

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE
(2001)

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on Ministry of Tribal Affairs- Demands for Grants-2001-2002.

CONTENTS

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I Report

CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government

CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply

CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which requires reiteration

CHAPTER V Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government have not been received

ANNEXURE I D.O. letters written by Secretary/Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs.

ANNEXURE II Monitoring arrangements in the States/UTs for Tribal Development Projects.

ANNEXURE III O.M. No. 16015/1/2001 – TDB dated 30 May, 2001 to Ministry of Environment and Forest, Parayavaran Bhawan, New-Delhi.

ANNEXURE IV Minutes of the Thirteenth Sitting of the Committee on Labour and Welfare held on 12 December, 2001

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND
WELFARE (2001)**

**LOK SABHA
MEMBERS**

1. **Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora-CHAIRMAN**
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 Ambati Brahmaniah
10. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty
11. Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhuri
12. Shri Krishan Lal Diler
13. Shri Virendra Kumar
14. Shri C. Kuppusami
15. Shri Parsuram Majhi
16. Shri Brahma Nand Mandal
17. Shri Ramjee Manjhi
18. Shri Bherulal Meena
19. Shri Rupchand Murmu
20. Shri Raj Narain Passi
21. Shri R.S. Patil
22. Shri Madhab Rajbangshi
23. Shri P.A. Sangma
24. Shri Ram Shakal
25. Shri Charanjit Singh
26. Shri Khelsai Singh
27. Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh
28. Shri Mansukhbhai Vasava
29. Dr. N. Venkataswamy

**RAJYA SABHA
MEMBERS**

30. Shri Ram Kumar Anand
31. Shri B.P. Apte
32. Shri Indramoni Bora
33. Dr. (Mrs.) P. Selvie Das
34. Shri Mohd. Azam Khan
35. Shri Ramachandra Khuntia
36. Shri Fali S. Nariman

37. Shri C.O. Poullose
38. Shri Mirza Abdul Rashid
39. Shri Ka.Ra Subbian,
40. Ms. Frida Topno

SECRETARIAT

1. .Shri B.R. Kanathia - Joint Secretary
2. Shri J.P. Sharma – Deputy Secretary
3. Km. M. Tunlut – 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 Eighteenth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Tribal Affairs-Demands for Grants-2001-2002.

The Thirteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 20th April, 2001. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 20th July, 2001. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare at their sitting held on ---- December, 2001.

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 final replies of Government have not been received.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

New Delhi:

December, 2001
Agrahayana, 1923 (Saka)

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

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Labour and Welfare on the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Demands for Grants-2001-2002.

1.2 The Thirteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 20th April, 2001. It contained 17 recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all recommendations have been examined and are categorised as under :-

- (i) Recommendations and observations which have been accepted by the Government:
Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13.

(Total 7 included in Chapter II of the Report)

- (ii) Recommendations and observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue taking into consideration the replies of the Government:
Sl. Nos. 2, 4, 5, 14 and 16.

(Total 5 included in Chapter III of the Report)

- (iii) Recommendations and observations, replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:
Sl. Nos. 6 and 15.

(Total 2 included in Chapter IV of the Report)

- (iv) Recommendations and observations in respect of which final replies have not been received:
Sl. Nos. 9, 12 and 17.

(Total 3 included in Chapter V of the Report.)

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

A. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO TRIBAL SUB PLAN

Recommendation (SL.No. 6, Para 2.32)

1.4 The Committee were not convinced with the argument of the Ministry for raising the limit of the total funds that could be utilised on infrastructure development schemes from 30% to 50% in view of the Audit report of C&AG that the funds already utilized on infrastructural development activities were not incidental to SCA. They had, therefore, recommended that the Government should make serious efforts to bring the tribal people living below the poverty line under the income generating programmes and concentrate on utilization of SCA funds strictly for development of infrastructure incidental to family oriented income generating schemes.

1.5 In their action take note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry has stated that the observation of the Committee had been noted. However, the Committee may reconsider their views because of the following reasons:

1.6 There may be some cases of utilizing SCA funds on infrastructural development activities not incidental to SCA. But the random sample test taken by C&AG may not be the picture of the whole country. There are some States/UTs who have very limited scope for income generating schemes but have a necessity for infrastructural development and hence there are shortfalls in the expenditure of SCA funds. The infrastructural development would then lead to enhanced capacity of these economies to observe more and more credit flowing through SCA for income generating schemes. If the limit of infrastructural development is increased, the expenditure under SCA to TSP will improve and there will be less unspent balances with the States/UTs.

1.7 The Committee take note of the reasons advanced by the Ministry that some States/UTs have very limited scope for income generating schemes but have a necessity for infrastructural development. The Committee, therefore, are of the view that the limit on expenditure for infrastructural development schemes could be raised from 30% to 50% only in those States/UTs where there is no scope or very little opportunity for individual oriented income generating schemes. The Committee, while reiterating their earlier recommendation emphasise that SCA funds should be utilised in other States strictly for family oriented income generating schemes for ameliorating the lot of tribals living below poverty line.

B. SETTING UP OF MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE SYSTEM FOR FOREST AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE OF THE TRIBALS

Recommendation (SL.No. 15, Para 2.102)

1.8 The Committee noted that although TRIFED's primary duty is to extend remunerative prices to the tribal people for minor forest produce and agricultural produce yet there is no institutional arrangement for minimum support price system for the forest produce as is available to other commodities in the agricultural sector through Agricultural Price Commission. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Government should consider establishing a minimum price support for the forest and agricultural produce of the tribals.

1.9 In their action taken reply, the Ministry has informed the Committee that the subject has a financial implication for the State Governments. They are yet to positively respond to it. However, so far as the agricultural produce are concerned these are covered by the Ministry of Agriculture. In case of MFPs, standardised inputs are not available and as such the fixing of minimum support price cannot be based on any norm or input costs and return to the collector of MFPs except the wage component.

1.10 The Committee are not convinced with the argument of the Ministry that the agricultural produce of the tribals are covered by the Ministry of Agriculture and that State Governments are facing financial hardships in providing an institutional mechanism for minimum support price system for the forest and agricultural produce of the tribals. The Committee, while reiterating their earlier recommendation urge the Ministry to persuade the States/UTs to provide the protective cover of minimum support price system for the MFPs of the tribals at the earliest.