delhi;
27th April, 2016
7th Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)**

**RAMESH BAIS,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment.**

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2016

The Committee met from 1450 hrs. to 1640 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
4. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
5. Smt. Maragatham K.
6. Shri Kariya Munda
7. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
8. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
9. Dr. Udit Raj
10. Smt. Mamta Thakur

RAJYA SABHA

11. Shri Ahamed Hassan
12. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
13. Shri Prabhat Jha
14. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
15. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
16. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation and Organization |
|---------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Shri Shyam S. Agarwal | Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| 2. | Shri Ashok Pai | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| 3. | Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| 4. | Smt. Vishu Maini | DDG, Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| 5. | Shri Lalsanglur | Economic Advisor, Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| 6. | Smt. Sarita Mittal | Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| 7. | Shri G. Ramesh Kumar | CMD, NSTFDC |
| 8. | Shri Bala Prasad | Managing Director, TRIFED |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed Shri Shyam S Agarwal, Secretary and other officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and invited their attention to the provisions contained in Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. The Chairperson, thereafter, asked the Secretary to brief the Committee on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

4. The Secretary then briefed the Committee about the performance of the Ministry, detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred/physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with help of a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting relating to Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry are as follows :-

- (i) Displacement/Rehabilitation of Tribals due to development projects.
- (ii) Market Development of Tribal Products/Produce.
- (iii) Education Schemes for Tribal students and their upliftment.
- (iv) Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes.
- (v) Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas.
- (vi) Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).
- (vii) Death of Youth Tribals due to consumption of Gudamba, a sort of alcohol.
- (viii) Provision of Vocational Training for Tribals.
- (ix) Grants-in-aid provided to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) for research and evaluation studies.

5. The representatives of the Ministry also responded to the queries by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat by 4th April, 2016.

6. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views in a free and frank manner on various issues raised by the Members.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting was kept for record.

[The representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs then withdrew]

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27th APRIL, 2016

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 116, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
5. Dr. Udit Raj
6. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
7. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

8. Shri Ahamed Hassan
9. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
10. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

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

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports of the Committee :-

- (i) *****
- (ii) *****
- (iii) Twenty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (iv) *****

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any amendments. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to the Report.