

FIFTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LABOUR AND WELFARE
(1999-2000)

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2000-2001)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 25.04.2000

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 25.04.2000



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 2000/Chaitra, 1922 (Saka)

C.L.W. No. 48

Price : Rs. 18.00

© 2000 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Ninth Edition) and Printed by Jainco Art India, New Delhi-110005.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
CHAPTER I Introductory	1
CHAPTER II Report	4
Demands for Grants—2000-2001	
A. General Performance of the Ministry	4
B. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan	7
C. Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	15
D. Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes	19
E. Research and Training	24
F. TRIFED—Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited	25
ANNEXURE Minutes of the Seventh sitting of the Committee held on 13th April, 2000	29
APPENDIX Summary of Recommendations/Conclusions	31

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON LABOUR AND WELFARE
(1999-2000)

Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Daud Ahmad
3. Shri Alam Amir
- *4. Shri Ashok Argal
5. Shri Denzil B. Atkinson
- *6. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
7. Smt. Sandhya Bauri
8. Shri Joachim Baxla
9. Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhuri
10. Smt. Phoolan Devi
11. Shri Krishan Lal Diler
12. Shri Virendra Kumar
13. Shri C. Kuppusami
14. Shri Parsuram Majhi
15. Shri Ramjee Manjhi
16. Shri Bherulal Meena
17. Shri Rupchand Murmu
- *18. Shri Raj Narain Passi
19. Shri R.S. Patil
20. Shri Madhab Rajbangshi
21. Shri P.A. Sangma
22. Shri Ram Shakal
23. Shri Charanjit Singh

*Nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 6th April, 2000.

24. Shri Khelsai Singh
25. Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh
26. Shri Mansukhbhai Vasava
27. Dr. N. Venkataswamy
- *28. Shri K. Yerrannaaidu

Rajya Sabha

- *29. Shri Govindrao Adik
- *30. Shri Sanatan Bisi
31. Dr. (Mrs.) P. Selvie Das
32. Shri Mohd. Azam Khan
33. Shri Ramachandra Khuntia
34. Shri Fali S. Nariman
35. Shri C.O. Poulouse
- *36. Shri Joyanta Roy
37. Shri Ka.Ra. Subbian
38. Ms. Frida Topno
- *39. Shri Janardan Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Joginder Singh — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri J.P. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri B.D. Swan — *Under Secretary*
4. Km. M. Tunlut — *Reporting Officer*

*Nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 6th April, 2000.

*Ceased to be the Members of the Committee consequent upon their retirement from Rajya Sabha on 2nd April, 2000.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (1999-2000) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifth Report on the Demands for Grants, 2000-2001 on the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the current year *i.e.* 2000-2001 which were laid on the Table of the House on 13 March, 2000. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 28.3.2000. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 13th April, 2000.

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 for furnishing the information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants and tendering evidence before the Committee.

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 Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;
13 April, 2000

24 Chaitra, 1922 (Saka)

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Labour and Welfare.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was created on 18 October, 1999 by segregating the work of Tribal Affairs from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is responsible for looking after the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes.

1.2 As per allocation of Business to the new Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the following is its mandate:—

- (i) Social security and social insurance with respect to the Scheduled Tribes.
- (ii) Tribal Welfare: Tribal welfare Planning, project formulation, research, evaluation, statistics and training.
- (iii) Promotion and development of voluntary efforts on tribal welfare.
- (iv) Scheduled Tribes, including scholarship to students belonging to such tribes.
- (v) Development of Scheduled Tribes.
- (vi) Attached or Sub-ordinate offices or other organisations concerned with any of the subjects specified in this list.
- (vii) (a) Scheduled Areas;
 - (b) Matters relating to autonomous districts of Assam excluding roads and bridge works and ferries thereon; and
 - (c) Regulations framed by the Governors of States for Scheduled Areas and for Tribal Areas specified in Part 'A' of the Table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.
- (viii) (a) Commission to report on the administration of Scheduled Areas and the Welfare of the Scheduled Tribes; and
 - (b) Issue of directions regarding the drawing up and execution of schemes essential for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in any State.

- (ix) Reports of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in so far as they relate to Scheduled Tribes.

1.3 The Demands for Grants asked for by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are given under Demand No. 83.

1.4 The basic objective of policies, programmes, laws and institution of the Indian Welfare system is to bring the target groups into the mainstream of development by making them self-reliant. In achieving this objective, the Ministry performs the task of implementation in accordance with the provisions under Chapter-III and Chapter IV of the Constitution, which not only deal with the development and welfare of the Scheduled Tribes, but also give a concept of justice to include social and distributive aspects.

1.5 The Scheduled Tribes according to 1991 census account for 67.76 millions representing 8.08% of country's total population. They are spread across the country mainly in the forest and hilly regions. The essential characteristics of these communities are geographical isolation, distinctive culture, shyness of contact with outsiders and economic backwardness. According to Article 342 of the Constitution of India, the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through public notification. More than half of the Scheduled Tribes population is concentrated in five States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar and Gujarat. No community has been specified as Scheduled Tribes in respect of States of Haryana and Punjab & UTs of Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry.

1.6 The Plan and non-Plan schemes of the Ministry are implemented with the help of the State Govts., U.T. Administrations, NGOs and institutions of the Local Self Government. Grants-in-aid to the State Governments and UT Administrations are provided under Articles 112(3), 113(2) and Article 275(1). The Ministry also implements a number of Central-Sector schemes with the help of Non-governmental organisations and the institutions of Local Self Government.

1.7 Explaining the rationale behind bifurcating the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to create a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry has stated that the new Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been created in October 1999, with a view to give more focused attention to the development of the Scheduled Tribes. A Union Minister and a Minister of State have been assigned to head the Ministry. The programmes and schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are intended to support and supplement the efforts of other Central Ministries, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and voluntary organisations through financial assistance and to fill critical gaps taking into account the conditions of the Scheduled Tribes.

1.8 Asked whether the Ministry have been provided sufficient staff and infrastructure to carry out its mandate effectively in the far flung and remote areas, the Committee have been informed that no adequate staff has been provided to attend to the work of this Ministry. After the creation of the new Ministry, number of schemes have been bifurcated from the common schemes of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In addition, some subjects handled by other Ministries/Departments are likely to be transferred to this Ministry. In view of this, sufficient staff and adequate infrastructure including accommodation facilities are necessary to facilitate this Ministry to work effectively.

1.9 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in October, 1999 with a view to giving more focused attention to the development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee appreciate the concern expressed for the marginally deprived section of the society by creating a separate Ministry but at the same time are not convinced as to how the Ministry will be able to carry out its mandate effectively in the absence of adequate staff and infrastructure including office accommodation. The Committee view this situation very seriously. Keeping in view the workload originally assigned as well as the additional work likely to be transferred from other Ministries to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Committee recommend that the matter pertaining to adequate staff, office accommodation, funds for the establishment etc. should be pursued on priority with the concerned Ministries/agencies so that the mandate of the Ministry is implemented effectively. The progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

CHAPTER II

REPORT

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2000-2001

A. General Performance of the Ministry

2.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has furnished the following statement showing the scheme-wise Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Expenditure incurred during the year 1999-2000 (upto 9.3.2000):—

Rs (in crores)				
Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	BE 1999-2000	RE 1999-2000	Exp. during 1999-2000 (upto 9.3.2000)
1	2	3	4	5
Plan				
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan	400.00	400.00	270.29
2.	Grant under Art. 275(1) of the Constitution	100.00	100.00	66.67
3.	Boys Hostels for STs	12.00	12.00	5.85
4.	Girls Hostels for STs	12.00	12.00	3.00
5.	Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas	15.00	15.00	5.29
6.	Educational complex in low literary pockets for development of women literacy in Tribal Areas	9.00	9.00	1.47
7.	Investment in TRIFED	0.25	0.25	—
8.	Grants to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corp. (STDCCs) and others for Minor Forest Produce Operations	15.00	15.00	7.55
9.	Price Support operations to TRIFED	5.00	5.00	—
10.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas	9.75	9.75	0.93

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Village Grain Banks	4.00	1.00	1.00
12.	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups	10.00	10.00	0.38
13.	Research and Training			
	(a) Grant to Research Institute and Award of Research Fellowship	3.50	3.50	0.79
	(b) Supportive Projects of All India of Inter-State nature for STs	0.50	0.50	0.30
	(c) National Institute of Research and Training	4.00	0.50	—
14.	Grants to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of STs	30.00	28.00	9.25
Total		630.00	621.50	372.77
Non Plan				
1.	Grants to Assam under clause 0.14 (aa) of Second Proviso to Art. 275(1) of the Constitution	0.14	0.14	0.14
2.	National Commission for Scheduled Tribes	0.10	0.05	—
Total		0.24	0.19	0.14

2.2 It may be noted from the above statement that out of the B.E of Rs.630 crore under plan scheme, the Ministry has utilised only Rs. 372.77 crore *i.e.* 59.17% *vis-a-vis* the B.E as on 9.3.2000.

2.3 Explaining the reasons for utilising a huge amount of the remaining funds at the fag end of the year the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs stated during evidence:—

“To date, we have utilised Rs.548.20 crore and some schemes are still pending with the Ministry of Finance. We are hopeful that they will be cleared and within next two-three days we will issue the sanctions. The reasons why sanctions could not be issued in time is that we did not receive utilisation certificates from the States in time. This was one handicap. This is the factual position.

Secondly, it takes time to process the schemes, go to Finance and then there are in between certain objections which are in the process of settlement. To a significant extent, we have been able to settle the objections. For the information of the Hon. Committee I would like to inform that we wrote more than seven DOs to the concerned authorities to send us the utilisation certificates."

2.4 The Secretary further added:—

"If we receive the utilisation certificate in time, things will be quickened at our end. That has been the major handicap. Now, we have adopted some changes. The major shortfall has been in schemes where 50 per cent share has to come from the State Governments. We have written a large number of letters, and I sent my officers from the Centre to go and persuade the State Government authorities to forward the proposals, but we did not receive proposals for schools, hostels and residential schools. That has been another handicap."

2.5 In reply to a question during the course of evidence whether it was not wrong to utilise a huge amount of funds in just a few days the Secretary stated:—

"I agree with your view. Whatever proposal comes from the States, I will make adequate provisions so that there is no confusion/panic in the month of March."

2.6 When the Committee pointed out that in almost all the cases utilisation report has not been forthcoming from States and asked them to explain the remedial action/suggestion in case it is not received, the Secretary stated as under:—

"Firstly, the action that is taken is no further releases are made. Secondly, we are in touch with the State Governments asking them to send the utilisation certificates. Till the utilisation certificate is received no further releases will be made. There has been some response from the State Governments also. We have received utilisation certificates by co-ordinating with these people."

2.7 The Committee are constrained to note that utilisation of funds under both Plan and Non-Plan schemes of the Ministry has been quite low upto 9 March, 2000 i.e, 59.17% under plan expenditure. As on 28.3.2000, utilisation is of the order of Rs. 548.20 crore against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 630 crore which clearly shows that huge amount of funds has been released in the last month of the financial year. The reasons put forth by the Ministry that sanctions could not be issued on time due to non-receipt of utilisation certificates, delay in processing the schemes, delay in getting schemes approved from Ministry of Finance, inability of States to provide their matching share etc. are not convincing to the Committee. Keeping in view the fact that the Ministry has admitted that the utilisation certificates have been received by co-ordinating with the States, the Committee desire that the Ministry should strengthen its co-ordination and monitoring with the States by conducting regular visits/inspections. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should plan and incur their expenditure in a phased manner so as to avoid accumulations towards the fag end of the Financial Year.

2.8 The Committee note with concern that no proposal has been received from State Governments/U.T. Administrations for the scheme of schools, hostels and residential schools due to inability of State/U.T. Administrations to provide their matching share. The Committee also feel that States/U.T. Administrations need to be pursued at regular intervals to provide their matching share. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take up the matter with States/U.T. Administrations on a firm footing to submit detailed proposals keeping provision of matching share in their State Budget so that the students from tribal communities are not deprived of the basic educational facilities.

MAJOR HEAD : 2225, 3601

SUB-HEAD : 00.00.31

02.00.31

B. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-plan

2.9 The Special Central Assistance is an additive to the Tribal Sub-plan of the respective States/UTs for income generating schemes. The scheme was introduced in the Fifth Five Year Plan. At present the Special Central Assistance is being provided by the Govt. of India to 20 Tribal Sub-Plan States and UTs to supplement their efforts for tribal development.

2.10 The Budget Estimates as well as Revised Estimates for the year 1999-2000 under the scheme was Rs. 400 crore. An amount of Rs. 270.29 crore is the expenditure incurred upto 9.3.2000. The Budget Estimates for the year 2000-2001 under the scheme is Rs. 400 crore.

2.11 The following statement has been furnished by the Ministry regarding targets for the year 1999-2000 and achievements upto December, 1999 under point 11(b) of the 20-Point Programme.

**Statement showing Targets for the year 1999-2000
and Achievements upto December 99, under
Point 11(b) of 20-Point Programme**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Annual Target 1999-2000	Achievement upto December, 1999
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150000	80000
2.	Assam	45000	5739
3.	Bihar	126000	34430
4.	Gujarat	94500	52943
5.	Himachal Pradesh	4300	4356
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1900	NR
7.	Karnataka	28000	13308
8.	Kerala	5000	2342
9.	Madhya Pradesh	275000	191719
10.	Maharashtra	140000	18538
11.	Manipur	5000	1465
12.	Orissa	95600	24936
13.	Rajasthan	72000	28858
14.	Sikkim	6000	710
15.	Tamil Nadu	11250	6088
16.	Tripura	13900	4198
17.	Uttar Pradesh	4760	12266
18.	West Bengal	33700	10286
19.	A&N Islands	850	438
20.	Daman & Diu	600	105
Total		1113360	492725

2.12 In reply to a query, the Ministry has stated that the reasons for low achievements of the targets during 1999-2000 as compared to 1998-99 is non-receipt of progress report of achievements for December 1999 from some of the State Governments.

2.13 As regards action taken against those States/UTs which have failed to achieve the target, the Ministry has requested the States to improve the achievements against the targets and a letter from the Secretary (TA) to the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir has been issued requesting him to arrange the submission of monthly progress reports in respect of Point 11(b) of 20 Point Programme *w.e.f.* April 1999 onwards. Regarding other States like Assam, Sikkim, Orissa, West Bengal and Daman & Diu etc. letters from Joint Secretary (TA) to the concern State Secretaries have been sent requesting them for submission of pending reports in this regard.

2.14 As regards fixation of targets under the scheme, the Ministry has stated that the tentative target for 2000-2001 will be fixed by this Ministry in April 2000 taking the following points into consideration:—

- (i) Targets for the last two years *i.e.* 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
- (ii) Performance of the State Governments /UTs in respect of achievement against target during last two years.

2.15 The tentative targets will be communicated to the State Governments for confirmation and after getting the confirmation from the State Governments, the final targets for each State will be fixed.

2.16 The Ministry has furnished a statement showing State Annual Plan and flow to Tribal Sub-Plan of TSP States/UTs as under:—

Statement Showing State Annual Plan and Flow to Tribal Sub-Plan of TSP States/UTs

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No	States/UTs	% of ST population (1991 Census)	1998-99		5	6	1999-2000	
			State Plan	Flow To TSP			State Plan	Flow to TSP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.31	4678.94	158.09	3.38	5479.50	152.59	2.78
2.	Assam	12.82	1128.70	108.66	9.62	1306.23	126.35	9.67
3.	Bihar	7.66	2348.42	726.76	30.94	3630.00	1044.53	28.77
4.	Gujarat	14.92	5450.00	666.72	12.23	6550.00	853.08	13.02
5.	Himachal Pradesh	4.22	1440.00	122.67	8.51	1600.00	135.00	8.43
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	11.00	—	—	—	522.26	56.94	10.90
7.	Karnataka	4.26	5353.00	76.18	1.42	5887.99	88.25	1.50
8.	Kerala	1.10	3100.00	61.17	1.97	3250.00	60.11	1.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Madhya Pradesh	23.27	3700.00	634.32	17.14	4000.05	847.27	21.18
10.	Maharashtra	9.27	11600.73	561.00	4.83	6641.82	580.59	8.74
11.	Manipur	34.41	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Orissa	22.21	2071.23	643.85	31.09	2488.88	627.88	25.23
13.	Rajasthan	12.44	3800.00	384.55	10.12	5022.27	427.31	8.50
14.	Sikkim	22.36	193.60	17.24	8.91	90.81	25.01	27.54
15.	Tamil Nadu	1.03	4500.00	46.24	1.03	5251.12	58.49	1.11
16.	Tripura	30.95	440.00	120.51	27.38	—	—	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.21	10260.96	49.10	0.48	11400.00	42.45	0.37
18.	West Bengal	5.59	4594.85	79.92	1.74	5787.25	424.24	7.33
19.	A&N Islands	9.54	320.00	41.22	12.88	400.00	62.50	15.60
20.	Daman & Diu	11.54	33.39	1.40	4.19	34.06	2.71	8.04
Total (All TSP States)		8.08	65013.82	4499.58	6.92	69342.19	5615.33	8.09

2.17 It has been noted from the statement above that only seven States/U.Ts namely, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have earmarked funds for TSP which is equal or more in proportion to the ST population percentage in the States/U.Ts.

2.18 When asked to state the reasons and efforts being made by the Ministry to pursue the States/U.Ts, the Committee have been informed that in order to implement the schemes effectively for the welfare and development of STs, it has been envisaged in Tribal Sub-Plan strategy that the State Governments should implement programmes out of their own resources. In order to fulfil this objective it has been decided to earmark minimum flow of funds for TSP that is equivalent to ST population percentage in the State. If the funds are separately earmarked adequate attention could be made for the welfare of these groups. Guidelines have been issued accordingly. The quantified funds equivalent to ST population percentage should be kept under separate demand of the Tribal Welfare Department of respective State Governments in order to check the diversion of funds.

2.19 As regards quantification of funds made by various Central Ministries for TSP during the year 1999-2000, the details are as under:—

(Rs. In crores)

Sl.No.	Ministry/Department	Total Outlay	Flow of TSP
1.	Deptt. of Telecommunications	12650.00	900.00
2.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	800.00	6.75
3.	Department of Posts	100.00	4.06
4.	Ministry of Commerce	151.57	14.41
5.	Ministry of Power	—	53.00
6.	Deptt. of Culture	—	3.25
7.	Department of Steel	2082.40	11.65
8.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	700.00	62.85
9.	Ministry of Agriculture	576.98	82.48

2.20 When asked to state the efforts being made to pursue the remaining Ministries/Departments by the Ministry, the Committee have been informed that some of the Central Ministries/Deptt. do not consider Tribal Sub Plan to be feasible in the areas of their activities. In some cases, though a TSP is formulated and funds are quantified these are not segregated State-wise/Year-wise.

2.21 When asked whether some States have wrongfully diverted or misutilised the TSP funds and, if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to improve the performance particularly in those States, the Committee have been informed that Government of India are aware of the fact that the Special Central Assistance is not being utilised properly by the States/U.Ts though they have not reported diversion of funds. The Government of India had engaged Non-Governmental research organisation like Project Corporate Consultant Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneswar to assess the manner of utilisation of Special Central Assistance by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. The research organisation has observed that there has been some deviation in the utilisation of Special Central Assistance in contrary to the purpose for which Special Central Assistance is meant. Government is trying to review the manner of utilisation of SCA.

2.22 On being asked to state when the Ministry came to know about the deviation in the utilisation of SCA in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, the Committee have been informed that they have come to know about the deviation from the research organisation report submitted in 1994.

2.23 Asked whether the Ministry is contemplating to assess the manner of utilisation of SCA funds in other States, the Ministry has informed the Committee that its officers have already been deputed to some of the States to take on the spot reviews of the manner of utilisation of SCA funds in other states. The officers have given their reports and the States have been asked for compliance of the shortfalls found in the manner of utilisation of funds. After getting the reply of State Governments further necessary action will be initiated.

2.24 As regards deviation in the utilisation of funds under SCA to TSP, the Committee were informed that the State-wise information on the deviation in the utilisation of funds under SCA to TSP is not readily available.

2.25 The Committee note that although the main thrust of the point 11(b) of 20 Point Programme is to provide economic assistance to the Scheduled Tribes families to enable them to rise above the poverty line but the achievement of target for the year 1999-2000 has been low due to non-receipt of progress report from some of the State Governments. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry lacks coordination with the States/U.Ts and its monitoring has not been effective. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should pursue with the State Governments/U.Ts to send their progress reports timely and regularly and also impress upon them to achieve their targets fixed under point 11(b) of the 20 Point Programme.

2.26 The Committee are concerned to note that despite guidelines issued by the Ministry, only seven States/UTs have so far earmarked funds for TSP which is equal or more in proportion to the population percentage of STs in the States/UTs. Viewing the situation seriously, the Committee urge the Ministry to take up the issue with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations on a firm footing so that funds are allocated for TSP without further loss of time. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should pursue the States/ U.Ts to provide separate demand head for TSP under their Tribal Welfare Departments to ensure that funds are not diverted for other purposes.

2.27 The Committee note with concern that only 9 Central Ministries/Departments have so far quantified funds for TSP from their annual plans in accordance with the population percentage of STs in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the matter with the Planning Commission as well as the remaining Ministries/Departments to formulate and quantify funds for TSP at the earliest.

2.28 The Committee note with concern that though the Ministry came to know about the deviation in the utilisation of SCA in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu from the report of the Research Organisation submitted in 1994 yet no concrete action has been taken by them even after a lapse of 6 years. This clearly reflects their lack of seriousness over the issue. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should look into the matter and furnish a comprehensive report to the Committee.

MAJOR HEAD : 3601

SUB-HEAD : 03.00.31

C. Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution

2.29 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provide grants to 18 Tribal Sub-Plan and 4 Tribal Majority States under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution to meet the cost of such projects for tribal development as may be undertaken by the State Government for raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas. Since 1997-98, it has been decided to utilise part of the fund for setting up of 100 residential schools from class VI to XII for tribal students.

2.30 The Budget Estimate as well as the Revised Estimate for the year 1999-2000 under the scheme was Rs.100 crore. An amount of Rs.66.67 crore is the expenditure incurred as on 9.3.2000. The Budget Estimate for 2000-2001 has been increased to Rs.200 crore.

2.31 The Ministry has furnished the following statement showing the amount of funds released under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for establishment of Residential schools since 1997-98:—

Statement showing the amount of funds released under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for Establishment of Residential Schools Since 1997-98

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No	State	Funds released during 1997-98	Funds released during 1998-99	Funds released during 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.00	3.00	—
2.	Assam	2.00	—	—
3.	Bihar	4.00	—	—
4.	Gujarat	4.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	—	—
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.00	—	—
7.	Karnataka	2.00	—	—
8.	Kerala	1.00	1.00	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7.00	10.00	—
10.	Maharashtra	4.00	—	—
11.	Manipur	1.00	—	—
12.	Orissa	4.00	—	—
13.	Rajasthan	4.00	3.00	—
14.	Sikkim	1.00	—	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	1.00	—	—
16.	Tripura	2.00	1.00	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1.00	—	—
18.	West Bengal	2.00	3.00	—
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	—	—
20.	Meghalaya	2.00	—	—
21.	Mizoram	1.00	—	—
22.	Nagaland	1.00	2.00	—
Total		50.00	23.00	—

2.32 It has been noted from the statement above that though funds has been released to 22 States during 1997-98, no amount has been released to 15 States during 1998-99 and for 1999-2000, no amount has been released to any of the States.

2.33 Asked to state the reasons the Ministry has informed the Committee that establishment of Residential Schools is one of the various schemes undertaken by the State Governments out of grants under Art. 275(1) of the Constitution. During the year 1997-98 the Ministry decided to open 100 residential schools during Ninth Plan out of grants under Art. 275(1) by providing Rs.2.50 crore per school. For the purpose an amount of Rs.50 crore was released as an advance to various States for opening 50 schools at the rate of Rs.1 crore per schools. Again during 1998-99 an amount of Rs.23 crore was released as advance to 7 States for another 23 Residential schools at the rate of Rs.1 crore per school.

2.34 The States were requested to send the utilisation certificates for the advance amount released to them so as to enable the Ministry to release the balance amount of 1.50 crore for each residential school. Since no State has submitted the utilisation certificate in respect of amount released for residential schools, the Ministry did not release any amount for the purpose during 1999-2000. However, the Ministry has released the entire budget provision of Rs. 100 crore under Art. 275(1) to various States during the year 1999-2000 for undertaking schemes for the welfare of scheduled tribes and raising the level of administration in scheduled areas.

2.35 On being asked to state whether the flow of funds under Art. 275(1) of the Constitution from the States to the project authorities is as per the Central guidelines, the Committee were informed that the funds under Art. 275(1) of the Constitution is given to the States for raising the level of administration of tribal areas to that of the rest of the state. The State make specific projects for development of tribal areas and implement the projects by State Government line departments. So far no information about deviation of the guidelines has been received.

2.36 As regards overlapping in the coverage of tribal areas under the scheme and coverage in TSP areas, the Ministry has stated that there is no overlapping in the coverage of tribal areas under the scheme and coverage in Tribal Sub-Plan areas because Special Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan is released mainly for the family oriented income generating schemes and not for infrastructure development (only 30% of SCA grants can be used for infrastructure) whereas, the grants under Article 275(1) is to meet the cost of such projects for tribal development as may be undertaken by the State Government for raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas.

2.37 Asked whether the Ministry has been able to obtain adequate feedback from the States about the extent and manner of utilisation of the Grants under the scheme, the Committee were informed that the Ministry has not been able to obtain adequate feedback from the States about the extents and manner of utilisation of the Grants under the scheme because in some of the States, the Finance Department do not release funds to Tribal Welfare Department. The Finance Department of the State treats this amount as part of the State Plan. The Ministry is however emphasising the Finance Department of the State Government to release the amount meant under Art. 275(1) to the Tribal Welfare Department over and above the State Plan.

2.38 As regards setting up of a society on the pattern of Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Residential and Ashram Educational Institutions Society (Regd) Hyderabad, the Ministry has stated that till date 12 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Gujarat have registered societies. Other States are in the process of registering the societies.

2.39 The Committee note with concern that funds allocated for establishment of Residential Schools have not been released to any of the States during 1999-2000. However, the entire amount has been released to various States for other schemes. Keeping in view the fact that the scheme was formulated to provide quality education to ST boys and girls and to bring them at par with the national level, the Committee urge the Ministry to impress upon the States/UTs to give highest priority to this scheme and persuade them to expedite the process of registration of societies for managing the Residential schools.

2.40 The Committee also desire that the Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution should not be used by States as supplementary or additionality to other Tribal Welfare Programmes such as TSP and SCA. Keeping in view the fact that most of the areas identified for coverage under the scheme are also covered under TSP and other programmes, the Committee recommend that adequate steps should be taken in planning and implementation of the scheme so as to avoid any overlapping and diversion of funds.

2.41 The Committee note with concern that the Finance Department of some States are not releasing the Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to the Tribal Welfare Department as they consider it a part of the State Plan. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should pursue the matter with the concerned States on priority to release the grants under Article 275(1) to the Tribal Welfare Department of States over and above their State Plan.

MAJOR HEAD : 2225

SUB HEAD : 01.00.31

D. Grants in aid to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of the Scheduled Tribes

2.42 Grants-in-aid is given to voluntary organisations for undertaking schemes of direct benefit to the Scheduled Tribes e.g. running of balwadis, creches, hostels and training centre, provision of medical facilities etc. This scheme is in operation since the year 1953-54. The grant is generally restricted to 90% of the approved total cost of the project and the balance 10% is borne by the grantee organisation.

2.43 The Budget Estimate for the year 1999-2000 under the scheme was Rs.30 crore which has been reduced to Rs.28 crore at the Revised Estimate stage. An amount of Rs.28 crore is the Budget Estimate for the year 2000-2001.

2.44 The Ministry has stated that the scheme has been modified during 1999-2000 and the voluntary organisations working in Scheduled Areas have been made eligible to receive cent per cent grant. Besides, autonomous institutions, local bodies and cooperative societies etc. have also been made eligible for grants-in-aid under the revised scheme.

2.45 The Ministry has stated that during the last three years as many as 74 NGOs in 1996-97, 113 NGOs in 1997-98 and 190 NGOs in 1998-99 have been given grants-in-aid under the scheme. The list of NGOs against which complaints have been received and the action taken thereon is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Organisation	Nature of complaints	Action Taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Divya Teja Educational Society, Langar House, Hyderabad, A.P.	The organisation was sanctioned a residential school for 100 ST students. On an inspection carried out by an officer of the Ministry and Internal Audit Team of the Ministry of HRD, it was found that the organisation was running a day school which was open for all categories of the children	State Government has been requested to blacklist the organisation and recover the amount released to the organisation as grant-in-aid.
2.	Sri D. Devraj Urs Educational Trust, Bidar, Karnataka	The organisation was sanctioned a residential school for 100 students. However, on an inspection carried out by an officer of this Ministry, it was found that trust has been running a day school which was open for all categories of students	The State Government has been requested to blacklist the organisation and recover the amount released during the previous years.
3.	Naval Bhou Pratishan, Navalnagar, Tal District, Dhule, Maharashtra	It is reported that the organisation has not utilised the amount for the intended purpose or the purpose it was meant for	Further grants to the organisation has been stopped and the State Government has been asked to conduct the inquiry
4.	Tantrik Prashikshan Sanstha, Pavan Nagar, Amravati, Maharashtra	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
5. Saidhantrik Shiksha Samiti, Champa Nagar, Manegaon, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	State Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that the performance of the organisation is not satisfactory.	Further grant has been stopped and the matter is under investigation. Necessary action will be taken after the investigation is completed.	
6. Bharti Mahila Siksha Samiti, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	-do-	-do-	
7. Gyanvardhan evam Samaj Uthan Siksha Samiti, Bargi Colony, Narsimhpur, Madhya Pradesh	-do-	-do-	
8. M.P. Anusuchit Jati, Janjati, Pichhra Warg Kalyan Sangh, Muni Nagar, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh	-do-	-do-	
9. Ankur Sanskar evam Shiksha Uthan Samiti, Shahpur Nivas Road, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh	-do-	-do-	
10. Samaj Kalyan Sanstha, Jharpokharia, Mayurbhanj District, Orissa	The organisation was sanctioned residential school for Balwadis for STs. The performance of the organisation was found to be extremely poor during the inspection carried out by an officer of this Ministry.	Further grant in aid has been stopped and the State Government has been asked to submit a detailed report on the functioning of the organisation to enable the Ministry to take further action in the matter.	
11. Harijan Surakhaya Committee, Sovarampur, Balasore, Orissa	The State Government has reported that the performance of the organisation is found to be unsatisfactory.	Further grant in aid has been stopped and the organisation is being asked to submit the clarifications on the shortcomings contained in the report of the State Government.	
12. Peoples Organisation for Welfare Employment & Rural Development (POWERED) Kadalipal, P.O. Aluajharan, Dist. Dhenakanal, Orissa	The State Government has reported that the grant in aid sanctioned to the organisation is not being utilised properly.	Further grant has been stopped and the matter is under investigation.	

2.46 Asked to state whether any time limit has been given to State Governments for carrying out inquiry/investigations against the defaulting NGOs, the Committee have been informed that no time limit has been fixed. However the State Governments are being requested from time to time to take early action for recovery of the amount released to the NGOs.

2.47 As regards recovery of amount released to the organisation black listed over the years the Committee have been informed that the recovery of the amount is yet to be effected by the State Government. As per the information available with the Ministry, the entire amount is still to be recovered. However, the State Governments have been requested to initiate recovery proceedings early.

2.48 Asked whether any responsibility has been fixed on the authority/officials who certify the genuineness of the bogus NGOs, it has been stated that the Grant in aid is released on the basis of the inspection report carried out by the State Government officials and recommendation of the Tribal Welfare Department of the State Government. Thus, it is for the State Government to take necessary action against their officials at their own end.

2.49 The Committee further pointed out that the Ministry in its Annual Report has stated that efforts have also been undertaken to weed out bogus and non-existent NGOs and asked them to state the latest position wherein they were informed that earlier the inspection report of the lower officers of the State Welfare Department and recommendation of middle level officers were being entertained for release of grants to the NGO. After 2.12.1999, the inspection report of the District Collector and recommendation of the Tribal Welfare Secretary, under their own signature has been made mandatory. Further, the officers of the Ministry have also been deputed to conduct on the spot physical verification of the activities being undertaken by the recipient organisations.

2.50 Asked to state how the Ministry proposes to improve its monitoring over the scheme in view of the various modifications and additions, the Committee have been informed that as per the revised scheme, the monitoring and evaluation of the grantee organisation is being done as per the procedure laid down under various relevant provisions of General Financial Rules, 1963 as amended from time to

time. In addition, the agencies of State Governments, National Institutes, National Commissions, Tribal Research Institutes of State Governments, Officials of the Ministry and any other agency designated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for this purpose are used.

2.51 Further, as per the recent decision of the Ministry, only the State Governments have been empowered to send the recommendations through the State Tribal Welfare Department under the signature of its Secretary and the Inspection Report of the organisation is required to be signed by the District Collector/Dy. Commissioner.

2.52 The Committee note with concern that no time limit has been given to State Governments for carrying out inquiry/ investigations against the defaulting NGOs and recovery of amount sanctioned to black-listed NGOs is yet to be effected by the State Governments. Viewing this situation seriously, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should fix a time limit for the State Governments to carry out investigations against the defaulting NGOs and submit a detailed report to the Committee. The Committee further recommend that the State Governments should be pursued to initiate recovery proceedings against the black-listed organisations and also impress upon them that the authority/official certifying the genuineness of the bogus NGOs are brought to book.

2.53 The Committee note that in order to weed out bogus and non-existent NGOs, inspection reports of the District Collector and recommendation of the Tribal Welfare Secretary under their own signature has been made mandatory after 2.12.1999. The Committee appreciate the efforts made in this regard but also desire that the new initiatives should not cause further delays on the part of the State Governments/U.Ts in forwarding their inspection reports to the Ministry. The Committee also urge the Ministry to pursue the State Governments to improve their coordination with the NGOs working under them so that funds allocated to them are properly utilised.

MAJOR HEAD : 2225, 3601
 SUB HEAD : 14.00.31
 01.00.31

E. Research and Training

2.54 The scheme of Research and Training has four components *viz.* Grants to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) of the State Government on sharing basis of fifty-fifty of plan schemes, award of Research Fellowship in various aspects of tribal development (doctoral/post-doctoral Fellowship) to the students who are registered in Universities on 100% basis; Supporting Projects of All India or Inter-State nature provided on 100% basis to Governmental and Non-Governmental Institutes/Organisations for conducting research/evaluation studies, seminar/workshop etc. and National Institute for Research and Training in Tribal Affairs (NITA).

2.55 The Budget Estimates for the year 1999-2000 under Grants to Research Institutes and Award of Research Fellowship was Rs.3.50 crore out of which an amount of Rs.0.79 crore has been spent upto 9.3.2000. The Budget Estimates for the year 2000-2001 is also Rs.3.50 crore.

2.56 Asked to state whether States have been able to provide their matching share, the Committee have been informed that due to financial constraints State Governments are not able to provide 50% matching share in their budget. Due to constant persuasion by the Ministry, State Governments are providing matching share and have furnished utilisation certificates of central share released in previous years. But these information are usually received very late in the Ministry.

2.57 When asked how the TRIs can act as a more effective institution for carrying out various evaluation studies in the functioning of schemes for tribals and ensuring that its recommendations/observations are implemented by States, the Ministry has informed the Committee that the Tribal Research Institutes have become an integral part of the State apparatus for Planning for Tribal Development. Some vacant posts in the Institute have not been filled up. Attention has also to be directed to promotional avenues of the research personnel. State Government should declare Director Tribal Research Institute as Head of Department. It is to review in depth of the functions, work, staffing pattern, financing etc. so that the existing

Institutes are reoriented to deliver goods through research evaluation and other activities so that the recommendations/observations of the Research Studies may be implemented by the State. During the meeting of Directors of Tribal Research Institutes and concerned Secretary in-Charge of Tribal Development, this Ministry has instructed to utilise the recommendations of the studies while preparation for formulation of the Annual Plan/Programmes by the State Governments.

2.58 The Committee note that the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) have been undertaking the important work of research, evaluation, collection of data, training, seminar workshops, professional input in the preparation of TSP etc. but often its recommendations/observations have not been implemented by the States. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to strengthen the TRIs by providing adequate staff, promotional avenues etc. so that they could function more effectively. The Committee further desire that the recommendations/observations made by TRIs should be utilised by the State Governments while formulating their annual plan/programmes for tribals.

MAJOR HEAD : 2225, 4225

SUB HEAD : 07.00.31

01.00.54

F. TRIFED—(Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited.)

2.59 Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) was set up in 1987 by the Government of India under the administrative umbrella of the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare with the prime objective of providing marketing assistance and remunerative prices to Scheduled Tribes communities for their minor forest and surplus agricultural produce and to protect them from exploitation by unscrupulous private traders and middlemen. The Federation is a National level Co-operative apex body established under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984.

2.60 The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 5 crore during 1999-2000 for the price support operations to the TRIFED. During the current financial year, the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 4 crore to the scheme.

2.61 Asked to furnish details of initiatives undertaken by TRIFED in Madhya Pradesh and other areas and whether it is feasible to implement it in other States, the Committee have been informed that TRIFED, in close association with District Administration of Bastar, Dantewara and Kanker has organised procurement of various commodities mainly from village haat by engaging grass root level agencies like Van Dhan Samities, Van Suraksha Samities, LAMPS. Commodities procured are Mahua flower, Seeded and Deseeded Tamarind, Kosa Cocoons, Paddy, Niger Seed, Maize, Amchur, Mango Kernel, Mahua Seed, Bantulsi Seed, Puwad Seed for total sum of Rs.15.35 crore during last 15 months.

2.62 TRIFED's endeavour has been to replicate the same system in other states also. TRIFED has been working on similar pattern in Orissa also. However, the success of the system is dependent on the support of the district and State administration to implement such scheme.

2.63 Asked to state when the prices of the tribal produce were last revised, the Ministry has stated that the prices of most of the tribal produces (except commodities namely, wheat, paddy, coarse grains, oilseeds and pulses covered under Price Support Scheme of Government of India implemented through NAFED, FCI, CCI, wherein the Government of India announces support price every year) are determined by respective State Governments or their associated agencies/price fixation Committees. Normally, prices would undergo revision every year.

2.64 As regards the steps taken by the Ministry/TRIFED to eliminate the role of middleman/contractor in marketing of the forest produce, the Committee have been informed that primary responsibility of eliminating middlemen/contractors in marketing of tribal produces lies with respective State Governments as they make policies in this regard.

2.65 TRIFED assist various State Government agencies working under control and supervision of State Government in undertaking procurement of various tribal produces by assuring them advance against committed sales to TRIFED thereby insulating them against the risk of market fluctuation provided they pay agreed price to tribals. This entire mechanism is targeted towards ensuring direct procurement by such agencies without involvement of middlemen in general.

2.66 However, leasing out of forest ranges/divisions in various States to private parties who could be termed as contractor in forest produce is quite common as a part of policy decision of various State Governments. TRIFED takes up such matter with appropriate authorities like presently in Orissa, but there is a need of national workshop and has been proposed in this regard.

2.67 Asked to explain whether the Ministry has achieved its objective for setting up TRIFED, the Ministry has informed the Committee that the primary objective for setting up TRIFED was to ensure remunerative prices to the tribals for their produce. TRIFED has expanded its activities and also its areas of operation through setting up of 12 branch offices. Recently TRIFED in association with the District Administration in Bastar region and other districts like Mandla, Shadol and Jhabhua has started to procure commodities from the tribal which has resulted in elimination of middlemen thereby ensuring remunerative prices to the tribals. The same model of procurement is now being replicated in Orissa also.

2.68 In order to review the performance of the organisation the Ministry has deputed its officers to visit the field offices for getting a first hand knowledge about their performance. It is suggested that the organisation requires to be strengthened by providing them with proper infrastructural support like providing computers etc. It has also been proposed to have quarterly reports on procurement and marketing of commodities by TRIFED so that the losses incurred under Price Support Scheme can be monitored regularly. It is also seen that being a State subject most of the commodities which are procured by TRIFED (specially MFPs and tree borne oil seeds) are subject to State laws and thus the rate of procurement varies from State to State which needs to be standardised by enabling TRIFED as the agency to determine or fix up the price for all such commodities.

2.69 Asked whether the Government has explored the possibilities to export the commodities of TRIFED, the Ministry has stated that TRIFED has continuously explored the possibilities of exporting tribal produce mainly related to the commodities like Hill grass/Brooms, Lac, Niger Seed, Tamarind, etc. in collaboration with some reputed trading institutions. At present TRIFED is exporting only Niger Seed.

2.70 The Committee appreciate the initiatives taken by TRIFED in Madhya Pradesh and other areas where in close association with the District Administrations, TRIFED has organised procurement of various commodities mainly from village haat by engaging grass-root level agencies like Van Dhan Samities, Van Suraksha Samities, LAMPS etc. The Committee further desire that the same system should be replicated in other States also by approaching the State and District Administrations for their support in procuring the commodities directly from the tribals thereby eliminating the middlemen.

2.71 The Committee note with concern that in some States like Orissa, the Forest Divisions/ ranges are leased out to private parties/ contractors who trade the forest commodities which adversely affects the interests of the tribals. The Committee view the situation seriously and recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with the concerned State Governments and impress upon them to discontinue this practice as it is not in the interest of the tribals.

2.72 The Committee note that the rate of procurement of commodities such as Minor Forest Produces and tree borne oil seeds procured by TRIFED varies from State to State because of their State laws. In order to have uniform rate of commodities, adequate steps should be taken to strengthen TRIFED by enabling it to fix and determine the rates for all the commodities.

2.73 The Committee note that at present TRIFED is exporting only Niger seed. The Committee desire that the Ministry should explore the feasibility of exporting other commodities like Hill grass/ Brooms, Lac, Tamarind etc. in collaboration with some reputed trading institutions so that the tribals get more remunerative prices for their produce.

NEW DELHI;
13 April, 2000
 24 Chaitra, 1922 (Saka)

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA,
 Chairman,
 Standing Committee on
 Labour and Welfare.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE
HELD ON 13 APRIL, 2000

The Committee met from 11.30 hrs. to 13.30 hrs. in Committee Room 'B' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Denzil B. Atkinson
3. Smt. Sandhya Bauri
4. Shri Joachim Baxla
5. Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhuri
6. Smt. Phoolan Devi
7. Shri Virendra Kumar
8. Shri C. Kuppusami
9. Shri Ramjee Manjhi
10. Shri Rupchand Murmu
11. Shri Raj Narain Passi
12. Shri Madhab Rajbangshi
13. Shri Charanjit Singh
14. Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh
15. Dr. N. Venkataswamy
16. Shri K. Yerrannaidu

Rajya Sabha

17. Shri Mohd. Azam Khan
18. Shri Ramachandra Khuntia
19. Shri C.O. Poullose
20. Shri Ka.Ra. Subbian
21. Ms. Frida Topno

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Joginder Singh — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri J.P. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri B.D. Swan — *Under Secretary*

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the new Members of Lok Sabha nominated to the Committee.

3. ** ** ** **

4. Thereafter, the Committee took up the draft Fifth Report on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2000-2001 and adopted the same without any amendment.

5. The Committee authorised the Chairman to finalise the Report and present the same to Parliament on their behalf.

6. The Committee then placed on record their deep appreciation and thanks to the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their hard work and valuable assistance rendered by them to facilitate the work of Committee in all matters and in preparing their draft reports within the limited time.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT

S.No.	Para No.	Recommendations/Conclusions
1	2	3
1.	1.9	<p>The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in October, 1999 with a view to giving more focused attention to the development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee appreciate the concern expressed for the marginally deprived section of the society by creating a separate Ministry but at the same time are not convinced as to how the Ministry will be able to carry out its mandate effectively in the absence of adequate staff and infrastructure including office accommodation. The Committee view this situation very seriously. Keeping in view the workload originally assigned as well as the additional work likely to be transferred from other Ministries to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Committee recommend that the matter pertaining to adequate staff, office accommodation, funds for the establishment etc. should be pursued on priority with the concerned Ministries/agencies so that the mandate of the Ministry is implemented effectively. The progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.</p>

1	2	3
2.	2.7	<p>The Committee are constrained to note that utilisation of funds under both Plan and Non-Plan schemes of the Ministry has been quite low upto 9 March, 2000 i.e, 59.02 % under plan expenditure. As on 28.3.2000, utilisation is of the order of Rs. 548.20 crore against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 630 crore which clearly shows that huge amount of funds has been released in the last month of the financial year. The reasons put forth by the Ministry that sanctions could not be issued on time due to non-receipt of utilisation certificates, delay in processing the schemes, delay in getting schemes approved from Ministry of Finance, inability of States to provide their matching share etc. are not convincing to the Committee. Keeping in view the fact that the Ministry has admitted that the utilisation certificates have been received by co-ordinating with the States, the Committee desire that the Ministry should strengthen its co-ordination and monitoring with the States by conducting regular visits/ inspections. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should plan and incur their expenditure in a phased manner so as to avoid accumulations towards the fag end of the Financial Year.</p>
3.	2.8	<p>The Committee note with concern that no proposal has been received from State Governments/U.T. Administrations for the scheme of schools, hostels and residential schools due to</p>

1

2

3

inability of States/U.T. Administrations to provide their matching share. The Committee also feel that States/U.T. Administrations need to be pursued at regular intervals to provide their matching share. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take up the matter with States/U.T. Administrations on a firm footing to submit detailed proposals keeping provision of matching share in their State Budget so that the students from tribal communities are not deprived of the basic educational facilities.

4.

2.25

The Committee note that although the main thrust of the point 11(b) of 20 Point Programme is to provide economic assistance to the Scheduled Tribes families to enable them to rise above the poverty line but the achievement of target for the year 1999-2000 has been low due to non-receipt of progress report from some of the State Governments. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry lacks coordination with the States/U.Ts and its monitoring has not been effective. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should pursue with the State Governments/U.Ts to send their progress reports timely and regularly and also impress upon them to achieve their targets fixed under point 11(b) of the 20 Point Programme.

1	2	3
5.	2.26	<p>The Committee are concerned to note that despite guidelines issued by the Ministry, only seven States/UTs have so far earmarked funds for TSP which is equal or more in proportion to the population percentage of STs in the States/UTs. Viewing the situation seriously, the Committee urge the Ministry to take up the issue with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations on a firm footing so that funds are allocated for TSP without further loss of time. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should pursue the States/U.Ts to provide separate demand head for TSP under their Tribal Welfare Departments to ensure that funds are not diverted for other purposes.</p>
6.	2.27	<p>The Committee note with concern that only 9 Central Ministries/Departments have so far quantified funds for TSP from their annual plans in accordance with the population percentage of STs in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the matter with the Planning Commission as well as the remaining Ministries/Departments to formulate and quantify funds for TSP at the earliest.</p>

1	2	3
7.	2.28	<p>The Committee note with concern that though the Ministry came to know about the deviation in the utilisation of SCA in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu from the report of the Research Organisation submitted in 1994 yet no concrete action has been taken by them even after a lapse of 6 years. This clearly reflects their lack of seriousness over the issue. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should look into the matter and furnish a comprehensive report to the Committee.</p>
8.	2.39	<p>The Committee note with concern that funds allocated for establishment of Residential Schools have not been released to any of the States during 1999-2000. However, the entire amount has been released to various States for other schemes. Keeping in view the fact that the scheme was formulated to provide quality education to ST boys and girls and to bring them at par with the national level, the Committee urge the Ministry to impress upon the States/UTs to give highest priority to this scheme and persuade them to expedite the process of registration of societies for managing the Residential schools.</p>
9.	2.40	<p>The Committee also desire that the Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution should not be used by States as supplementary or additionality to other Tribal Welfare</p>

Programmes such as TSP and SCA. Keeping in view the fact that most of the areas identified for coverage under the scheme are also covered under TSP and other programmes, the Committee recommend that adequate steps should be taken in planning and implementation of the scheme so as to avoid any overlapping and diversion of funds.

10. 2.41 The Committee note with concern that the Finance Department of some States are not releasing the Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to the Tribal Welfare Department as they consider it a part of the State Plan. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should pursue the matter with the concerned States on priority to release the grants under Article 275(1) to the Tribal Welfare Department of States over and above their State Plan.
11. 2.52 The Committee note with concern that no time limit has been given to State Governments for carrying out inquiry/ investigations against the defaulting NGOs and recovery of amount sanctioned to black-listed NGOs is yet to be effected by the State Governments. Viewing this situation seriously, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should fix a time limit for the State Governments to carry out investigations against the defaulting NGOs and submit a detailed report to

1	2	3
---	---	---

the Committee. The Committee further recommend that the State Governments should be pursued to initiate recovery proceedings against the black-listed organisations and also impress upon them that the authority/official certifying the genuineness of the bogus NGOs are brought to book.

12. 2.53

The Committee note that in order to weed out bogus and non-existent NGOs, inspection reports of the District Collector and recommendation of the Tribal Welfare Secretary under their own signature has been made mandatory after 2.12.1999. The Committee appreciate the efforts made in this regard but also desire that the new initiatives should not cause further delays on the part of the State Governments/UTs in forwarding their inspection reports to the Ministry. The Committee also urge the Ministry to pursue the State Governments to improve their coordination with the NGOs working under them so that funds allocated to them are properly utilised.

13. 2.58

The Committee note that the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) have been undertaking the important work of research, evaluation, collection of data, training, seminar workshops, professional input in the preparation of TSP etc. but often its recommendations/ observations have not been implemented by the States. The

1	2	3
---	---	---

Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to strengthen the TRIs by providing adequate staff, promotional avenues etc. so that they could function more effectively. The Committee further desire that the recommendations/ observations made by TRIs should be utilised by the State Governments while formulating their annual plan/ programmes for tribals.

14. 2.70 The Committee appreciate the initiatives taken by TRIFED in Madhya Pradesh and other areas where in close association with the District Administrations, TRIFED has organised procurement of various commodities mainly from village haat by engaging grass-root level agencies like Van Dhan Samities, Van Suraksha Samities, LAMPS etc. The Committee further desire that the same system should be replicated in other States also by approaching the State and District Administrations for their support in procuring the commodities directly from the tribals thereby eliminating the middlemen.
15. 2.71 The Committee note with concern that in some States like Orissa, the Forest Divisions/ranges are leased out to private parties/contractors who trade the forest commodities which adversely affects the interests of the tribals. The Committee view the situation seriously and recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with the

1	2	3
		concerned State Governments and impress upon them to discontinue this practice as it is not in the interest of the tribals.
16.	2.72	The Committee note that the rate of procurement of commodities such as Minor Forest Produces and tree borne oil seeds procured by TRIFED varies from State to State because of their State laws. In order to have uniform rate of commodities, adequate steps should be taken to strengthen TRIFED by enabling it to fix and determine the rates for all the commodities.
17.	2.73	The Committee note that at present TRIFED is exporting only Niger seed. The Committee desire that the Ministry should explore the feasibility of exporting other commodities like Hill grass/Brooms, Lac, Tamarind etc. in collaboration with some reputed trading institutions so that the tribals get more remunerative prices for their produce.
