

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE
(2003)**
(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the
Thirty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on Demands for
Grants-2003-2004 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
December 2003/Agrahayana 1925 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND
WELFARE (2003)**

Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora-CHAIRMAN
LOK SABHA
MEMBERS

2. Shri Ashok Argal
3. Shri Denzil B. Atkinson
4. Smt. Sandhya Bauri
5. Shri Joachim Baxla
6. Shri Padmanava Behera
7. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel
8. Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhuri
9. Shri Bhim Prasad Dahal
10. Shri Krishan Lal Diler
11. Shri M. Durai
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13. Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale
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15. Shri Ramjee Manjhi
16. Shri Bherulal Meena
17. Shri Punnu Lal Mohale
18. Shri Dalpat Singh Parste
19. Shri Raj Narain Passi
20. Shri R.S. Patil
21. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan
22. Shri Madhab Rajbangshi
23. Dr. Vukkala Rajeswaramma
24. Shri Ramshakal
25. Dr. D.V.G. Shankar Rao
26. Shri Y.S. Vivekanand Reddy
27. Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh
28. Shri Khelsai Singh
29. Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava

RAJYA SABHA

30. Shri B.P. Apte
31. Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia
32. Shri Debabrata Biswas
33. Ms. Pramila Bohidar
34. Shri Indramoni Bora
35. Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma
36. Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra
37. Dr. (Mrs.) Kum Kum Rai
38. Shri Kanshi Ram
39. Shri Dilip Ray
40. Shri Jibon Roy
41. Smt. Savita Sharda
42. Shri Uday Pratap Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Shri N.K. Sapra. | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri J.P. Sharma | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Bhupesh Kumar | - | Under Secretary |
| 4. Km. M. Tunglut | - | Sr. Executive Assistant |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-sixth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants-2003-2004 relating to Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Thirty-first Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 10 April 2003. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 17 July 2003. The report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare at their sitting held on 11 December 2003.

3. The Report has been divided into the following chapters:-

- I. Report.
- II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government.
- III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply.
- IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.
- V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix.

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

New Delhi:
December 2003

Agrahayana 1925 (Saka)

Dr. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA,
Chairman

**Standing Committee on Labour
and Welfare**

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-first Report of the Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants-2003-2004 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

1.2 The Thirty-first Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 10 April 2003. It contained 17 recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all recommendations have been examined and are categorised as under :-

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government:
Paragraph Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 15 and 17

(Total 7 - Chapter II)
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:
Paragraph Sl. Nos. 2, 10, 11 and 14.

(Total 4 - Chapter III)
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:
Paragraph Sl. Nos. 6 and 13.

(Total 2 - Chapter IV)
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:
Paragraph Sl. Nos. 8, 9, 12 and 16.

(Total 4 - Chapter V)

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

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken replies of the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

A. Monetary and non-monetary incentives for officers and staff posted in tribal areas

Recommendation (Sl. No.6, Para No.2.33)

1.5 The Committee had recommended that a part of the SCA funds may be utilized for providing monetary and non-monetary incentives to the officers and staff posted in remote tribal areas as suggested by the Working Groups for empowering the Scheduled Tribes during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07).

1.6 In its action taken note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry has stated that since SCA to TSP is meant for filling up of the critical gaps to cover the family, Self-Help Groups/community based employment-cum-income generation activities and the infrastructure incidental thereto and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals. The SCA funds may, therefore, not be used for monetary and non-monetary incentives for the officers and staff posted in remote tribal areas.

1.7 The Committee take note of the logic put forward by the Ministry that SCA to TSP is basically meant for filling up of critical gaps to cover the family, Self-Help Groups/community based employment-cum-income generation activities, etc. and therefore, it may not be used for giving incentives to officers and staff posted in remote tribal areas. The Committee, however, feel that providing monetary and non-monetary benefits is absolutely necessary for effective implementation of schemes for the tribals. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge the Ministry to earmark some funds specifically for the purpose of providing incentives to the officers and staff posted in remote tribal areas. Other non-monetary benefits like creation of sub-cadres etc. may also be worked out and the Planning Commission be approached with concrete proposals in this regard.

B. Setting up of Educational Complexes for ST girls

Recommendation (Sl.No.13, Para 2.72)

1.8 The Committee had taken note of the fact that no expenditure was reportedly incurred by the States of Karnataka, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand during 1999-2000; Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand during 2000-2001 and Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Tripura during 2001-2002 for setting up of educational complexes for ST girl students. Viewing the situation seriously, the Committee had urged the Ministry to pursue the State Governments to submit detailed proposals complete in all respects so that funds could be sanctioned and expenditure incurred for the education of ST girl students.

1.9 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their action taken note furnished to the Committee, have stated that the scheme of Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets is operative in 11 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, U.P and West Bengal. The State of Himachal Pradesh is not covered under the scheme. The Ministry have sanctioned educational complexes in the States of Karnataka, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Tripura.

1.10 The State Governments which have not availed the benefits of the scheme have been impressed upon repeatedly to send the proposals of the organisations every year. The issue was discussed with State Secretaries in the meeting held in June 2003. However, the response of the State Governments with regard to sending the proposals is still not encouraging. The Ministry have urged the State Governments to send adequate proposals for setting up of new educational complexes and running of ongoing projects.

1.11 The Committee express their unhappiness and serious concern over the reply of the Ministry that response of State Governments with regard to sending proposals for setting up educational complexes is still not encouraging in spite of discussions with State Secretaries held in June 2003 in this regard. The Committee, therefore, desire that the scheme should be properly assessed and made more attractive so that the States may come forward with adequate proposals for setting up educational complexes and running of ongoing projects. The Committee also urge the Ministry to popularize the scheme by giving due publicity in not only the print and the popular electronic media but also the traditional media for generating awareness among the States and putting across the message to

the targeted tribal populace so that the ST girls are benefited under the scheme.

Chapter-II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

RECOMMENDATION (SI. NO.1, PARA 2.14)

2.1 The Committee note that the expenditure incurred under Plan Scheme of the Ministry during 2002-03 has been unusually low upto 31st January 2003 i.e. only Rs.382.01 crore out of the Revised Estimate of Rs.1012 crore. The pace of expenditure upto February 2003 is also quite slow with the percentage of expenditure reaching 78.76% during 2002-03 as compared to 92.54% during 2001-02 upto the month of February. The reasons put forth by the Ministry are delay in getting approval of the Planning Commission for continuation of each of the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan period and late approval of revised guidelines for utilisation of funds under SCA to TSP and Grants under first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Although the Ministry have assured that they will achieve their financial targets, the Committee regret that funds released at the end of the financial year invariably leads to failure on the part of the States/implementing agencies to utilise the amount within the financial year and hence there would be further delay in getting the utilisation certificates from them. In the opinion of the Committee, this vicious cycle should be curbed to avoid further delays and bottlenecks in the effective implementation of the scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take extra efforts to get its schemes approved well in advance from the appropriate authority so that sanctioning and release of funds towards the end of the financial year is minimized and States/implementing agencies are able to utilise the funds right from the beginning of the financial year.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.2 The revised guidelines regarding release and utilisation of grants under SCA to TSP have since been approved by the Planning Commission and issued to all State Governments vide Circular No.14020/5/2003-SG&C dated 2.5.2003. During the year 2002-03, the approval of the proposed revision caused delay in sanction of the grants to the States.

2.3 Action had already been initiated at the commencement of this financial year for release of 50% of the total budget provision of Rs.497 crore under SCA to TSP as the 1st instalment to various States. It is expected that funds will be released well in advance during the current year.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI. NO.3, PARA 2.16)

2.4 The Committee are pleased to note that the Ministry have constituted a Project Screening Committee to scrutinize and screen the proposals received from NGOs. During 2002-2003, about 1,200 proposals of NGOs have been screened and as many as 156 projects have been selected for sanction. Keeping in view the huge number of proposals received from NGOs every year, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should evolve a mechanism to discourage the non-serious NGOs from applying for grant at the earliest. With the passing of "The Freedom of Information Bill", the Committee also urge the Ministry to ensure more transparency in the selection process of NGOs so that complaints bringing bad name to the Ministry are minimized. Steps taken and progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.5 Grant-in-aid is released on the basis of the inspection report of the District Collector and recommendation of the State Government. In order that the non-serious NGOs are discouraged for applying for grant in aid, the State Governments have been requested to ensure that the proposals of the reputed and serious organisations are sent to the Ministry at the first instance. The Project Screening Committee constituted to scrutinize and screen the proposals of NGOs also ensures that the funds are released only to the committed and serious NGOs. During the year 2002-03, the Members of the Project Screening Committee conducted physical verification of a few organisations before recommending their proposals for sanctioning. As regards transparency in the selection process of the proposals of NGOs, it is submitted that the proposals received in the Ministry are scrutinized in the meetings attended by the representatives of other Ministries besides the Non-Official Members of the Project Screening Committee. The list of proposals received, list of proposals recommended etc. are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for their information and also for informing the concerned NGOs.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.4, PARA 2.31)

2.6 The Committee note that new guidelines for release and utilisation of SCA to TSP have been finalized by the Planning Commission on 3.3.2003 and are in the process of being issued. The revised guidelines provide for community based employment generating activities, a portion of SCA funds for separate women component, TSP component of State Plan to be put in a separate budget head under the tribal welfare department of States, 10% of SCA funds proposed for extending incentives to States for effective implementation of TSP, earmarking for each of the ITDA/ITDP, etc. The Committee welcome the positive steps taken by the Ministry and desire that the new guidelines should be issued to all the States/UTs without delay. The Committee recommend that adequate publicity should be made to make the States aware of the system of rewards for adopting the TSP approach in letter and spirit so that they may come forward with better proposals.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.7 The revised guidelines have been issued to the Secretaries in charge of Tribal Development in the States/UTs, the Commissioners/Directors, Tribal Development of the States/UTs, the Project Directors of all the ITDPs/ITDAs, Planning Commission, National Commission for SCs and STs, Central Ministries/Departments/Finance Department of the States having ST population, Planning Department of the States having ST population and Tribal Research Institutes of the States to give adequate publicity to the scheme. The guidelines were also discussed in the Review meeting held in the Ministry from 2 to 4 June 2003 with the Tribal Welfare Secretaries/Commissioners of various States. A floppy of the schemes and revised guidelines was also given to the Secretaries from the State Governments for further dissemination of information on scheme including changes in SCA guidelines, to field level officers.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI. NO.5, PARA 2.32)

2.8 The Committee note with concern that SCA funds have not been going down to the field level agencies as the States are using it to pay salaries and supplement their own ways and means. The Committee further note that the Report of the CAG of India for the year ended March 1998 have revealed that the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal had deposited SCA funds in PLA/Civil Deposit (Rs.71.09 crore) and in Banks (Rs.155.92 crore). The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to persuade the State Governments/UT Administrations not to divert SCA funds to supplement their ways and means and release the same to the field level agencies without delay so that they may utilise the amount for the socio-economic development of the poor tribal people.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.9 The issue of diversion of funds has been duly taken care of in the parts IV(ii), part V & VIth revised guidelines . The ITDA wise earmarking of funds is being done from the year 2003-04 which is expected to create sufficient pressure from the field and people's representatives for release of funds to the respective ITDPs/ITDAs. A separate unit has also been specifically included on Monitoring & Evaluation. The new revised format for physical and financial progress has also been devised in such a way that detailed information/progress is regularly received in the Ministry.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (Sl.No.7, PARA 2.47)

2.10 The Committee note that due to non-receipt of proposals and utilisation certificates from State Governments in time, there is a shortfall in the expenditure under grants under First Proviso to article 275(1) of the Constitution during 2002-03. However, due to continued persuasions, a number of States have already sent proposals for the year 2003-04 and the Ministry have proposed to convene a meeting in the first quarter of the financial year to consider the proposals. The Committee welcome this positive development and further urge the Ministry to maintain close interaction with the States to avoid delays in getting their proposals and releasing of funds.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.11 The Ministry had already convened a meeting from 2 to 4 June 2003 with Tribal Welfare Secretaries/Commissioners of various States to review the physical and financial progress of various schemes. The States were also requested to bring project proposals under article 275(1) of the Constitution during the meeting. The Ministry have already received proposals from various States for the current financial year 2003-04.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.15, PARA 2.84)

2.12 The Committee note with concern that only few States, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Mizoram, Orissa and Tripura have been setting up Vocational Training Centres for training the tribal youths for employment/self employment during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. During the current year, proposals have been received from 11 States. The Committee are of the view that publicity and awareness programme about the scheme has not been adequate. The Committee, recommend that the Ministry should make all out efforts to popularize the scheme so that the other State Governments may also come forward with proposals for imparting training to the tribal youths.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.13 The scheme of Vocational Training Centre has been launched on website along with other schemes being run by this Ministry to give them wide publicity. A meeting of all concerned State Secretaries was organized in the Ministry from 2.6.2003 to 4.6.2003 for discussing the various problems being faced in implementation of various schemes of the Ministry. During this meeting the State Governments were asked to send their proposals in regard to various schemes including the VTC scheme also. Officers of this Ministry are also deputed to take part in seminars, etc. in State Governments where they also *inter-alia* explain about the various schemes being run by this Ministry. A two-day national seminar is also being organized in August/September 2003 at New Delhi with State Tribal/Welfare Ministers where this issue would *inter-alia* be raised.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.17, PARA 2.94)

2.14 The Committee note that the scheme of ‘Exchange of visits by tribals’ was introduced in 2001-02 but no amount has so far been spent due to late receipt of proposals. A number of proposals are, however, in advanced stage of sanction. The Committee desire that sanction and release of funds under the scheme should be done at the earliest so that the tribal people will gain exposure and stronger social and cultural ties with the mainstream will be ensured.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.15 Funds were released under the scheme during 2002-03 to the States of Gujarat, Tripura, Rajasthan, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Zone Cultural Centre (Min. Of Tourism)for undertaking visits of tribals to different parts of the country.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

Chapter-III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.2, PARA 2.15)

3.1 The Committee note with concern that due to non-submission or late submission of utilization certificates, grants could not be released to the States of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh under the scheme of Boys and Girls hostels; Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura under the schemes of Vocational Training Centres, Post Matric Scholarships, Book Banks and Upgradation of merit of ST students, respectively. In the opinion of the Committee due to non release of grants it is the education of the tribal students and schemes of direct benefit to the tribals suffer for no fault of theirs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a meeting of State Governments should be convened at the highest level to resolve the perennial problem of non-submission or late submission of utilization certificates at the earliest. Steps taken and progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

3.2 In accordance with the recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee, a meeting of all concerned State Secretaries was organized in the Ministry from 2.6.2003 to 4.6.2003 to impress upon them the need of sending utilization certificates in time.

3.3 The representatives from State Governments had also brought certain utilization certificates. It is hoped that others will also send their utilization certificates henceforth.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.10, PARA 2.60)

3.4 The Committee note with concern that the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have not agreed to grant tax exemption to TRIFED for the forest and agricultural produce of the tribals while the other States have not responded to the request made by TRIFED in this regard. The Committee observe that in the absence of tax exemption/exemption from statutory levies for TRIFED, private traders enjoy a competitive edge due to their unauthorized act of evasion of taxes and other statutory levies. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Ministry should take up the matter with the concerned State Governments at the highest level for waiving the tax/statutory levies for TRIFED in the case of the forest and agricultural produce of the tribals.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

3.5 The Ministry has taken up the issue with all the TSP States to grants tax exemption to TRIFED for forest and agricultural produce of the tribals.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.11, PARA 2.70)

3.6 The Committee note that though the Ministry provides full funding for setting up of educational complexes yet adequate proposals are not forthcoming from reputed and committed NGOs, as they are incapable to arrange the requisite infrastructure in the far flung inaccessible tribal areas. The Committee further note that the Ministry has provided funds to the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tripura to run 53 educational complexes. Keeping in view the urgent need to educate the backward tribal girls to improve their socio-economic status, the Committee urge the Ministry to persuade the other State Governments as well as Panchayat Raj Institutions who will be in a better position to create the necessary infrastruture to set up and run these educational complexes.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

3.7 The State Governments concerned are requested to send the proposals of Non-Governmental Organizations including the Panchayat Raj Institutions for setting up of new complexes every year at the commencement of the financial year. The need for sending the proposals was also stressed in the State Secretaries meetings taken by the Ministry from 2 to 4 June 2003. In addition, the officers visiting the States also impress upon the State Govts. to send the requisite number of proposals of the organisations which are desirous of setting up new educational complexes and also for sending the inspection reports and recommendation of the State Government in respect of all the ongoing educational complexes. The concern of the Ministry in this regard has been well taken by the State Govts. as the expenditure under the scheme has risen to Rs.6.00 crore during the year 2002-03 against the expenditure of Rs.4.00 crore during 2001-02 and Rs.1.23 crore during 2000-01 etc. As a follow-up action on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the State Governments have again been requested to send more proposals as per D.O. letter of 27 May 2003.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.14, PARA 2.83)

3.8 The Committee note that there is likelihood of shortfall in the allocation under the NGO component for setting up of Vocational Training Centres in tribal areas due to non-receipt of complete proposals from NGOs. The Committee further note that this has also been the case in other schemes where NGOs are involved. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should prepare a ‘checklist’ outlining all the required documents to be submitted along with the proposals and the same should be circulated to all the State Governments and UT Administrations who will, in turn, make it available in all their regional and local offices. The Committee also desire that the application form from the NGOs should be cross-checked against the ‘checklist’ at the time of submission to avoid delays in scrutinizing and processing of the proposals.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

3.9 The Ministry have formulated the schemes, financial norms and guidelines governing the grants in aid to NGOs. These guidelines including checklist of documents to be submitted along with proposals are already available with the State Governments. The Ministry writes to the State Governments every year at the commencement of the financial year with a request to send the requisite proposals of the NGOs under the relevant schemes, to remind the State Governments from time to time. Further, the information on the text of the schemes, guidelines etc. have been made available

3.10 At the time of receipt of the proposals in the Ministry, these are scrutinized to ensure its completeness and the State Governments concerned or the NGOs concerned are informed about the weakness of the proposals as early as possible. In case the proposal is incomplete in respect of the documents of the NGO, the concerned NGO is asked to send additional documents. In cases where the inspection report and recommendation of the State Governments are in wanting, the State Governments are requested for sending the same.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

Chapter-IV

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

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.6, PARA 2.33)

4.1 The Committee note that the Working Group for empowering the STs during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) appointed by the Planning Commission had recommended that a part of the SCA funds may be used for the purpose of providing incentive to the officers and staff posted in remote tribal areas on the basis of the recommendation made by the Maheshwar Prasad Group on administrative arrangements/personnel policy in the tribal areas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make adequate provisions for monetary and non-monetary incentives for the officers and staff posted in remote tribal areas so that instead of taking such postings as punishments, they may work whole heartedly for the upliftment and welfare of the poor tribal people. The competent/appropriate authority may be approached for approval/sanction of the scheme at the earliest.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.2 The Ministry is of the view that since SCA to TSP is meant for filling up of the critical gaps to cover the family, the Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/community based employment-cum-income generation activities and the infrastructure incidental thereto and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals, the SCA funds may, therefore, not be used for monetary and non-monetary incentives for the officers and staff posted in remote tribal areas.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl.No.13, Para 2.72)

4.3 The Committee note that under the scheme of educational complexes, no expenditure has been reported from the States of Karnataka, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand during 1999-2000; Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand during 2000-2001; and Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Tripura during 2001-2002. The Committee view the situation seriously and urge the Ministry to pursue the State Governments to submit detailed proposals complete in all respects so that funds could be sanctioned and expenditure incurred for the education of ST girls students.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.4 The scheme of Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets is operative in 11 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, U.P. and West Bengal. The State of Himachal Pradesh is not covered under the scheme. The Ministry have sanctioned educational complexes in the States of Karnataka, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Tripura.

4.5 The State Governments which have not availed the benefits of the scheme have been impressed upon repeatedly to send the proposals of the organisations every year. The issue was discussed with State Secretaries in the meeting held in the Ministry in June, 2003. However, the response of the State Governments with regard to sending the proposals is still not encouraging.

4.6 The Ministry have urged the State Governments to send adequate proposals for setting up of new educational complexes and running of ongoing projects.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.11 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Chapter-V

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

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.8, PARA 2.48)

5.1 The Committee note that the rate of utilisation of funds under the scheme has not been satisfactory. The percentage of expenditure incurred during 1999-2000 is 59.2%, during 2000-2001 it is 70.3% and 53.47% during 2001-02. The Committee further note that the projects sanctioned during 2001-02 are in varying degrees of completion. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should vigorously pursue with the State Governments for improving their utilisation of funds and also to ensure that all the projects under the scheme are completed within the expected period of 18 months.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.2 The Ministry is making all efforts to persuade the State Governments to complete all the projects sanctioned under the scheme of grants under article 275(1) of the Constitution within 18 months. However, it may be added that some projects have longer gestation period. It has already been mentioned in reply to para 2.47 that the Ministry had convened a meeting to review physical and financial progress of various schemes during 2 to 4 June 2003 and all the States were requested to submit project-wise physical and financial progress under article 275(1) of the Constitution since 2000-01. It may be mentioned that the Ministry have received positive response from most of the States. The progress of these projects is however under compilation in the Ministry.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.9, PARA 2.59)

5.3 The Committee note that an Independent Management Consultancy Organisation, M/s. Insight Management Consultants had been engaged by TRIFED to prepare a comprehensive re-organisation and re-structuring plan to match the changing market environment. The report of the Consultants is under consideration of the Board of Directors of TRIFED. Keeping in view the fact that TRIFED has been facing financial crunch over the years, the Committee desire that it should grow on commercial lines and fulfill its mandate of bringing better returns to the tribals for their produce. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue TRIFED for an early decision in the matter so that TRIFED is suitably restructured and strengthened to face the changing market environment and fulfill its primary objective of giving remunerative prices to the tribals for their forest and agricultural produce effectively.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.4 The report of the Consultants has been considered by the Board of Directors of TRIFED and they have taken the following decision with regard to some of the important recommendations of the Consultants:

- (i) The recommendation with regard to change in focus of activity of TRIFED has been accepted by them as it is in tune with the basic mandate of TRIFED.
- ii) So far as setting up of subsidiary institution to look after the basic mandate of TRIFED is concerned, the same is not accepted because it is contrary to the provision of the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002
- iii) TRIFED has also accepted the downsizing of the existing staff in a phased manner.
- iv) So far as financial boost is concerned, TRIFED has sent a proposal to the Ministry for grant of additional amount to them so that the restructuring process can be started. The matter is under consideration of this Ministry.

5.5 The basic role of TRIFED as per the reoriented approach will be that of a service provider/market developer. TRIFED would render the requisite services as provided under Bye-laws as laid down in Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 (MSCS Act) to its member organization in the direction of marketing development of products. However, it would also continue to undertake procurement of oil seeds and pulses in TSP areas under the price support scheme in compliance with the directions of the Government of India. TRIFED has also agreed to undertake procurement operations in

terms of section 122 of the MSCS Act, 2002 whenever the Central Government gives such directions to them in case a situation arises warranting intervention on the part of the Central Government.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.12, PARA 2.71)

5.6 The Committee note with grave concern that out of 136 districts having less than 10% ST female literacy identified so far, educational complexes have been sanctioned in only 69 districts. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make it a priority to cover all the 136 districts identified so far during the Tenth Plan period. Targets may be fixed annually and progress made and achievement in this regard should be monitored at the highest level.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.7 Out of 136 Districts having less than 10% ST female literacy identified in 11 States under the scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of Literacy amongst Scheduled Tribe Women, as many as 69 districts have already been covered leaving a balance of 67 districts. Of these 67 districts, 13 districts namely Nawada, Puraba Champaran, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur in Bihar; Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Hardoi, Lalitpur, Siddharthnagar, Deoria and Mau in Uttar Pradesh have very little tribal population as per 1991 census. Therefore, in these districts there is no immediate need of setting up of educational complexes especially in view of the fact that the complexes are in addition to the educational facilities being provided by the State Governments. Thus, there are only 54 districts, which are yet to be covered under the scheme. The concerned State Governments have been requested to send their proposals to cover the left-over districts in the manner that all the 54 districts are covered during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Ministry would also extend priority to the proposals received from the leftover districts.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

RECOMMENDATION (SI.No.16, PARA 2.93)

5.8 The Committee note that the Ministry has been providing funds to Institutes, Universities and NGOs for conducting research studies, training programmes, evaluation projects, seminar and workshops pertaining to tribal development. The recommendations emerging out of these studies and programmes are forwarded to concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments for appropriate action. However, the Committee observe that the impact of such studies/programmes has not been properly assessed. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry, instead of simply forwarding the recommendations, should ascertain from States/Central Ministries/Departments the status of implementation of those recommendations.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.9 The recommendations/observations emerging out of the research/evaluation studies, seminars/workshops are forwarded to concerned agencies for taking appropriate action. These agencies utilized the recommendations at a time of formulation of new policy and amending/refining the existing programmes/schemes. The Ministry is taking steps to ascertain that while formulating new policy or amending the existing programmes/scheme, the recommendations made in research studies/evaluation studies, etc. get due consideration.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs O.M No.16015/2/03 PC&V dated 17.7.2003)

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Chairman
Standing Committee on Labour
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