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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2016-2017)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2017-2018)**

THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2017/Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

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(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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(2017-2018)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.3.2017

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.3.2017



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2017/Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-2017)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
7. Smt. K. Maragatham
8. Shri Kariya Munda
9. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
12. Dr. Udit Raj
13. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
14. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
15. Prof. Sadhu Singh
16. Smt. Mamata Thakur
17. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
18. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
19. Vacant*
20. Vacant*
21. Vacant#

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Dr. Tazeen Fatma
24. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
25. Shri Ahamed Hassan
26. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
27. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
28. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Smt. Chhaya Verma
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

* Shri Bhagwant Khuba and Shri Mohanbhai K. Kundariya changed their nomination *w.e.f.* 19.10.2016.

Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri changed his nomination *w.e.f.* 23.11.2016.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
4. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants for the year 2017-18 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. 2017-18 which was laid on the Table of the House on 09.02.2017 in Lok Sabha. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 28.02.2017. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 16.03.2017.

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 (2017-18).

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;

16 March, 2017
25 Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

REPORT
CHAPTER I

A. INTRODUCTORY

1.1 Ministry of Tribal Affairs is mandated to achieve inclusive growth of tribal population in the country. The Ministry was set up in 1999, after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most underprivileged of the Indian Society, in a coordinated and planned manner. The Ministry is the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for the development of the Scheduled Tribes. The programmes and schemes of the Ministry support and supplement, through financial assistance, the efforts of other Central Ministries, the State Governments, and voluntary organizations, and fill critical gaps taking into account the needs of STs. Though the primary responsibility for promotion of economic, educational and social development of Scheduled Tribes rests with all the Central Ministries, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs complements their efforts by way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes. These schemes are implemented through State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and voluntary organizations.

1.2 The Ministry administers various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes besides two Special Area Programmes, viz., Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and Grants-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution

to contribute the overall efforts for development of tribal people in the country. The following Schemes are implemented by the Ministry:-

- 1 Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub- Plan (TSP).
- 2 Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India
- 3 Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Children
- 4 National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students
- 5 National Overseas Scholarships for ST students
- 6 Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP
- 7 Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Corporative Corporations (STDCCs), etc., for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations
- 8 Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs., including Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts
- 9 Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
- 10 Research Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festival and Others
- 11 Grant-in-Aid to Tribal Research Institutes

CHAPTER II

A. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2017-18 are given under Demand No. 96. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 9th February, 2017. The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the last three years along with the Budget Estimates for 2017-18 under Scheme-wise and Non-Scheme-wise expenditure.

Scheme-wise Expenditure

Head	Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	% of Expenditure over RE
Scheme-wise Expenditure	2014-2015	4479.00	3850.00	3830.60	99.49
	2015-2016	4792.19	4550.00	4472.60	98.29
	2016-2017	4800.00	4798.63	3627.80 (as on 20.2.2017)	75.60
	2017-2018	4961.14	-	-	-
Non-Scheme-wise Expenditure	2014-2015	18.96	21.87	20.48	99.49
	2015-2016	20.02	23.80	22.58	94.87
	2016-2017	26.50	27.87	25.04 (as on 20.2.2017)	89.84
	2017-2018	68.18	-	-	-

2.2 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs furnished the following statement showing Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred during the years 2014-15 to 2016-17 alongwith BE for the year 2017-18 on various tribal welfare schemes -

Rs. in crore

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	2014-15				2015-16				2016-17				BE
		BE	RE	EXP	Fund surrendered	BE	RE	EXP	Fund surrendered	BE	RE	EXP	Fund surrendered	2017-18
	Special Area Programme													
1.	SCA to TSP	1200.00	1040.03	1039.61	Shortfall is marginal	1250.00	132.27	1132.27	Shortfall is marginal	1250.00	1250.00	933.70	Full funds will be released by March 2017	1350.00
2.	Grants under Article 275(1)	1317.00	1134.68	1133.15	Shortfall is marginal	1367.00	1392.78	1392.46	Shortfall is marginal	1400.00	1400.00	1044.91	-do-	1500.00
	Central Sector Scheme													
3.	Support to NSTFDC	70.00	70.00	70.00	Nil	70.00	63.33	63.33	Shortfall is marginal	70.00	60.00	25.00	-do-	60.00
4.	Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana	100.00	100.00	100.00	Nil	200.00	200.00	200.00	Nil	1.00	1.00	Nil	-do-	0.01
5.	Aid Voluntary Organizations/ Exemplary Service	36.50	45.00	44.62	Shortfall is marginal	77.00	75.65	75.05	Nil	120.00	120.00	71.25	-do-	120.00
6.	Vocational Training Centre(NGOs)	3.00	2.90	2.70	Due to less number of complete proposals received	Merged with item 5 above				Merged with item 5 above				

7.	Strengthening of Educational among ST Girls	40.00	35.00	35.00	Nil	Merged with item 5 above				Merged with item 5 above				
8.	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)	207.00	180.00	180.00	Nil	217.35	217.35	213.54	Shortfall is marginal	200.00	150.00	86.10	NA	150.00
9.	Institutional Support For Development And Marketing of Tribal Products	35.00	35.00	30.82	Scheme is demand driven	50.00	40.00	35.85	Scheme is demand driven and funds are released based on demand	49.00	49.00	31.44	NA	49.00
10.	Tribal Research Institutes	15.00	11.09	11.09	Nil	28.50	11.00	11.00	Nil	21.00	17.00	11.83	NA	18.00
11.	Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP)	317.00	100.00	100.00	Nil	307.00	143.00	117.69	Scheme is demand driven and funds are released based on demand	158.00	3.00	0.00	Scheme is demand driven and funds are released based on demand	20.00
12.	National Fellowship And Scholarship For Higher Education of ST Students	50.00	Shown Against Item 18	Shown Against Item 1	No proposal received	50.00	48.81	46.84	Scheme is demand driven	50.00	80.00	49.39	NA	120.00
13.	Scholarship to the Students of ST For studies abroad	1.00	1.00	0.99	Nil	1.00	0.72	0.39	Lesser number of students	1.00	0.39.	0.00	NA	1.00
14.	Tribal Festival, Research Information and Mass Education	18.34	24.09	20.79	Shortfall is marginal	10.20	10.20	7.87	Shortfall is marginal	17.39	6.39	3.86	NA	12.04

15.	Monitoring and Evaluation	4.00	1.99	1.21	Shortfall is marginal	4.50	2.25	1.56	Shortfall is marginal	8.00	2.00	0.85	NA	3.00
16.	World Bank Project Improving Development Programme in the Tribal Areas	3.86	1.44	0.56	Shortfall is marginal	2.00	1.00	1.34	Nil	0.39	0.01	0.00	NA	0.01.
17.	Information Technology-Ministry	2.80	1.70	1.27	Shortfall is marginal	2.80	1.00	0.34	Shortfall is marginal	-	-	-		
	Information Technology-NCST	0.50	0.23	0.26	Nil					-	-	-		
18.	Umbrella Scheme For Education Of ST children (Consolidated)**	1058.00	1065.85	1058.53	Shortfall is marginal	1154.84	1210.64	1173.67	Due to lack of UCs and complete proposals from State Govts.	1454.22	1627.34	1086.91	NA	1597.07
	Grand Total	4479.00	3850.00	3830.60		4792.19	4550.00	4472.60		4800.00	4766.13	3345.24		5029.32

* Tentative Figures based on RE 2016-17 and BE 2017-18

** Umbrella Scheme for education includes:

- (i) PMS, Book and Upgradation of Merit
- (ii) Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students
- (iii) Boys & Girls Hostels
- (iv) Ashram Schools
- (v) Vocational Training Centres

2.3 The Ministry have submitted the details of difference between physical and financial targets / achievements under plan head fixed during the last three years as under:-

Rs. (in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	% of Expenditure over RE
2014-2015	4479.00	3850.00	3830.60	85.52
2015-2016	4792.19	4550.00	4472.26	93.33
2016-2017	4800.00	4766.13	3345.24 (as on 29.12.2016)	69.69

2.4 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the scheme-wise details of funds, which could not be utilized during the last financial year (2015-16) and were surrendered along with the reasons thereof is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	BE	RE	Expenditure	Reasons
1	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)	217.35	217.32	213.54	Marginal shortfall due to lack complete proposals with UCs of previous grants
2	Market Development of Tribal Products/produce	50.00	40.00	34.85	Lack of demand/UC from TRIFED and State bodies
3	Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP	307.00	143.00	117.69	As market price for commodities included was good, demand from MSP was less.

4	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of STs Students Overseas Scholarship	50.00	48.81	46.84	Marginal shortfall due to lack of demand/UCs from Top Class Institutes
5	Scholarship to the Students of ST for studies abroad	1.00	0.72	0.39	Students' selection for 2015-16 was not done and is being done now.

2.5 When asked the reasons for demanding increased allocation of Rs.5029.32 (both scheme-wise and non-scheme-wise) crore for the year 2017-18 while the amount allocated for the year 2016-17 is yet to be utilized fully, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:-

"Budgetary allocation for the year 2016-17 is expected to be fully utilized by the end of the Financial Year. Budget sought for Financial Year (FY) 2017-18 is for utilization during the next Financial Year. Ministry proposes to call Project Appraisal Meetings (PAC) at the beginning of the next FY for approving proposals of the State Governments in time. This will ensure timely release of funds and utilization of budget by the Ministry during next Financial Year. The amount will be spent on all on-going schemes, which shall be continued during 2017-18".

2.6 When asked the reasons for poor performance of various schemes and this being a recurring problem, what measures have been taken to ensure full utilization of funds under various schemes, the Ministry stated as under:-

"One of the pre-requisite for release of funds is Utilization Certificate of earlier releases. The Ministry keeps a tab on release of funds, by not releasing any additional funds unless Utilization Certificates of earlier releases are received. The issue of non-receipt of Utilization Certificates is also being raised at various forums and also during discussions of Project Appraisal Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Tribal Affairs for considering Annual Plans of the State Governments. This year on 6th March, 2017, a Workshop is being organized by the Ministry, wherein representatives (Principal Secretaries / Secretaries along with Directors) of all State Governments would be attending. On the sidelines, a Special Session to reconcile the UCs has been kept."

2.7 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been implementing number of welfare and development schemes for the Scheduled Tribes for decades. However, many of the tribals particularly in far flung remote areas are not aware of these schemes. When asked about the steps taken by the Ministry for effective implementation of the schemes, the Ministry stated as under:-

- (i) Emphasis on receipt of UCs from the respective State Govts./UTs before release of grants.
- (ii) Emphasis on the status of progress & quarterly report from the States before considering any proposal.
- (iii) Laying down the precondition that the State Govts confirm budget allocation in their annual budget before being considered for grants under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- (iv) Conducting of Evaluation & Monitoring studies to asses the impact of these schemes.
- (v) A Monitoring Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the proper implementation of the schemes. The Meeting of the Monitoring Committee is organized in the various States as well as in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi from time to time to improve the functioning of the schemes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (vi) Inspection visits by officers from the Ministry.
- (vii) Whenever any issue is brought to notice report is called for form the concerned State.
- (viii) In respect of VTC the norms will be aligned with those prescribed by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- (ix) Proposals are expedited through meetings including regional meetings, discussions, etc.

2.8 The Ministry further stated that an Apex Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Economic Adviser to examine the proposals received from all TRIs and for expeditious release of Grants-in-aid to them. Though monitoring of the implementation of the scheme is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. The Apex Committee while considering the proposals of TRIs, reviews / monitors the physical progress of activities and receipt of Utilisation Certificates. Officers from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs also visit the TRIs to review the implementation of activities wherever there is a requirement.

2.9 During the year 2016-17, scheme guidelines under SCA to TSP was revised with focus approach on sectoral allocation, revised Inter-State allocations factoring population, area and outcome based performance as parameter. Further Inter-District allocations are also clearly spelt out.

2.10 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs are collaborating with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to build a framework suited to the need and requirement of tribal people. It has planned for setting up one Multi-Skilling Institute in each of 163 priority (tribal concentrated) districts. Infrastructure funding will be shared by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and State Govt. (50:50). Recurring cost component will be funded by MSDE, under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The details of the collaboration are being worked out. For the year 2016-17, financial assistance to students under scholarship schemes are being released under DBT mode.

2.11 The Committee note that Grant-in- Aid to SPDCCS for MFP Operations and Market Development of Tribal Products/ Produce have been merged into one scheme. When asked about the other Schemes which have either been merged into other Schemes or totally abolished. The Ministry in their written reply stated as under:-

"Apart from the two schemes mentioned above, following schemes have been subsumed under single / umbrella scheme for education of ST students:

- a) Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students
- b) Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students
- c) Construction of Hostels for ST Boys and Girls
- d) Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas
- e) Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas.

National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students has subsumed the following schemes:

- a) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students
- b) Top Class Education for ST students"

2.12 The Committee note that out of Budget allocation of Rs. 4800.00 crore which was reduced at the RE stage for the year 2016-17, the Ministry could utilized only Rs. 3627.80 crore. The Ministry have submitted that the remaining amount of Rs. 1172.20 crore will be utilized fully by the end of the financial year 2016-17. The Committee are dismayed to note that the expenditure of the Ministry was 85.52 percent in 2014-15, 93.33 percent in 2015-16 and during the year 2016-17 fiscal it was only 75.60 percent (as on 20.02.2017) under the Plan Head. The Ministry in this regard, have reasoned that non-receipt of Utilization Certificates and receipt of less proposals from the State Governments have led to non-utilisation of full funds. The Committee are constrained to note that BE of 2017-18 has been reduced for those schemes also viz. NSTFDC and Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations which are working for welfare of Tribals in which funds allocated at RE stage during 2016-17 have been fully utilized. Reduction of funds of these Schemes for 2017-18 is beyond comprehension of the Committee. The Committee, further, desire that the Ministry should pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance at RE stage and request them not to cut the allocation of these Schemes which performed well last year and where the utilization of funds was optimal.

B. SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMME

I. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

3.1 The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) envisages channelization of flow of outlays and benefits from all sectors of development in the Annual Plans of States / UTs & Central Ministries / Departments, to Scheduled Tribes. Major part of infrastructure development in tribal dominated areas and provision of basic amenities to tribal people in the country is carried out through various schemes / programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments concerned, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging gaps under the Programme 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP)'. The Ministry has revised guidelines for SCA to TSP in June 2016 with the following criteria for Inter-State Allocation of funds.

- 50% based on State ST Population
- 25% based on Area
- 25% based on Performance

3.2 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred under the scheme of SCA to TSP for the last three years as well as BE for 2017-18.

Rs. (in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2014-2015	1200.00	1040.03	1039.61
2015-2016	1250.00	1132.27	1132.17
2016-2017	1250.00	1200.00	936.00 (as on 20.2.2017)
2017-2018	1350.00	-	-

3.3 When enquired about the reasons for incurring less expenditure of Rs.936.00 crore in 2016-17 and specific steps have been taken by the Ministry to utilize the remaining funds of Rs.316.30 crore for the year 2016-17, the Ministry in their written reply stated that "the RE for SCA to TSP for 2016-17 is Rs.1200.00 crore, against which an amount of Rs.936.00 crore (as on 20.2.2017) has already been spent. The Ministry is now in the process of releasing remaining funds as per activities sanctioned for the States by the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC). The remaining funds will be utilized by the end of this financial year. "

3.4 The Committee note that a performance audit of the TSP was taken up by the Office of Director General of Audit in respect of Ministries of HRD, Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of AYUSH. The audit had pointed out that TSP funds were diverted during the years 2010-11 to 2013-14, spent for Minority Institutions and were also spent for ineligible States, i.e. Punjab, Haryana, etc. When the Committee enquired about the steps taken to ensure that such diversion of funds do not take place in future, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:-

"The Allocation of Business Rules were amended only recently in January, 2017 and Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been given mandate for monitoring of TSP of Central Ministries based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs are in the process of developing an online monitoring system for monitoring of TSP of Central Ministries/ Departments. This will, inter alia, encompass:

- Monitoring of allocations to schemes/ States.
- Monitoring of expenditure vis-à-vis allocations.
- Monitoring of physical performance to assess / review output / Achievement against physical targets i.e. scheme-wise performance of each Ministry / Department.
- Outcome Monitoring in the intermediate term and long term for each Ministry / Department, scheme-wise. Overall Monitoring will be on quarterly, half-yearly and annual basis."

3.5 As per the extant monitoring system, implementing agencies (Central Ministries / Departments) are to report their performance by 15th of the month following the quarter / financial year. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is to assess and review both financial and physical performance on the basis of the quarterly / annual performance by the Central Ministries / Departments and publicize the review report by 25th of the month following the quarter / financial year. Ministry / Department-wise performance will also be reviewed on a half yearly basis jointly by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and NITI Aayog. The monitoring system will also help keeping check on diversion of funds.

3.6 The Committee find that though there are various mechanisms / systems in existence for monitoring of SCA to TSP, these funds have still been diverted to other activities or given to ineligible States. When asked for the need of a central legislation to ensure that funds for SCA to TSP are not diverted to other activities or given to ineligible States, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under-

"It is expected that TSP online monitoring system will be put in place soon. This will enable review of physical and financial performance and check on diversion of funds. There is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry for enacting legislation in this regard".

3.7 The Ministry have furnished a following statement showing State-wise details of fund released and Utilization Certificate (UC) awaited:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		Total Release	UC awaited	Total Release	UC awaited	Total Release	UC awaited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra	5789.00	0.00	2937.82	0.00	3500.00	0.00

	Pradesh						
2	Assam	6563.63	0.00	1788.59	529.07	5844.00	5844.00
3	Bihar	0.00	0.00	403.00	0.00	1368.26	1368.26
4	Chhattisgarh	9478.00	0.00	9826.50	0.00	10809.64	3600.47
5	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Gujarat	8448.00	0.00	10382.74	7.64	10566.50	2237.94
7	Himachal Pradesh	1768.00	0.00	997.99	0.00	475.00	0.00
8	J & K	1702.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00	2000.00
9	Jharkhand	12187.00	0.00	9571.11	0.00	10000.00	0.00
10	Karnataka	2471.00	0.00	3000.00	0.00	4370.00	0.00
11	Kerala	549.00	0.00	530.00	0.00	357.50	0.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	17525.00	0.00	15274.22	620.71	11501.21	11018.68
13	Maharashtra	7728.00	0.00	11726.18	0.00	12514.91	9471.62
14	Manipur	1581.90	0.00	1118.00	0.00	1100.00	0.00
15	Odisha	13321.00	0.00	14925.04	0.00	14728.52	9250.62
16	Rajasthan	8377.00	0.00	8822.04	0.00	10190.00	3000.00
17	Sikkim	437.00	0.00	520.25	0.00	353.00	0.00
18	Tamilnadu	651.00	0.00	217.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Telangana	0.00	0.00	3541.00	0.00	4000.00	0.00
20	Tripura	2102.10	0.00	1183.94	0.00	2400.07	1622.25
21	Uttarakhand	139.60	0.00	805.83	805.83	0.00	0.00
22	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	697.79	601.30	905.51	905.51
23	West Bengal	4181.36	30.00	5730.00	0.00	6233.00	647.00
Total		105000.00	30.00	103999.37	2564.55	113217.12	50966.35

3.8 When asked about the difficulties being faced by the States for sending Utilization Certificates on SCA grant to TSP and furnishing details of the defaulting States in this regard, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:-

"As per provisions of General Financial Rules, 2005 UC for recurring Grants become due immediately after closure of preceding financial year. However, there

is restriction of release of funds i.e. there is balanced pace of expenditure throughout the financial year in accordance with Ministry of Finance instructions. Utilization of funds by the States is a continuous process and most of the States furnish UCs of preceding years' releases under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) thereby enabling the Ministry for considering further releases. However, the States from where UCs are pending for 2014-15 are Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Assam".

3.9 The Committee note that SCA to Tribal Sub Plan is one of the major schemes of the Ministry for providing welfare and Development activities in Tribal areas. The Committee also note that the funds allocated for the scheme at BE stage were Rs. 1250.00 crore and reduced to Rs. 1200.00 crore at RE stage and the Ministry could utilize only Rs. 936.00 crore as on 20.02.2017 in 2016-17. The Committee also note that UCs and proposals for the year 2014-15 are still pending from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Assam. The Committee in their earlier reports, have time and again impressed upon the Ministry to take effective measures to overcome these recurrent impediments which adversely impact the utilization of funds. The Committee are of the considered view that as submission of UCs in time is a pre-requisite for further release of funds under the Scheme, so, it is high time the Ministry ironed out the deficiencies /anomalies and worked out the concrete measures so as to ensure optimal utilization of funds in future.

3.10 The Committee find that TSP funds were diverted during the year 2010-11 to 2013-14 and spent for Minority Institution and were also spent for ineligible States i.e. Punjab and Haryana. The Committee have been informed that for the propose of monitoring the scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been given mandate for monitoring of TSP of Central Ministries based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are in the process of developing an online monitoring system which will also help to check diversions of TSP funds. The Committee find that the States like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have laws/Acts to check diversion of SCA to TSP. The Committee strongly feel that since the Special Central Assistance to TSP is very vital for

development activities of Tribals, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should complete the process of developing of online monitoring system without any delay to check the diversion of funds.

C. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME

I. Grant-in-Aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

4.1 The 'Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes' scheme was launched in 1953-54 and is continuing.

4.2 The prime objective of the scheme is to enhance the reach of welfare schemes of Government and fill the gaps in service deficient tribal areas, in the sectors such as livelihood, education, health, drinking water, agro-horticultural productivity, social security net, etc., through the efforts of Voluntary Organizations, and to provide an environment for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). Any other innovative activity having direct impact on the socio-economic development or livelihood generation of STs may also be considered through voluntary efforts.

4.3 The Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme. Grants are provided to the eligible Non-Governmental Organizations / Autonomous Societies for the categories of projects prescribed in the revised scheme on an application (in prescribed format) duly recommended by the multi-disciplinary State Level Committee of the concerned State Government / UT Administration. Application and essential documents are required to be submitted as per time-schedule prescribed in the revised scheme. Funds are generally provided to the extent of 90% by the Government. The Voluntary Organization is expected to bear the remaining 10% as contribution from its own resources. However, the extent of assistance under the scheme is 100% for those projects being implemented in the Scheduled Areas. Grants to a VO / NGO for a particular category of project are limited

to the financial norms prescribed for that category of project by the Government and revised from time to time.

4.4 The following statement showing the BE, RE and Actual Expenditure during the last three years and BE for (2017-18) was furnished to the Committee ;-

Rs. (in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2014-2015	36.50	45.00	44.62
2015-2016	77.00	75.65	75.05
2016-2017	120.00	120.00	84.26 (as on 20.2.2017)
2017-2018	120.00	-	-

4.5 When asked about the reasons for low utilization of funds upto 20.02.2017, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:-

- (i) Grants are released to NGOs only after receiving complete proposals along with all requisite supporting documents from State Governments. In a large no. of cases there was some deficiency in documents which had to be called from the NGO/State Governments. Delay in receiving the same led to low utilization of funds upto 29.12.2016.
- (ii) During July, 2016 when instructions were received from NITI Aayog that grants should be released to only those NGOs who are registered on the NGO-PS portal of NITI Aayog, and have unique ID, the same was communicated to NGOs. Since, then, grants are released to NGOs only when they have registered themselves in the said portal and furnished Unique ID to the Ministry. It took considerable time for NGOs to register

themselves on the NITI Aayog portal, which slowed the pace of release of funds.

- (iii) The Ministry had entrusted an Independent Monitoring Agency (Vyam Tech Ltd) for monitoring of the various NGOs. The third report of the Monitoring Agency was received in February, 2016 and same was forwarded to concerned NGOs for taking corrective action and to concerned State Governments for conducting special Inspection of the Organization as per the observation of the Monitoring Agency. Action taken reports were not received in time, due to which these grants could not be released by 29.12.2016.

4.6 The Ministry have made vigorous efforts for obtaining deficient documents as well as action taken report with respect to IMA from NGOs and State Governments. By now, the Ministry have started receiving all the deficient documents and most of the NGOs have also registered themselves on NGO-PS portal. The Ministry are in the process of releasing funds to these NGOs and expects to utilize the remaining amount by the end of the financial year.

4.7 The Committee further asked the problem faced by the Ministry for getting proposals from the NGOs / State Governments, the Ministry in their written replies stated as under:-

"Some State Governments do not forward the proposals of the NGOs as per the above mentioned prescribed timeline. Moreover in a large number of cases before forwarding the recommended proposal the State Governments do not ensure that all requisite supporting documents as per Scheme Guidelines have been submitted and enclosed. Due to this even after receiving the recommended proposal from the State Governments, a lot of time is taken in calling for and obtaining the deficient documents."

4.8 The Committee note that Grant-in-Aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes scheme enhances the reach of welfare schemes of the Government and fill the gaps in service deficient tribal areas in the sectors like education, health, drinking water, social security net through the VOs/NGOs/Autonomous Societies. The Committee find that the allocation under the Scheme for the year 2016-17 was increased to Rs. 120.00 crore but the Ministry could utilize only Rs. 84.26 crore as on 20.02.2017. The Committee were informed that during July, 2016 instructions have been issued by NITI Aayog that grants should be released to only those NGOs who are registered on the NGOs-PS Portal of NITI Aayog. Accordingly, it took considerable time for NGOs to register themselves on the Portal which slowed the pace of release of funds. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should co-ordinate with all the State Governments/NGOs/NITI Aayog for early registration on the Portal so that remaining funds could be utilized by the end of the financial year and more and more tribals are benefitted.

II. NATIONAL SCHEDULED TRIBES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

5.1 National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) is an apex organization set up exclusively for economic development of Scheduled Tribes. This corporation was incorporated as a Govt. Company under Ministry of Tribal Affairs and granted license under Section 25 (now Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013) of the Companies Act, 1956. It is managed by the Board of Directors with representation from Central Govt., State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) and eminent persons representing Scheduled Tribes, etc. The Corporation plays a leading role in economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes by providing financial assistance at concessional rates of interest.

5.2 The broad objectives of NSTFDC are:

- To identify economic activities of importance to the Scheduled Tribes so as to generate self-employment and raise their level of income.
- To upgrade skills and processes used by the Scheduled Tribes by providing both institutional and on job training;
- To make the existing State / UT Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations (SCAs) and other developmental agencies engaged in the economic development of Scheduled Tribes more effective.
- To assist SCAs in project formulation, implementation of NSTFDC assisted schemes and in imparting training to their personnel.

- To monitor implementation of NSTFDC assisted schemes in order to assess their impact.

5.3 The functions of NSTFDC are:

- a. To generate awareness amongst the STs about NSTFDC concessional schemes
- b. To provide assistance for skill development and capacity building of beneficiaries as well as officials of SCAs.
- c. To provide concessional finance for viable income generation schemes through SCAs and other channelizing agencies for economic development of eligible Scheduled Tribes.

5.4 The authorized share capital of the Corporation is Rs 750 crore and paid up capital is Rs 534.10 crore as on 31.12.2016. In addition, Rs. 25 crore as share application money was given by from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as on 31.12.2016 for which share allotment is pending.

5.5 The following is the eligibility criteria for availing financial assistance from NSTFDC:

a) Individuals / Self Help Groups

- i. The applicant(s) should belong to Scheduled Tribes community.
- ii. Annual family income of the applicants should not exceed double the poverty line (DPL) income limit. This limit at present is Rs 98,000/- p.a. for the rural areas and Rs 1,20,000/- p.a. for the urban areas on the basis of norms of the erstwhile Planning Commission.

b) Co-operative Societies

Minimum 80% or more members should belong to Scheduled Tribes Community and annual family income of the applicants should not exceed double the poverty line. In case of change in membership, the said Co-operative Society shall ensure that percentage of ST members does not fall below 80% during the currency of the NSTFDC loan.

Schemes

5.6 The Corporation provides financial assistance for income generation activities and marketing support assistance for economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes. The details of schemes of NSTFDC are as under:

a) Major Schemes under Income Generating Activities

- i. Term Loan scheme:** NSTFDC provides Term Loan for viable schemes costing upto Rs 25 lakh per unit. NSTFDC provides financial assistance upto 90% of the cost of the scheme and the balance is met by way of subsidy / promoter's contribution / margin money.
- ii. Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY):** This is an exclusive scheme for economic development of Scheduled Tribe women. Under the scheme, NSTFDC provides loan upto 90% for scheme costing upto Rs 1 lakh at highly concessional interest rate of 4% per annum.
- iii. Micro Credit Scheme :** This is an exclusive scheme for Self Help Groups for meeting small loan requirement of ST members. Under the scheme, the Corporation provides loans upto Rs 50,000/- per member and Rs 5 lakh per SHG.

- iv. Adivasi Shiksha Rrinn Yojana:** iv. This is an Education Loan scheme to enable ST students to meet expenditure for pursuing technical and professional education including Ph.D. in India. Under this scheme, the Corporation provides financial assistance upto Rs 5.00 lakh at concessional interest rate of 6% per annum.
- v. Tribal Forest Dwellers Empowerment Scheme:** The objective of the scheme is to generate awareness, provide training to beneficiaries, give NSTFDC's concessional financial assistance, assist in market linkage, etc., to the Scheduled Tribes forest dwellers vested land rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006. Under the scheme, NSTFDC provides loan upto 90% for schemes costing up to Rs 1 lakh at concessional interest rate of 6% payable by the beneficiaries.
- vi. Assistance to TRIFED empanelled Artisans:** Under the scheme, NSTFDC provides concessional finance to tribal artisans empanelled with TRIFED for purchase of project related assets and working capital. Financial assistance is provided upto Rs 50,000/- for individuals and upto Rs 5 Lakh per SHGs / Cooperative Societies at the interest rate of 4% p.a. for ST women and 6% p.a. for others.

b) Marketing Support Assistance: The Corporation provides financial assistance to meet Working Capital requirement of agencies engaged in procurement and marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and other tribal products.

Lending Norms for the above mentioned schemes of NSTFDC

S. No.	Types of Assistance	Unit cost upto	NSTFDC's share upto	Interest payable per annum	
				by SCAs	by Beneficiaries
1.	Term Loan Scheme	Rs 25 lakh	90% of unit cost	3%	6%
				(Upto Rs 5 lakh per unit as NSTFDC share)	
				5%	8%
				(Above Rs 5 lakh and upto Rs 10 lakh per unit as NSTFDC share)	
				7%	10%
				(Above Rs 10 lakh and upto Rs 25 lakh per unit as NSTFDC share)	
2.	Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY)	Rs 1 lakh	90% of unit cost	2%	4%
3.	Micro Credit Scheme	Rs 50,000 per member and Rs 5 lakh per SHG	100%	3%	6% (payable by SHGs)
4.	Adivasi Shiksha Rinn Yojana (ASRY)	Rs 5 lakh	90% of loan amount	3%	6%
5.	Tribal Forest Dwellers Empowerment Scheme	Rs 1 lakh	90% of loan amount	3%	6%
6.	Scheme for Self Help Groups (SHGs)	Rs 25 lakh	90% of unit cost	In line with interest rates applicable for Term loan scheme	
7.	Scheme for TRIFED empanelled ST suppliers / artisans	Rs 50,000/- for individual member and Rs 5 lakh per SHG with a ceiling of Rs 50,000/- per member	90% of unit cost	3%	6%
				For individual STs, SHGs and cooperatives	
				2%	4%
				For individual ST women	

5.7 The Ministry have furnished the following figures of BE, RE and Actual Expenditure NSTFDC for the last three years along with BE for 2017-18:-

Rs. in crore

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2014-2015	70.00	70.00	70.00
2015-2016	70.00	63.33	63.33
2016-2017	70.00	60.00	25.00 (as on 29.12.2016)
2017-2018	60.00	-	-

5.8 When asked the reasons for reducing the funds in the BE for the year 2017-18 for such an important scheme when the funds were fully utilized during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Ministry stated in their written reply that the Budget Estimates 2017-18 for this scheme has been kept at the level of RE 2016-17 i.e. Rs.60.00 crore.

5.9 The Adivasi Mahila Sashktikaran Yojna (AMSY) is a scheme of NSTFDC for which the Corporation provides loan upto 90% for the Scheme costing upto Rs.1 lakh at concessional interest rate of 4% per annum. The State-wise details of beneficiaries of AMSY during the last four years assisted under TERM LOAN Scheme are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Term Loan	AMSY	Term Loan	AMSY	Term Loan	AMSY	Term Loan	AMSY
		No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1010	0	155	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	0	2350	2350	36546	0	12014	0
3	Chhattisgarh	657	500	8	0	269	75	256	51
4	Gujarat	9	14020	486	11366	12192	0	11059	5000
5	Himachal Pradesh	2219	0	2816	50	23	0	10	0
6	J & K	1	0	0	0	105	64	0	0
7	Jharkhand	2033	0	35	0	128	100	3651	0
8	Karnataka	3267	0	1010	0	0	0	0	0
9	Kerala	75	13	109	0	74	22	79	9
10	Madhya Pradesh	203111	18	553	0	481	0	476	0
11	Maharashtra	355	1209	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Meghalaya	1252	0	1973	0	1287	0	983	0
13	Mizoram	0	0	2832	0	13330	0	18078	0
14	Nagaland	311	0	46	0	114	0	22	0
15	Odisha	27	0	71	0	9	0	0	0
16	Rajasthan	1537	113	1360	122	397	88	359	89
17	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0
18	Tripura	566	100	1184	44	0	0	370	0
19	Uttarakhand	9	0	13	0	127	8	18	0
20	West Bengal	654	0	6	34	104	191	42	166
	Total	216086	15973	14853	11616	66196	548	47662	5315

5.10 The Committee find that during the year 2013-14, 216086 beneficiaries were benefitted under final Term Loan Scheme which only 14853 benefitted in the year 2014-15. The Committee also note that during the year 2016-17 there was no beneficiary in

the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Odisha under the Scheme. Under Adivasi Mahila Sashktikaran Yojana (AMSY) during the year 2014-15 the number of beneficiary was 11616 and 548 in the year 2015-16. Again in the year 2015-16 there was no beneficiary under this Scheme in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura. During the year 2016-17 only five States have been covered under the Scheme.

5.11 The Committee asked about the steps taken by the Ministry to create awareness amongst the Scheduled Tribes people regarding NSTFDC's concessional schemes. The Ministry submitted that NSTFDC officials organize and conduct periodic awareness camps in districts/areas which are predominantly inhabited by tribals. Simultaneously, NSTFDC also releases and publicizes details of its concessional schemes in periodicals. In the past it had Media Partnership with All India Radio and officials of NSTFDC gave radio talks on the schemes of NSTFDC from different stations of All India Radio. Further, the four zonal offices of NSTFDC located at Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Bhopal are in constant touch with State Channelizing Agencies under their operational jurisdiction for sensitizing as also creating awareness about the concessional schemes of NSTFDC.

5.12 The Committee note that out of Rs. 60.00 crore RE in 2016-17, the NSTFDC, as on 29.12.2016 could utilize only Rs. 25.00 crore which is not even 50% of the allocation. The Committee also observe that NSTFDC provides loans upto 90 per cent for the Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) at the interest rate of 4% per annum. The Committee are surprised to note that during 2014-15 the number of beneficiaries were 11616 which were reduced to 548 during 2015-16, while there was no beneficiary in States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura. Further, during 2016-17 only five States could be covered under the scheme. The Committee are of the considered view that this is mainly due to no demand or less demand from these States and which is a result of lack of awareness among tribal women in the tribal areas. The Committee have been advising the Ministry time and again to make the budgeting exercise more prudent and also to strengthen the monitoring mechanism so as to achieve maximum utilization of funds. The Committee urge the NSTFDC to impress upon the SCAs to have a more proactive approach towards the tribal women so that the mandated objective of the NSTFDC is justified and achieved too. The Committee also desire that NSTFDC should make all out efforts to give due publicity of the Scheme in far flung tribal areas and try to reach the remote tribal areas so that there are more and more beneficiaries under the Scheme.

III. MARKETING SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL PRODUCE

Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP

6.1 A scheme "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP" was introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the year 2013-14, to provide much needed safety net and support to people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers whose very livelihood depends on collection and selling of MFP. To start with, the scheme had been implemented in the States having areas under Fifth Schedule of the Constitution and covered ten MFP items. Recently, however, the coverage of area of the scheme has been extended beyond Fifth Schedule States and now the scheme is applicable in all States. The number of MFP items has also been increased to twenty four.

6.2 The Ministry have furnished the following information on the Budget Estimates, Revised Estates and Actual Expenditure under the scheme of Minimum Support Price (MSP to MFP) for last three years along with BE for 2017-18:-

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2014-2015	317.00	100.00	100.00
2015-2016	307.00	143.00	117.69
2016-2017	158.00	3.00	0.00 (as on 29.12.2016)
2017-2018	20.00*	-	-

*tentative figure based on RE 2016-17 and BE 2017-18

6.3 The Committee note that in the year 2014-15 an amount of Rs. 100.00 crore allocated at RE was fully utilized. During the year, 2015-16 out of RE of Rs. 143.00 crore Rs. 117.60 crore was utilized. In the year 2016-17, amount of Rs. 158.00 crore has been allocated at BE stage which was reduced drastically to Rs. 3.00 crore at RE and expenditure was nil as on 29.12.2016. The Ministry have stated the reasons for nil expenditure as scheme is demand driven and funds are released on demand received from State Governments. When asked the reasons for no-demand under the Scheme during the year 2016-17, the Ministry have stated that the funds are released to the States i.e. 75% by Central Government and 25% by the State Governments of the total of Grants-in-Aid primarily serve the purpose of Revolving Fund and may be used by the State Procuring Agency to purchase Minor Forest Produce from the gatherers at the prescribed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for that particular commodity in case price falls below MSP. Hence, the scheme is demand driven. Presently, the States already have sufficient amount of revolving fund for utilizing it to procure MFP items and therefore, they have not demanded more funds. Also, as the prevailing market price for the MFP items has continued to be higher than the MSP fixed by Government, there has been no demand from the States for funds under the scheme.

6.4 When asked how the Ministry have come to a conclusion that the tribals are getting their rightful dues for their products, the Ministry stated that Minimum support price for the selected MFPs is notified and the designated State procuring agencies procure the MFP items under the scheme on the declared MSP rates only. As per information collected during 2016 from the Regional Offices of TRIFED in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, the market rate collected indicate that the tribals are getting higher prices than the market rate under

the MSP scheme with respect to myrobalan, sal seed and tamarind. Where ever the market prices are higher than the MSP rates, there is no demand for procurement as the tribals are already getting fair price from the market itself. In this process procurement of Rs. 89.63 crores has been undertaken for the period 2014 -15 to 2016-17 and more than six lakh beneficiaries have been benefitted by way of procurement on the Minimum Support Price fixed for the period 2014-15 & 2015-16. The details of the beneficiaries for the year 2016-17 is being collected.

6.5 The Committee find that the Scheme of Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price is meant to provide safety net and support to the people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who are solely depend upon collection and selling of Minor Forest Produce. The Committee are surprised to note that in the year 2014-15, out of BE of Rs. 317.00 crore, only Rs.100.00 crore was utilized. The more hurting fact that BE for 2016-17 was reduced drastically from Rs. 158.00 crore to Rs. 3.00 crore at RE stage and expenditure is 'nil' as on 29.12.2016. The Ministry have stated that the reasons for not utilizing the funds in the year 2016-17 and less allocation for 2017-18 as the States already have sufficient amount of Revolving Fund for utilizing it to procure MFP items and, therefore, they have not demanded more funds. Further, prevailing market price for MFP items has continued to be higher than the MSP fixed by the Government is also one of the reasons for no demand from States under the Scheme. The Committee are satisfied with the reply given by the Ministry for low utilization of funds under the Scheme to some extent. However, the Committee feel that such an important Scheme for Tribal people which was started just three years back should be again reviewed thoroughly after conducting proper study/visits/discussions with all the stakeholders i.e., State Governments, representatives of Tribal Association and State Procuring Agencies responsible for running the Scheme. The Committee wish to be apprised with the outcome of a such study.

D. UMBRELLA SCHEME FOR EDUCATION OF ST CHILDREN

7.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have informed that in the Education Division, the following schemes have been subsumed in the Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST students:

- a) Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students
- b) Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students
- c) Construction of Hostels for ST Boys and Girls
- d) Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas
- e) Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas

7.2 The following statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure during the last three years along with the Budget Estimates for the year 2017-18 was furnished to the Committee:-

Rs.(in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2014-2015	1058.00	1065.85	1058.53
2015-2016	1154.84	1210.64	1173.67
2016-2017	1454.22	1627.34	1086.91 (as on 26.12.2016)
2017-2018	1597.07	-	-

7.3 When asked the reasons for allocating substantially less funds under the Umbrella Scheme for education for STs at BE stage for the year 2017-18 when a higher amount was allocated at the stage of RE in the year 2016-17, the Ministry in their written reply stated that based on trends of the previous years, the number of beneficiaries was found

to be increasing and consequently, the quantum of funds demanded by the State Governments also increased and arrears was also released to the State Governments and hence higher allocation was made for the year. However, the allocation for 2017-18 is based on the actual requirement for the scheme.

7.4 The Committee find that under the Umbrella Scheme for education of STs, the amount of Rs. 36.97 crore has been surrendered by the Ministry during last year due to less proposals received and pending Utilization Certificates from the State Governments.

7.5 **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST students:** The scholarship is given to Scheduled Tribes students studying in class IX and X. This Scheme covers all ST students whose parent's annual income is below Rs. 2 Lacs. Scholarship of Rs. 150 per month for day scholars and Rs. 350 per month for hostellers are given for a period of 10 months in a year.

Salient features:

- Central assistance in the share of 75:25 (90:10 for NER and Hilly States) to State Governments/UT Administrations is available from the Government of India.
- Scholarships are available for studies in India only.
- The State Government/UT Administration to which the applicant actually belongs awards the scholarship.
- The Scheme aims at improving participation of ST children in classes IX and X of the Pre-Matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the Post-Matric stage of education.

Eligibility:

- Student should belong to Scheduled Tribes
- Her/his Parents' / Gardian's income should not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum.
- She / he should be a regular, full time student studying in a Government School or in a School recognized by Govt. or a Central/State Board of Secondary Education.
- Scholarship for studying in any class will be available for only one year. If a student has to repeat a class, she / he would not get scholarship for that class for a second (or subsequent) year.

7.6 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing State-wise releases of Grant-in-Aid and number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students from 2014-15 to 2016-17:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Amount released	Number of beneficiaries	Amount released	Number of beneficiaries	Amount released	Number of beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	1386.00	75812	1983.00	79602	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
3	Assam	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
4	Bihar	688.60	40700	375.00	37095	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	3718.00	228626	3607.00	225705	399.15	0
6	Goa	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	3750.00	200000	3745.76	138465	80.81	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	73.00	3996	96.12	5798	0	0
9	J & K	0.00	0	700.00	37813	0	0
10	Jharkhand	1613.00	93533	0.00	0	0	0
11	Karnataka	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
12	Kerala	0.00	0	300.00	30010	488.25	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0	4300.00	364167	0	0
14	Maharashtra	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
15	Manipur	496.05	40126	0.00	0	867.38	0
16	Meghalaya	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0.00	0	851.47	42048	0	0

19	Odisha	4511.00	203301	4900.00	221243	3376.36	0
20	Rajasthan	2383.34	187508	0.00	0	0	0
21	Sikkim	7.80	408	0.00	0	0	0
22	Tamilnadu	0.00	0	600.00	15750	0	0
23	Telangana	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
24	Tripura	678.75	44598	1303.60	53516	0	0
25	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	10856	0	0
26	Uttarakhand	0.00	0	107.00	0	0	0
27	West Bengal	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
28	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
	Grand Total	19305.53 3	1118608	22868.95	1262068	5211.95	0

* Funds released during 2016-17 is towards arrear for 2012-13 to 2015-16 and beneficiary details not available.

7.7 It has been noted from the above information that in the States of J&K, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Uttarakhand have no beneficiaries under the scheme in 2014-15. Even for the last three years from 2014-15 to 2016-17 there is no beneficiary under the scheme in the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Telanagana, West Bengal and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. When enquired about the reasons for not covering the ST students under the scheme in the above States, the Ministry in their written replies submitted as under:-

"The scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships is demand driven which is implemented through the State Governments as this is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The State Government has to raise a demand to the Ministry clearly indicating the number of beneficiaries and the amount required for them. During the annual Project Appraisal Committee meetings, the State Governments are sensitized to submit their proposal to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, indicating their fund requirement, well in time"

7.8 **Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme:** This scheme is open to all ST students and is given to enable them to pursue higher studies at Post Matriculation level including technical and professional studies. This Scheme covers all ST students whose parents annual income is below Rs. 2.50 lakh. Compulsory fees charged by the educational

institutions are reimbursed an scholarship amount of Rs. 230 per month to Rs. 1200 per month are given depending on the courses of study. The last revision of the scheme has been made w.e.f. 01.07.2010.

7.9 The scheme covers professional, technical as well as professional and non-technical courses at various levels including correspondence courses covering distance and continuing education. The last revisions of the scheme has been made w.e.f. 01.07.2010.

Salient features:

- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.
- Central assistance in 75:25 (90:10 for NER and Hilly States) to all State Governments/UTs Administrations is available from Government of India
- The Scheme provides financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage.
- Scholarships are available for studies in India only.
- The State Government and UT to which the applicant actually belongs awards the scholarship.
- The scheme also covers assistance to States/UTs for setting up Book Banks.

Eligibility:

- Scholarships are paid to students whose parents' / guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 2.50 lakh per annum.
- All children of the same parents/guardian are eligible.

- Scheduled Tribe candidates who have passed the matriculation or higher secondary or any higher examination of a recognized University or Board of Secondary Education are eligible.
- The scholarships are available for the study of all recognized post matriculation or post-secondary courses in recognized institutions except certain identified training courses like Aircraft Maintenance Engineer's Courses, Private Pilot Licence courses etc.
- Students studying through correspondence courses are eligible.

7.10 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing State-wise releases of Grant-in-Aid and number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students from 2014-15 to 2016-17

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Amount released	Number of beneficiaries	Amount released	Number of beneficiaries	Amount released	Number of beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	5070.01	82091	1986.82	49239	7445.07	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2.29	630	1137.61	0	1136.32	0
3	Assam	1114.00	102800	6748.28	116693	0.00	0
4	Bihar	23.00	6463	0.00	0	0.00	0
5	Chhattisgarh	4066.75	139447	4764.83	148660	1300.00	0
6	Goa	2.00	1332	356.00	4270	574.00	0
7	Gujarat	3929.23	218000	5520.40	163989	22040.27	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	237.00	5189	1350.00	8079	299.39	0
9	J & K	2494.17	21000	2494.17	21000	2587.84	0
10	Jharkhand	4927.23	81768	0.00	0	6600.00	0
11	Karnataka	3691.00	134988	5839.00	140891	8540.00	0
12	Kerala	647.00	13225	0.00	0	3122.00	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	2385.00	188145	3065.00	197176	8118.00	0
14	Maharashtra	7451.83	175000	5209.83	175000	22092.28	0
15	Manipur	3615.48	57828	3588.00	66928	3385.20	0
16	Meghalaya	438.00	79011	3274.61	74608	2759.00	0

17	Mizoram	886.00	62410	4927.91	57330	0.00	0
18	Nagaland	2329.59	40133	2646.34	45140	0.00	0
19	Odisha	4512.00	130960	4050.00	165100	8216.64	0
20	Rajasthan	6440.00	246249	10890.43	275669	9800.00	0
21	Sikkim	414.00	2705	400.00	3053	594.16	0
22	Tamil Nadu	44.00	11092	2266.86	20060	1594.00	0
23	Telangana	2630.94	171329	9650.00	171329	4265.00	0
24	Tripura	974.82	22261	1700.00	28374	0.00	0
25	Uttar Pradesh	56.00	7500	0.00	0	930.00	0
26	Uttarakhand	164.00	25269	900.00	27796	5090.57	0
27	West Bengal	237.00	79230	2948.46	73357	0.00	0
28	A & N. Islands	0.75	28	0.00	0	0.00	0
29	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1.00	320	0.00	0	53.63	0
	Grand Total	58784.09	2106403	85714.55	2033741	120543.37	0

* Funds released during 2016-17 is towards arrear for 2012-13 to 2015-16 and towards Adhoc for current year 176.05 crore and beneficiary details not available Projection / Estimates for the period January – March, 2017 is Rs. 344.79 crore as per the available Budget at RE stage.

7.11 It has been observed that there is no beneficiary under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme in the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Dadar and Nagar Haveli during the year 2015-16. When asked to the Ministry they have stated in their written reply as under:-

"The scheme of Post Matric Scholarships is demand driven which is implemented through the State Governments as this is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The State Government has to raise a demand to the Ministry clearly indicating the number of beneficiaries and the amount required for them. During the annual Project Appraisal Committee meetings, the State Governments are sensitised to submit their proposal to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, indicating their fund requirement, well in time

7.12 The Committee feel that when the crores of rupees have been spent for various scholarships schemes meant for providing education to the tribal areas, is it not the responsibility of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to coordinate with the State Governments properly and adequately to complete their proposals under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric

Scholarship schemes in time so that funds could be actually utilized by the beneficiaries. The Committee desired to know the reasons for poor performance of various scholarship schemes as non-receipt of complete proposals from State Governments. The Ministry in their written replies have stated as under:-

"The Ministry, in order to overcome such situations, has uploaded on its website how the proposal is to be submitted and the documents that are required to be enclosed with the proposals. The Ministry vigorously peruse with State Governments to get proposals and utilization certificates in time".

7.13 When Committee asked the details of the drop out of students under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarship schemes during the 2016-17 , The Ministry in their written replies submitted as under:-

"This data was not being maintained in the Ministry since the funds are not transferred to the beneficiary directly. However, with the introduction of National Scholarship Portal and Scholarship portals developed and used by some State Governments, the data is expected to be received in the Ministry in Microsoft Excel format. Analysis of this data can be done once the same is received for two or more years."

7.14 The Committee note that various educational schemes for tribals viz. Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, Construction of Hostels for ST boys and girls, Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP areas and Vocational Training Centres in tribal areas have been merged/subsumed under single umbrella scheme for providing education to the students in tribal areas. The Committee find that under the umbrella scheme for education of STs, an amount of Rs.36.97 crore has been surrendered by the Ministry during the last year due to receipt of less proposals and pending Utilization Certificates from the State Governments. The Committee also find that during the year 2014-15, the States of J&K, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand had no beneficiary under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. Similarly, there was no beneficiary under the Scheme in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 in the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Telangana, West Bengal and Dadar & Nagar Haveli. As regards, Post- Matric Scholarship Scheme the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Dadar & Nagar Haveli have no beneficiary in the year 2016-17. The Committee feel that allocation under the Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes could be a very lucrative and good incentive for continuing the education for Tribal students from Primary level to Secondary level. The Committee desire that the Ministry should give utmost attention towards these two Scholarship Schemes as these Schemes provide valuable support for the ST students to raise their educational status, enabling them to become a part of the mainstream society. The Committee also urge the Ministry to sensitize the State Governments for bearing their liability towards completing all the formalities and full utilization of funds under the Schemes so that more and more students would

avail the benefits of these Schemes keeping in view the limitation imposed by historical injustices on this community.

I. LANGUAGES USED AS THE MEDIUM OF EDUCATION IN TRIBAL AREAS

8.1 The Ministry have stated that the medium of education for imparting education to students in tribal areas is generally State language or English language. When enquired whether the tribal students specially in remote areas are able to understand these languages particularly at the level of primary education, the Ministry have stated since it was considered that the tribal students in the remote areas would not be able to understand these languages particularly at the level of primary education, the States were asked to develop bilingual primers to facilitate learning in such cases.

8.2 When asked about the steps taken by the Ministry to contain the dropout rate among STs, the Ministry have stated that one of the measures taken in this regard Bilingual primers containing text in regional, tribal language and local official script through Tribal Research Institutes and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

8.3 When enquired about the progress made in this regard, the Ministry stated that funds have been made available to TRI, to prepare bilingual primers based upon the proposals received from the State Governments as under:-

(Rs in. lakhs)

Year	State/UT	Sanctioned
2014-15	Chhattisgarh	5.00
	Manipur	16.00 (including other documentation activities)
2015-16	Tamil Nadu	28.00 (including other documentation activities)
	Kerala	0.71

8.4 The Committee have been informed that the medium of education is generally State language or English language for imparting education to students in tribal areas. The Committee find that the tribal students, particularly belonging to remote tribal areas are not able to understand these languages, specially at the level of Primary education. The Committee were told that the State Governments have been instructed by the Ministry to develop bilingual primers containing both in regional and local tribal languages to facilitate learning in the schools in tribal areas and for this purpose, funds have already been granted to the States of Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Kerala from where the proposals were received to prepare bilingual primers through TRI. The Committee appreciate the move initiated by the Ministry and urge that this momentum ought to be maintained so that more State Governments come forward and send their proposals to the Ministry. The Committee note with concern that the dropout rate and illiteracy rate are higher among the tribals *vis-a-vis* other communities. The Committee desire that the causes must be identified, rectified and if need be necessary steps be taken in coordination with the State Governments/UTs so that dropout rate and illiteracy among tribals could be checked.

II. EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

9.1 With the objective of providing quality education to the tribal students, it was decided during 1997-98 to utilize a part of the grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India for setting up of Model Residential Schools from Class VI to Class XII. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) with the capacity of 480 students in each school are set up in the States/UTs under the programme under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India on the pattern of Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas (RPVVs) of Government of NCT of Delhi, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas. The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional education 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.

9.2 The set up of an Eklavya School requires minimum of 15 acres of land and it is mandated to have better infrastructure facilities catering to the needs of academic education as well as extra curricular activities. Apart from school building, provision for a playground, students computer lab, teacher resource room etc. have also been facilitated in EMRSs with a view to create an enabling environment for the students to make use of the opportunities to shine in the areas of their interests. As per the established norms only 60 students per class divided into two sections with 30 students each from Class VI to Class X and 90 students per class in three sections with 30 students each in the streams of Science, Commerce and Humanities from Class XI and XII are permissible. It is also require that State Governments shall ensure and maintain

the highest quality in the selection of teachers and the staff for academic and extra-curricular activities.

9.3 As per EMRS Guidelines, 2010, at least one EMRS is to be set in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) having 50 per cent 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, desert and islands. Recurring cost during the first year for schools would @ Rs.42000 per child, with provision of raising it by 10 per cent every second year to compensate for inflation etc.

9.4 The Committee have been informed that as on 08.12.2016, 247 Eklavya Model Residential Schools have been sanctioned by the Ministry in various parts of the country. Out of this, 161 EMRSs are fully functional and the remaining 86 EMRSs are under construction.

9.5 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing details number of EMRSs sanctioned and functional under Article 275(1) of the Constitution (as on 31.12.2016)

Sl. No.	State	No. of EMRSs sanctioned	Functional EMRSs
1	Andhra Pradesh	14	04
2	Arunachal Pradesh	05	02
3	Assam	02	0
4	Bihar	02	0
5	Chhattisgarh	25	13
6	Goa	1	0
7	Gujarat	24	23
8	Himachal Pradesh	01	01
9	Jammu & Kashmir	04	0
10	Jharkhand	15	04
11	Karnataka	12	09
12	Kerala	02	02

13	Madhya Pradesh	29	25
14	Maharashtra	16	16
15	Manipur	05	03
16	Mizoram	06	02
17	Nagaland	05	03
18	Odisha	26	13
19	Rajasthan	17	15
20	Sikkim	03	02
21	Tamilnadu	05	03
22	Telangana	09	07
23	Tripura	07	04
24	Uttar Pradesh	04	02
25	Uttarakhand	01	01
26	West Bengal	07	07
	Total	247	161

9.6 When enquired about the monitoring mechanism of EMRSs, the Ministry stated as per EMRS guidelines, 2010, “each State Government/ UT Administration would be solely responsible for the management and effective functioning of the EMRSs. State Governments/ UT Administration may opt for any feasible/ suitable mode of management whether by autonomous education societies; public-private partnership with reputed educational institutions; in arrangement with the State Department of Education or any other mode found suitable. Besides, the tasks of school admissions, appointment of teachers, appointment of staff, are chosen by the State Government/ UT Administration and in the manner deemed most suitable.”

9.7 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is in the process of developing a mobile / web based monitoring mechanism which will enable Ministry to do assessment of the functioning of the EMRSs. This will help in policy development and decision making for future improvements.

9.8 When asked about the overall supervision and management of these Schools, the Secretary during evidence stated as under :-

"An issue about Eklavya Model Residential Schools has been raised. It has many weaknesses and these schools are not running smoothly without flaws. We provide grants for the school buildings, Rs.12 crore in plains and Rs.16 crore in hilly areas in the capital expenditure of the Scheme. Besides this, we also give recurring grants of Rs.42,000 per student ."

9.9 When enquired about the need of establishment of a central body to control the management of EMRs , the Ministry stated that they are studying the option of establishing a Central Supervisory Agency to look into the affairs of EMRs for ensuring quality standards thereof .

9.10 In this context, the Secretary during evidence stated as under:-

"The sole responsibility of running the schools lies with the State Governments. We do not have to do anything with it. We are exploring the possibilities of setting up Eklavya Model Residential Schools on the lines of Kendriya Vidyalaya or Navodaya Vidyalaya so that they can be run effectively. We are still doing research on this. We are trying to build that model."

9.11 The Committee note that out of 247 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) 161 Schools have been set up in the States/ UTs under the programme of Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India on the pattern of Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas (RPVVs) of Government of NCT of Delhi, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas to provide high level of education to Scheduled Tribe students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional education courses and get jobs in government and private sectors, but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population. The Committee find that some of these schools are not running smoothly and have poor infrastructure besides lack of quality teachers. The Committee recommend that when full grant is provided to the State Governments by the Centre for these schools, their overall supervision and management should also be centralized on the pattern of Kendriya Vidyalayas. This would certainly bring about a quality change in these EMRs and benefit the students studying there. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry are also doing research regarding establishment of a Central Supervisory Agency to look into the affairs of EMRs for ensuring their quality standards. The Committee appreciate such move and desire that they may be apprised on the progress made in this regard. The Committee desire that the remaining 86 EMRs be completed and made functional at the earliest.

III. INCLUSION OF COMMUNITIES IN THE SCHEDULED TRIBES LIST

10.1 The Constitution of India enjoins on the State a special responsibility for the protection and development of the Scheduled Tribes. Clause (25) of articles 366 of the Constitution defines, "Scheduled Tribes means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution". The Scheduled Tribes are notified by the Presidential Order under Clause (1) of the article 342 of the Constitution, which is as follows:-

"342. Scheduled Tribes:-

- (1) The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.
- (2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification."

Criteria and Procedure for inclusion in / exclusion from and modifications in the Scheduled Tribes List

10.2 The criteria for determining characteristics of a community for specification as Scheduled Tribe are:

- (a) Indications of primitive traits;
- (b) Distinctive culture;
- (c) Geographical isolation;
- (d) Shyness of contact with community at large; and
- (e) Backwardness.

10.3 In accordance with the aforementioned constitutional provision and the criteria evolved, the Scheduled Tribes in relation to particular States or Union Territories were duly notified first in 1950 by an Order of the President, after consultation with the State Governments/ UT Administration concerned. As per the extant procedure, any inclusion in or exclusion from and other modifications in the list of Scheduled Tribes can be made only through an amending Act of Parliament. In order to ensure that only genuine communities are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes, the Cabinet Committee on SCs, STs and Minorities on 15.6.1999, and further amended on 25.6.2002, had laid down the modalities for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists **(Annexure-I)**. As per the modalities only those proposals, which have been justified and recommended by the concerned State Government/ UT Administration and the Registrar General of India (RGI) as well as the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) are to be considered for amending the legislation. After the matter is approved by the

Cabinet, a Bill is introduced in Parliament. In case a proposal is not supported by the RGI, it is referred back to the State Government for reviewing or further justifying their recommendation in the light of the observations of the RGI. In such cases, where the RGI does not agree to the point of view of the State Government/UT Administration on a second reference, the Government of India may consider for rejection. Those cases with which the State Governments and the RGI are in agreement, but which the Commission (NCST) have not supported, would be rejected at the level of Minister for Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

10.4 When the Committee asked the details of Tribes which have been included in the list of Schedule Tribes Order during the last five years, the Ministry submitted the State / UT wise details of communities included in Scheduled Tribes list during the last five years are as under:

Sl. No.	State / UT	Community(ies)
1	Manipur	Inpui, Rongmei, Liangmai, Zeme, Thangal, Mate
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Galo
3	Karnataka	Medara
4	Kerala	Marati (of Hosdurg and kasargod Taluks of Kasargod District)
5	Chhattisgarh	Abhuj Maria, Hill Korwa
6	Puducherry	Irular (including Villi and Vettaikaran)

10.5 The Committee when further enquired about the details of State / UT wise proposals pending for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes with the Ministry and RGI

and latest status of each such proposal, the Ministry furnished the State / UT wise details of proposals under consideration/pending for inclusion in Scheduled Tribes list as under:

**STATUS OF STATE/UT -WISE PENDING PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF COMMUNITIES
IN SCHEDULED TRIBES LIST**

(As on 22.02.2017)

Sl. No.	Name of Community/Communities	Present Status
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	Mandula	Pending with State Government.
2.	KondaKummari	Pending with State Government.
ARUNACHAL PRADESH		
3	Yobin	Pending with State Govt.
4	Delete the word 'any Naga Tribe' and replace with Wancho, Nocte, Tangsa, Tutsa, Olo	Pending with State Govt.
ASSAM		
5	Karbi (Mikir)	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
6	Matak and Maran .	Pending with RGI
7	AmriKarbi	Pending with State
8	Change of Nomenclature of "Miri" to "Mising"	Pending with State Govt.
9	BodoKachari along with other plain tribes living permanently in KarbiAnglong and NC Hills districts and STs(Hills)	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
10	Tai Ahom &Chutia	Pending with RGI
11	Koch Rajbongshi	Pending with RGI
12	Tea Tribes (36 communities)	Pending with RGI
BIHAR		
13	Lohar (□□□□□)	Pending with State Government

CHHATTISGARH		
14	Saura, Sahara, Saora, Soura, Saunra & Saonra, as synonyms of Sawar, Sawara (entry 41)	For “Saunra’, ’Saonra’, Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
15	“Bhuinya, Bhuiyan, Bhuyan, Bhuyya, Bhiyan” communities as synonyms of “BhariaBhumia” listed at entry No. 5	For Bhuinya, Bhuiyan and Bhuyan, Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
16	Gadba without change in English text.(entry 15)	Pending with NCST
17	Dhanuhar, Dhanuwar as a synonym of Dhanwar (entry no. 14)	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
18	Binjhia	Recommendation of NCST received, clarification sought form State Government
19	Sabria	Pending with State Government
20	Rautia,	Pending with State Government
21	Kisan as synonym of Nagesia, Nagasia (entry no. 32)	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
22	Parganiha, Pardhan	Pending with State Govt.
23	Dhuri, Dhoori	Pending with State Govt
24	Banjara, Nayak	Pending with State Govt
25	Amnit, Amneet as sub-caste of Bhattara	Pending with State Govt
26	Kodaku at Sl no.27	Pending with NCST
27	Kond Hindi variant of Kondh	Pending with NCST
28	Nagawanshi without any change in English version at Sl.No.16	pending with RGI
29	Kherwar, Khairwar at sl. No.21	Pending with RGI
30	Majhwar (inclusion of variant Devnagari version) at Sl.No.29	Pending with State
31	TanwarChhatri (removal of comma between Tanwar and Chhatri)	Pending with the State Govt.
32	Parhia	Pending with State Govt.
33	Dhangad (rectification of धनगढ़ in Hindi version by substitution with धांगड़)	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament

34	Dhimar, Kewat, Kahar and Mallah as synonym of Majhi	Pending with State Govt.
35	Bhuihar in Hindi at Sl. No.5	Pending with State Government
36	Pando (Hindi variants)	Pending with NCST
37	Bharia (rectification in Hindi Version) at Sl.No.5	Pending with State Government
38	Gond (inclusion of variant Devanagari version at Sl.No.16	Pending with NCST
GOA		
39	Dhangar (Gauli)	Pending with State Govt.
HIMACHAL PRADESH		
40	'Hatee' community(Sirmour, Shimla and Kullu Districts)	RGI did not support the proposal, under process
JAMMU & KASHMIR		
41	Argons community (Ladakh Region)	Pending with State Govt.
42	Pahari speaking people	Pending with RGI
JHARKHAND		
43	Biar	Pending with State Govt.
44	Kolh (Teli)	Pending with State Govt.
45	Khetauri,Ghatwar / Ghatwal	Pending with State Govt.
46	Puran	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
47	Bhogta, Deshwari, Ganju, Dautalbandi (Dwalbandi), Patbandi, Raut, Maajhia and Khairi (8 communities) as synonym of Kharwar community	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
48	Rautia, Khangar	RGI did not support the proposal, under process
49	Mundari	Pending with RGI
50	Rajgond, Nayak as synonyms of Gond at Sl. No. 11 ST list	Pending with RGI
51	Changing the name of Mal Paharia, KumarbhagPaharia listed at Sl. No. 23 and SauriaPaharia at Sl No. 28 in ST list with name of 'Paharia'	Pending with RGI

KARNATAKA		
52	Gangamathaincluding 37 synonymous	Pending with State Govt.
53	HalakkiVokkalu	Pending with State Govt.
54	Talwara and Pariwara as synonym of Naika/Nayaka	Pending with State Govt.
55	Kuruba (Gulbarga) as synonym of Gond ST of Karnataka.	Pending with State Govt.
56	Kadugolla (Advaigolla) and its other synonyms like Hattigolla	Pending with State.
57	Removal of area restriction Kaniyan, Kanyan (in Kollegal taluk of Mysore district) and inclusion of synonyms of Kani, Kaniya, Kaniyaru, Kaniyar, Kanisan	Pending with State Govt.
KERALA		
58	Vetan and Nayadi	Pending with State Govt.
59	Kunduvadiyan	Pending with State Govt.
60	Malayali	Pending with State Govt.
MADHYA PRADESH		
61	Re-inclusion of Meena, Keer and Pardhi	Pending with State Government
62	Dheemar, Kevat, Kahar, Bhoi, Mallah and Nishad as synonym of Majhi and Majhwar (6 communities)	Pending with State Govt.
63	Kamar as synonym of Kanwar with area restriction in Shahdol District	Pending with State Govt.
64	"Panika" with removal of areas restriction	Pending with State Govt.
65	Badi	Pending with State Govt.
66	Vaadi with area restriction of Jabalpur and Shahdol Division	Pending with State Govt.
MANIPUR		
67	Chakhesang in place of Angmi Naga	Under process
ODISHA		
68	PauriBhuyan / PaudiBhuyan (PTG)	Pending with RGI
69	TamodiaBhumij / TamadiaBhumij / TamudiaBhumij / TamuliaBhumij / TamundiaBhumij	Pending with State Govt.
70	ChuktiaBhunja (PTG)	Pending with RGI

71	Durua	Pending with State Govt.
72	Dhurua	
73	Dhurava	
74	TanlaGauda	Pending with State.
75	Uram	Pending with RGI
76	Dhangara	Pending with RGI
77	Oram / Uraon	Pending with RGI
78	OraonMudi (Mudi)	Pending with RGI
79	KuiKandha	Pending with RGI
80	KandhaKumbhar	Pending with RGI
81	Konda Reddy / KondaReddi	Pending with RGI
82	Muka Dora / Mooka Dora / Nuka Dora / Nooka Dora	Pending with RGI
83	Saara	Pending with State Govt.
84	Putiya/ Putia/ Dulia/ Dhulia/ Putiya Paik/ Dulia Paik/ Dhulia Paik of Koraputdist and Bhuiyar/ Bhuihar/ Bhuinyar/ Bhuinhar of Sundergarh dist.	Pending with RGI
PUNJAB		
85	Buria, Bazigar, Banjara, Bangala, Brara, Ghandhila, Nat and Sansi (including its 33 sub- castes Kuchband, Bhedkut, Manesh, Gatria, Bachhabans, Kopet, Aheria, Tettlu, Bheria, Arhar, bhantu, Chattu, Bhattu, Habura, Kikan, Harrar, Khola, Behlowala, Biddu, Langeh, Singiwala, Kanjar, Mishkari, Bhaginarmaur, Kingicut, Dhe, Kalkinar, Chaddi or Chadi, Birtwal, Biharia, Pakhwara, Haddon, Haria (total 41 communities)	Pending with RGI
SIKKIM		
86	Thami, Bahun, Chhetri, Sanyasi (Jogi) Newar”, KiratKhambuRai, KiratDewan (Yakha), Bhujel, Sunuwar, Mangar and Gurung. (11 communities)	Pending with RGI
TAMIL NADU		
87	MalayaliGounder (withoutarea restriction)	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
88	Kuravan, Sidhanar and 26 other Koravars	Pending with RGI
89	Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikaran community	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok

		Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
90	Kuruma, Kuruman, Kurumba, KurumbaGounder, Kurumban and Kurumbar communities as synonymous of 'Kurumans' ST.	Proposals pending with State Govt.
91	Change of existing names of STs (20 Scheduled Tribes)	Pending with State Govt.
92	Vettaikaran and Vettaikaranayakkan	Pending with State Govt.
93	Yerukula	Pending with State Govt.
94	Valmiki	Pending with State Govt.
TRIPURA		
95	Darlong	Proposal approved by the Cabinet, the Constitution (SCs & STs) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016 introduced in Lok Sabha during winter session, 2016 of Parliament
UTTRAKHAND		
96	Balti	Pending with State Govt.
UTTAR PRADESH		
97	Gihar (Kanjar)	RGI did not support the proposal on second reference, under process
98	Gond, Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, Rajgond in newly created districts of SantKabirnagarKushinagar, Chandauli and SantRavidasnagar.	Pending with NCST
WEST BENGAL		
99	Bhujel, Gurung, Mangar, Newar, Jogi, Khas, Rai, Sunuwar, Thami and Yakha (Dewan) (10 communities) of DarjileelingDist	Pending with State Govt.
100	Kol	Pending with State Govt.
PUDUCHERRY		
101	(i) Kattunayackan (iii) Malaikuravan (iv) Yerukula (v) Kuruman	Pending with RGI

10.6 The Ministry furnished a statement in which 101 proposals are pending with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, RGI, State Governments and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST). The Committee find that out of 101 only 12 proposals have been approved by the Cabinet and a Bill pertaining to those proposals for inclusion in the ST list has been introduced in Lok Sabha during the Winter Session, 2016 of Parliament and is pending. The Committee note that 89 proposals are still pending either with the respective State Governments or with NCST and RGI.

10.7 The Committee find that as of now 89 proposals from various States/UTs are pending for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes List. The Committee are not aware for how long these proposals are pending at various stages/level. The Committee after going through the cumbersome procedure involved for consideration of any Tribe for inclusion in the ST List can, however, very well understand that these proposals might be pending for a very long time at different stages and with different agencies, viz. Registrar General of India(RGI), National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), concerned State Governments/UTs and finally with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. To cite an example, the Committee are aware of at least one proposal from Jharkhand (earlier Bihar, before bifurcation of Bihar) for inclusion of 'Khetauri and Ghatwar/Ghatwal' community in the List of Scheduled Tribes is pending for more than 15 years, at times with RGI and sometime with the State Government. The Committee, however, are happy to see that not a single proposal is pending with the Ministry. The Committee attribute such delays to the fact that Government has not fixed any time limit for RGI, NCST or Ministry of Tribal Affairs to clear or reject such proposals. More so, when any proposal is referred back to the concerned State Government for further clarification(s)/information, that State Government too is not bound to send the requisite clarification to the RGI/ Ministry of Tribal Affairs within a definite time limit. The Committee desire that the Ministry should vigorously pursue with those 22 State Governments, particularly Jharkhand, to furnish their comments/reply expeditiously so that inclusion of their communities in the ST List could be considered timely. The Committee also desire that the Government may also consider fixing up a reasonable time limit for RGI, NCST and the Ministry of Tribal

Affairs too, under which they must consider / decide the proposals so received from the State Governments.

NEW DELHI;

**16 March, 2017
25 Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)
Empowerment**

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

(The Cabinet Committee on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities' in its meeting held on 15th June, 1999 had approved the following modalities and Para (f) amended in its meeting held on 25th June, 2002)

Modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists.

Modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been notified. Such proposals are required to be processed as indicated below:-

(a) Cases favoured by both the State Governments and the Registrar General of India (RGI) in their most recent reports would be referred to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for their opinion. They would be forwarded to the Commission individually or in batches, as may be practicable, along with the comments of the State Governments and the Registrar General of India (RGI) as well as any relevant material/information furnished by them or by representations.

(b) Some issues concern not one but several States e.g. the status of SC/ST migrants. These would also be referred to the National Commission if the RGI and majority of concerned States have supported modification.

(c) It may be suggested to the Commission that, while examining the above cases, they should associate, through panels or other means, expert individuals, organizations and institutions in the fields of anthropology, ethnography and other social sciences, in addition to the State Governments, Registrar General of India (RGI) and the Anthropological Survey of India, on regional basis. They may also consider holding public hearings in areas relevant to the claims under examination. These guidelines cannot be binding on the Commission, but may be suggested in the interest of fuller examination of the cases. The Commission would also be requested to give priority to cases in which the Courts have given directives regarding decision within a stipulated time period. (In such cases, extension of time would be sought from the courts where necessary, citing these modalities for the determination of claims). Such cases would be separately processed and sent for earlier decision.

(d) Amending legislation would be proposed to the Cabinet in all cases in which the National Commission, RGI as well as the State Governments have favoured

modification. Those cases with which the State Governments and the RGI are in agreement, but which the Commission have not supported, would be rejected at the level of Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

(e) Claims for inclusion, exclusion or other modifications that neither the RGI nor the concerned State Governments have supported would not be referred to the National Commission. These would be rejected at the level of the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

(f) In case of claims recommended by the concerned State Governments/Union territory Administrations, but not agreed to by the Registrar General of India, the concerned State Government/Union territory Administration would be asked to review and further justify their recommendations in the light of the comments of the RGI. On receipt of the further clarification from the State Government/Union territory Administration, the proposal would be referred to the RGI for comments. In such cases, where the RGI does not agree to the point of view of the State Government/Union territory Administration on a second reference, the Government of India may consider rejection of the said proposal.

(g) Claims in respect of which the comments of either the RGI or the State Government or of both are awaited would remain under consideration until their views are received. Thereafter, they would be dealt with in accordance with the modalities at (a) to (f) above.

(h) Claims recommended suo-moto by the National Commission would be referred to RGI and the State Governments. Depending on their responses, they would be disposed of in accordance with the modalities at (d) to (f) as may be applicable.

(Note:- The Note for the 'Cabinet Committee on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities' moved by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, vide their Note No. 12016/36/96-SCD(RL Cell) dated 17th December, 1998 and Note dated 17th January, 2002)

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-17) HELD ON TUESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 2017

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1330 hrs. in Committee Room No. '62', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
7. Smt. K. Maragatham
8. Shri Kariya Munda
9. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
12. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
13. Smt. Mamata Thakur

RAJYA SABHA

14. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
15. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
16. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
17. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
18. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
19. Smt. Chhaya Verma
20. Shri Ramkumar Verma

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 Anoop Kumar Srivastava	Secretary
2.	Shri Rajesh Aggarwal	Joint Secretary
3.	Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua	Joint Secretary
4.	Smt. Sarita Mittal	Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor
5.	Ms. Sangeeta Mahendra	Executive Director (Finance), TRIFED
6.	Ms. Sunanda Sharma	Economic Advisor
7.	Shri Lal Sanglur	Economic Advisor
8.	Shri G. Ramesh Kumar	CMD, NSTFDC

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened to have discussion on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Impressing upon the witnesses to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential', the Chairperson asked the Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly briefed the Committee about the overall performance of the Ministry detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred, physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with the help of a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting relating to Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry are as follows:-

- (i) Under-utilization of funds under major schemes of the Ministry during the year 2016-17

- (ii) Diversion of funds under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan.
- (iii) Non-receipt of Utilization Certificates and less proposals received from the State Governments under Pre & Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for ST students.
- (iv) Need for establishment of a Central Supervisory Agency for overall supervision of Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- (v) Setting up of more Vocational Training Centres for tribals.
- (vi) Nil utilization of funds under Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP).

4. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson then directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat by 2nd March, 2017 for early finalization of the Report.

5. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry 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 has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 16th MARCH, 2017

The Committee met from 1000 hrs. to 1045 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 116, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Jhina Hikaka
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
7. Dr. Udit Raj
8. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
10. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
11. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
12. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
13. Smt. Chhaya Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
4. 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) Thirty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (iv) *** *** *** *** **

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any modification. 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.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3
12	2.12	<p>The Committee note that out of Budget allocation of Rs. 4800.00 crore which was reduced at the RE stage for the year 2016-17, the Ministry could utilized only Rs. 3627.80 crore. The Ministry have submitted that the remaining amount of Rs. 1172.20 crore will be utilized fully by the end of the financial year 2016-17. The Committee are dismayed to note that the expenditure of the Ministry was 85.52 percent in 2014-15, 93.33 percent in 2015-16 and during the year 2016-17 fiscal it was only 75.60 percent (as on 20.02.2017) under the Plan Head. The Ministry in this regard, have reasoned that non-receipt of Utilization Certificates and receipt of less proposals from the State Governments have led to non-utilisation of full funds. The Committee are constrained to note that BE of 2017-18 has been reduced for those schemes also viz. NSTFDC and Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations which are working for welfare of Tribals in which funds allocated at RE stage during 2016-17 have been fully utilized. Reduction of funds of these Schemes for 2017-18 is beyond comprehension of the Committee. The Committee, further, desire that the Ministry should pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance at RE stage and request them not to cut the allocation of these Schemes which performed well last year and where the utilization of funds was optimal.</p>
18	3.9	<p>The Committee note that SCA to Tribal Sub Plan is one of the major schemes of the Ministry for providing welfare and Development activities in Tribal areas. The Committee also note that the funds allocated for the scheme at BE stage were Rs. 1250.00 crore and reduced to Rs. 1200.00 crore at RE stage and the Ministry could utilize only Rs. 936.00 crore as on 20.02.2017 in 2016-17. The Committee also note that UCs and proposals for the year 2014-15 are still pending from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Assam. The Committee in their earlier reports, have time and again impressed upon the Ministry to take effective measures to overcome these recurrent impediments which adversely impact the utilization of funds. The Committee are of the considered view that as submission of UCs in time is a pre-requisite for further release of funds under the Scheme, so, it is high time the Ministry ironed out the deficiencies /anomalies and worked out the concrete measures so as to ensure optimal utilization of funds in future.</p>
18-19	3.10	<p>The Committee find that TSP funds were diverted during the year 2010-11 to 2013-14 and spent for Minority Institution and were also spent for ineligible States i.e. Punjab and Haryana. The</p>

		<p>Committee have been informed that for the propose of monitoring the scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been given mandate for monitoring of TSP of Central Ministries based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are in the process of developing an online monitoring system which will also help to check diversions of TSP funds. The Committee find that the States like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have laws/Acts to check diversion of SCA to TSP. The Committee strongly feel that since the Special Central Assistance to TSP is very vital for development activities of Tribals, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should complete the process of developing of online monitoring system without any delay to check the diversion of funds.</p>
23	4.8	<p>The Committee note that Grant-in-Aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes scheme enhances the reach of welfare schemes of the Government and fill the gaps in service deficient tribal areas in the sectors like education, health, drinking water, social security net through the VOs/NGOs/Autonomous Societies. The Committee find that the allocation under the Scheme for the year 2016-17 was increased to Rs. 120.00 crore but the Ministry could utilize only Rs. 84.26 crore as on 20.02.2017. The Committee were informed that during July, 2016 instructions have been issued by NITI Aayog that grants should be released to only those NGOs who are registered on the NGOs-PS Portal of NITI Aayog. Accordingly, it took considerable time for NGOs to register themselves on the Portal which slowed the pace of release of funds. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should co-ordinate with all the State Governments/NGOs/NITI Aayog for early registration on the Portal so that remaining funds could be utilized by the end of the financial year and more and more tribals are benefitted.</p>
31	5.12	<p>The Committee note that out of Rs. 60.00 crore RE in 2016-17, the NSTFDC, as on 29.12.2016 could utilize only Rs. 25.00 crore which is not even 50% of the allocation. The Committee also observe that NSTFDC provides loans upto 90 per cent for the Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) at the interest rate of 4% per annum. The Committee are surprised to note that during 2014-15 the number of beneficiaries were 11616 which were reduced to 548 during 2015-16, while there was no beneficiary in States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura. Further, during 2016-17 only five States could be covered under the scheme. The Committee are of the considered view that this is mainly due to no demand or less demand from these States and which is a result of lack of awareness among tribal women in the tribal areas. The Committee have been advising the Ministry time and</p>

		again to make the budgeting exercise more prudent and also to strengthen the monitoring mechanism so as to achieve maximum utilization of funds. The Committee urge the NSTFDC to impress upon the SCAs to have a more proactive approach towards the tribal women so that the mandated objective of the NSTFDC is justified and achieved too. The Committee also desire that NSTFDC should make all out efforts to give due publicity of the Scheme in far flung tribal areas and try to reach the remote tribal areas so that there are more and more beneficiaries under the Scheme.
35	6.5	The Committee find that the Scheme of Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price is meant to provide safety net and support to the people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who are solely depend upon collection and selling of Minor Forest Produce. The Committee are surprised to note that in the year 2014-15, out of BE of Rs. 317.00 crore, only Rs.100.00 crore was utilized. The more hurting fact that BE for 2016-17 was reduced drastically from Rs. 158.00 crore to Rs. 3.00 crore at RE stage and expenditure is 'nil' as on 29.12.2016. The Ministry have stated that the reasons for not utilizing the funds in the year 2016-17 and less allocation for 2017-18 as the States already have sufficient amount of Revolving Fund for utilizing it to procure MFP items and, therefore, they have not demanded more funds. Further, prevailing market price for MFP items has continued to be higher than the MSP fixed by the Government is also one of the reasons for no demand from States under the Scheme. The Committee are satisfied with the reply given by the Ministry for low utilization of funds under the Scheme to some extent. However, the Committee feel that such an important Scheme for Tribal people which was started just three years back should be again reviewed thoroughly after conducting proper study/visits/discussions with all the stakeholders i.e., State Governments, representatives of Tribal Association and State Procuring Agencies responsible for running the Scheme. The Committee wish to be apprised with the outcome of a such study.
44-45	7.14	The Committee note that various educational schemes for tribals viz. Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, Construction of Hostels for ST boys and girls, Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP areas and Vocational Training Centres in tribal areas have been merged/subsumed under single umbrella scheme for providing education to the students in tribal areas. The Committee find that under the umbrella scheme for education of STs, an amount of Rs.36.97 crore has been surrendered by the Ministry during the last year due to receipt of less proposals and pending Utilization Certificates from the State Governments. The Committee also find that during the year 2014-15, the States of J&K, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand had

		<p>no beneficiary under Pre- Matric Scholarship Scheme. Similarly, there was no beneficiary under the Scheme in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 in the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Telangana, West Bengal and Dadar & Nagar Haveli. As regards, Post- Matric Scholarship Scheme the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Dadar & Nagar Haveli have no beneficiary in the year 2016-17. The Committee feel that allocation under the Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes could be a very lucrative and good incentive for continuing the education for Tribal students from Primary level to Secondary level. The Committee desire that the Ministry should give utmost attention towards these two Scholarship Schemes as these Schemes provide valuable support for the ST students to raise their educational status, enabling them to become a part of the mainstream society. The Committee also urge the Ministry to sensitize the State Governments for bearing their liability towards completing all the formalities and full utilization of funds under the Schemes so that more and more students would avail the benefits of these Schemes keeping in view the limitation imposed by historical injustices on this community.</p>
47	8.4	<p>The Committee have been informed that the medium of education is generally State language or English language for imparting education to students in tribal areas. The Committee find that the tribal students, particularly belonging to remote tribal areas are not able to understand these languages, specially at the level of Primary education. The Committee were told that the State Governments have been instructed by the Ministry to develop bilingual primers containing both in regional and local tribal languages to facilitate learning in the schools in tribal areas and for this purpose, funds have already been granted to the States of Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Kerala from where the proposals were received to prepare bilingual primers through TRI. The Committee appreciate the move initiated by the Ministry and urge that this momentum ought to be maintained so that more State Governments come forward and send their proposals to the Ministry. The Committee note with concern that the dropout rate and illiteracy rate are higher among the tribals <i>vis-a-vis</i> other communities. The Committee desire that the causes must be identified, rectified and if need be necessary steps be taken in coordination with the State Governments/UTs so that dropout rate and illiteracy among tribals could be checked.</p>
52	9.11	<p>The Committee note that out of 247 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) 161 Schools have been set up in the States/ UTs under the programme of Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India on the pattern of Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas (RPVVs)</p>

		<p>of Government of NCT of Delhi, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas to provide high level of education to Scheduled Tribe students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional education courses and get jobs in government and private sectors, but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population. The Committee find that some of these schools are not running smoothly and have poor infrastructure besides lack of quality teachers. The Committee recommend that when full grant is provided to the State Governments by the Centre for these schools, their overall supervision and management should also be centralized on the pattern of Kendriya Vidyalayas. This would certainly bring about a quality change in these EMRs and benefit the students studying there. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry are also doing research regarding establishment of a Central Supervisory Agency to look into the affairs of EMRs for ensuring their quality standards. The Committee appreciate such move and desire that they may be apprised on the progress made in this regard. The Committee desire that the remaining 86 EMRs be completed and made functional at the earliest.</p>
63-64	10.7	<p>The Committee find that as of now 89 proposals from various States/UTs are pending for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes List. The Committee are not aware for how long these proposals are pending at various stages/level. The Committee after going through the cumbersome procedure involved for consideration of any Tribe for inclusion in the ST List can, however, very well understand that these proposals might be pending for a very long time at different stages and with different agencies, viz. Registrar General of India(RGI), National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), concerned State Governments/UTs and finally with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. To cite an example, the Committee are aware of at least one proposal from Jharkhand (earlier Bihar, before bifurcation of Bihar) for inclusion of 'Khetauri and Ghatwar/Ghatwal' community in the List of Scheduled Tribes is pending for more than 15 years, at times with RGI and sometime with the State Government. The Committee, however, are happy to see that not a single proposal is pending with the Ministry. The Committee attribute such delays to the fact that Government has not fixed any time limit for RGI, NCST or Ministry of Tribal Affairs to clear or reject such proposals. More so, when any proposal is referred back to the concerned State Government for further clarification(s)/information, that State Government too is not bound to send the requisite clarification to the RGI/ Ministry of Tribal Affairs within a definite time limit. The Committee desire that the Ministry should vigorously pursue with those 22 State Governments, particularly Jharkhand, to furnish their</p>

		comments/reply expeditiously so that inclusion of their communities in the ST List could be considered timely. The Committee also desire that the Government may also consider fixing up a reasonable time limit for RGI, NCST and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs too, under which they must consider / decide the proposals so received from the State Governments.
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