GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TRIBAL AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5440
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015
IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TSP
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Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any evaluation study to examine the impact of implementation of Tribal Sub- Plan (TSP) by the States including Rajasthan in the country particularly with regard to socio-economic and educational impact and if so, the details and the outcome of such study;
- (b) whether certain deficiencies and under performance or irregularities of financial resources under TSP have come to the notice of the Government in the such evaluation study;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government to remove such deficiencies and optimum utilisation of financial resources under TSP:
- (d) whether the cases of violation of operational guidelines issued by the Government for formulation, implementation and monitoring of TSP have also come to the notice of the Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the details of funds sanctioned, released and utilised under TSP and other central projects for the development of tribals during the said period, State/UTvvise including Karnataka and Rajasthan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA)

(a) to (e): Recently erstwhile Planning Commission got a holistic evaluation study conducted through a third party agency on impact of implementation of Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) by the State Governments in terms of delivery and goods services. Evaluation study was carried in 14 States including Rajasthan. In each State, two districts were selected and from each district, one Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) / Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA) was selected for undertaking evaluation. The report of the Study was made public during May 2013. The Study, inter alia, reported Underperformance of TSP funds in fetching Tangible Results and for That Matter triggering development of tribals. Besides, the Ministry held several consultations with the keholders in the Central Governments as well as State Governments and outside experts / agencies to gauge the deficiencies confronting tribal development with the desired pace.

In nutshell, besides other things, the prominent reasons for underperformance of TSP funds have been identified as (i) Lack of unified planning, implementation and monitoring mechanism (ii) Lack of effective mechanism to gel central plan TSP funds and State Plan TSP Funds (iii) Scattered financial resources used in a scattered manner (iv) Lack of location specific perspective plan (v) Lack of gap analysis (vi) Weakening of institutions specifically meant for delivery of goods and services to tribal population i.e. Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Projects / Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) and other Micro Projects, (vii) Utilisation of TSP funds was more ritualistic than outcome based initiative based on gap analysis in HDI. (viii) Inadequate and insufficient administrative and financial powers with the Tribal Welfare Departments in the States and Ministry of Tribal Affairs at Centre.

The erstwhile Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministry has issued revised Guidelines during 2014 for implementation of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) by the States /UTs and Central Government Ministries/Departments keeping in mind the holistic development of tribal people. The Guidelines, inter alia, reiterate the resolve of the Government for allocation of funds under TSP out of total Plan Outlays not less than the population proportion of STs in State as per 2011 census. The Guidelines further stipulates for non¬diversion of funds meant for tribal areas and comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators, covering provisioning, service delivery standards as well as outcomes. The Guidelines recognizes respective Tribal Welfare Department in the States as the nodal department authorized to lead the process of TSP development.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also issued "Operational Guidelines for Formulation, Implementation and Monitoring of Tribal Sub-Plan and Article 275(1) grants" in the month of March, 2014 for effective implementation of Schemes administered by the Ministry wherein issues related to allocation of funds, priority areas, need for nodal Department in States, judicious utilization of TSP fund, institutionalizing the instruments for ensuring transparency, accountability and social audit have been addressed. The Operational Guidelines have laid special emphasis on strengthening of institutions viz. Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Tribal Research Institutions (TRIs) through which tribal welfare programmes are implemented in the State.

Further provision has been made for appraisal and approval of the proposals received from the States by a Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) consisting of Secretary (Tribal Affairs) as chairman with representatives of NITI Aayog, Financial Advisor and representatives of the State as members/invitees. This has helped in ensuring consultation with the States, convergence of various schemes of the Ministry, transparency in the process of appraisal and fund releases and ensuring optimal utilization of limited financial resources.

During the Project Appraisal Committee meetings held during 2014-15 and the current year 2015-16, besides other things, State Governments have been impressed upon to ensure optimum utilization of financial resources available for the purpose under various schemes/ programmers of Central as well as State Governments by way of appropriate convergence. They have also been sensitized for promotion of need based integrated livelihood initiatives such as Dairy development with State cooperative, horticulture, floriculture, vegetable production, apiculture, sericulture, fisheries, backyard poultries etc. without in any way disturbing the traditional agricultural practices, in order to create enabling environment for tribals to earn their livelihood at doorsteps with backward and forward linkages. The State Governments have been impressed upon the need for cultivation of traditional crops and promotion of traditional food like minor millets, green leafy vegetables and effective implementation of ongoing folic acid supplement efforts in respect of tribal population. Besides, attention have been drawn to harp on the need of job oriented skill development of tribals while ensuring due share to female population by including women centric trades. Promotion of co-education and curb on drop outs of students are also among the thrust areas. Strengthening of health institutions, measures to improve overall health of tribals including immunization have been rigorously advocated by the Ministry. Diseases like Sickle Cell Anemia, Malaria, leprosy etc. have been given attention to. Sanitation measures especially facilities of toilets with running water and electricity in residential schools have been emphasized upon.

Cases of violation of operational Guidelines issued by the Ministry have not come to the notice.

(f): The details of funds released to and utilized under TSP and other Central Projects for the development of tribals is at Annexure.