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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2019-20)**

THIRD REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2019/Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2019-20)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 12.12.2019

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 12.12.2019



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2019/Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
4. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
5. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
6. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
7. Shri Y. Devendrappa
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
9. Shri Hans Raj Hans
10. Shri Abdul Khaleque
11. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
12. Smt. Geeta Kora
13. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
14. Shri Vijay Kumar
15. Shri Akshaibar Lal
16. Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze
17. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
- #18. Shri Prince Raj
19. Shri Arjun Singh
20. Smt. Supriya Sule
21. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
24. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
25. Shri Biswajit Daimary
26. Shri Anil Desai
27. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
28. Shri P. L. Punia
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Shri Ramkumar Verma
31. Vacant

Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 09.12.2019.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Vatsala Joshi Director
3. Smt. P. Jyoti Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2019-20) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Third Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2019-20' pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which were laid on the Table of the House on 15.07.2019. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 6th November, 2019. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 10th December, 2019.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for tendering oral evidence and placing before them the detailed written notes and post evidence information as desired by the Committee in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2019-20).

4. For ease of reference, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

10 December, 2019
19 Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

SMT. RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

REPORT
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTORY

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) was set up in 1999, after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most underprivileged of the Indian Society, in a coordinated and planned manner.

Mandate of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1.2 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for development of STs. The subjects allocated to the Ministry are as under:

1. Social security and social insurance with respect to the Scheduled Tribes.
2. Tribal Welfare: Tribal welfare planning, project formulation, research, evaluation, statistics and training.
3. Promotion and development of voluntary efforts on tribal welfare.
4. Scheduled Tribes, including scholarship to students belonging to such tribes.
5. Development of Scheduled Tribes.
6. All matters including legislation relating to the rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes on forest lands.
7. (a) Scheduled Areas;
(b) Regulations framed by the Governors of States for Scheduled Areas.
8. (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.
9. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

10. Implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (22 of 1955) and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (33 of 1989), excluding administration of criminal justice in regard to offences in so far as they relate to Scheduled Tribes.
11. Monitoring of Tribal Sub-Plan, based on the frame work and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog.

The Role

1.3 The programmes and schemes of the Ministry are as under:

Two pronged strategy,

- (i) Direct Intervention
- (ii) Filling critical gaps, supplementing efforts of other Central Ministries, State Governments and Voluntary Organizations.

1. Special Area Programmes

- A. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme(SCA To TSS)
- B. Grants Under First Proviso to Article 275 (1) of The constitution of India including EMRS.

2. Central Sector Schemes (100% funding provided by MoTA)

- A. National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students.
- B. Scholarship (Top Class Education) for Higher Education of ST Students.
- C. National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe Candidates.
- C. Institutional Support for Development and Marketing Of Tribal Products/Produce.
- D. Support to Tribal Research Institute (TRI)
- E. Scheme of Grant-In-Aid to Voluntary Organization Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes.
- F. Strengthening Education among ST Girls In Low Literacy districts.
- G. Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- H. Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

3. Centrally Sponsored Schemes

- A. Post-Matric Scholarships To The Students Belonging To Scheduled Tribes For Studies In India. (**Central assistance is 75:25 (90:10 for NER and Hilly States)**)
- B. Pre-Matric Scholarship for Needy Scheduled Tribe Students Studying In Classes IX&X. (**Central assistance in the share of 75:25 (90:10 for NER and Hilly states)**)
- C. Mechanism for Marketing Of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Through Minimum Support Price (MSP) And Development Of Value Chain For MFP.

CHAPTER II

BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2019-20 are given under Demand No. 98. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 15.07.2019. The Ministry have furnished the following statement to the Committee on 17.07.2019 showing the Budgetary Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) for the last three Years along with the Budgetary Estimates for 2019-20:

Sl. No.	Year	B.E.	R.E.	Expenditure	B.E.	R.E.
					% VARIATION	
1	2016-17	4826.50	4826.50	4816.65	NA	NA
2	2017-18	5329.32	5329.32	5317.78	10.42	10.42
3	2018-19	6000.00	6000.00	5994.58	12.58	12.58
4	2019-20	6894.96	NA	NA	14.92	NA

2.2 A statement on the Budget proposals submitted by the Ministry to the Ministry of Finance and amount actually provided for different schemes in Annual Plan 2019-20 was furnished as below:

Note on the Budget Proposal for the Financial Year 2019-20

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (₹ in crore)
1	Consolidated (schemes + non schemes) proposals submitted to Ministry of Finance (a) For different schemes = ₹ 9342.03 Cr. (b) for non schemes/secretariat expenditure = ₹ 64.00 Cr.	9406.03
2	Amount allocated by Ministry of Finance (a) for different schemes = ₹ 6847.89 Cr. (b) for non schemes/secretariat expenditure = ₹ 47.07 Cr.	6894.96

Note on Budget Proposal (Annual Plan 2019-20)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (₹ in crore)
1	Proposal submitted to Ministry of Finance for Annual Plan 2019-20	9342.03
2	Amount provided for Different Schemes in Annual Plan 2019-20	6847.89

2.3 When the Committee sought figures of actual expenditure in the year 2019-20 till 30.09.2019, the Ministry replied as under:

Actual Expenditure (Scheme wise & Non-scheme wise) for 2019-20 till 30-09-2019

Name of Scheme	(₹ in crore)	
	BE 2019-20	Exp. up to 30.09.19
2	3	4
SCA to Tribal Sub-Schemes	1350.00	836.09
Scheme under proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	2662.55	1390.30
Grants to Assam Government under clause (A) of the second Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution	0.01	0.00
Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)	0.31	0.00
National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Children	100.00	62.20
Scholarship to the ST students for studies abroad	2.00	1.28
Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation.	80.00	74.10
Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/ Produce.	83.00	42.08
Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of ST	110.00	5.86
Pre-Matric Scholarship	340.00	309.26
Post Matric Scholarship	1613.50	1544.60
Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)	250.00	122.40
Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP)	130.00	50.91
Tribal Festivals, Research Information and Mass Education	24.00	0.47
Monitoring and Evaluation	2.50	1.05

Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas (EAP)	0.01	0.00
Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana	0.01	0.00
Support to Tribal Research Institutes Including Tribal Memorial	100.00	68.58
Total (A)	6847.89	4509.18
SECRETARIAT	30.50	14.53
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)	16.57	6.18
TOTAL (B)	47.07	20.71
GRANT TOTAL (A + B)	6894.96	4529.89

2.4 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also furnished the following detailed statement showing BE, RE and AE incurred during the period from 2016-17 to 2018-19 along with BE for the year 2019-20 on various tribal welfare schemes as follows:

(₹ in crore)

S.No	Name of Scheme	BE	RE	EXP	Shortfall/ Excess (-) Exp. If any, indicating reasons in brief	BE	RE	EXP	Shortfall/ Excess (-) Exp. If any, indicating reasons in brief	BE	RE	EXP	Shortfall/ Excess (-) Exp. If any, indicating reasons in brief	BE
		2016-17				2017-18				2018-19				2019-20
1	SCA to TSS	1250.00	1200.00	1195.03	54.97	1350.00	1350.00	1350.01	-0.01	1350.00	1350.00	1349.81	0.19	1350.00
2	Grants under Article 275 (1)	1400.14	1260.01	1265.86	134.28	1500.01	1500.00	1510.70	-10.69	1800.01	1820.00	1819.82	-19.81	2662.56
	Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)													0.31
3	Support to NSTFDC	70.00	60.00	60.00	10.00	60.00	55.00	55.00	5.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	0.00	80.00
4	Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojna	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
5	Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the Scheduled Tribes	120.00	120.00	120.00	0.00	120.00	120.00	119.94	0.06	130.00	120.00	114.00	16.00	110.00
6	Vocational Training Centers (NGOs)				0.00				0.00				0.00	
7	Strengthening of Educational among ST Girls				0.00				0.00				0.00	
8	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTG)	200.00	340.00	340.21	-140.21	270.00	240.00	239.49	30.51	260.00	250.00	250.00	10.00	250.00
9	Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products-TRIFED	49.00	49.00	49.00	0.00	49.00	44.95	44.95	4.05	54.15	72.50	72.50	-18.35	83.00
10	Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)	21.00	17.00	15.11	5.89	80.00	80.00	79.00	1.00	100.00	100.00	99.99	0.01	100.00
11	Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP)	158.00	3.00	2.00	156.00	100.00	25.00	8.59	91.41	130.00	97.47	96.85	33.15	130.00
12	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students	50.00	80.00	79.98	-29.98	120.00	100.00	99.72	20.28	100.00	100.00	99.98	0.02	100.00

S.No	Name of Scheme	BE	RE	EXP	Shortfall/ Excess (-) Exp. If any, indicating reasons in brief	BE	RE	EXP	Shortfall/ Excess (-) Exp. If any, indicating reasons in brief	BE	RE	EXP	Shortfall/ Excess (-) Exp. If any, indicating reasons in brief	BE
		2016-17				2017-18				2018-19				2019-20
13	Scholarship to the ST Students for Studies Abroad	1.00	0.39	0.39	0.61	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00
14	Tribal Festivals, Research Information & Mass Education	17.39	6.39	4.69	12.71	12.04	6.35	4.01	8.03	25.00	25.00	23.35	1.65	24.00
15	Monitoring and Evaluation	8.00	2.00	1.39	6.62	3.00	3.00	1.27	1.73	5.00	2.50	2.42	2.58	2.50
16	Information Technology	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	
17	Improving Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas	0.39	0.01	0.00	0.39	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
18	Pre-Matric Scholarship				0.00	265.00	318.00	294.08	-29.08	350.00	310.00	311.50	38.50	340.00
19	Post-Matric Scholarship				0.00	1347.07	1436.00	1463.91	-116.84	1586.00	1643.03	1647.56	-61.56	1613.50
20	Boys & Girls Hostels				0.00	10.00	7.00	7.00	3.00	0.00			0.00	
21	Ashram Schools				0.00	10.00	7.00	7.00	3.00	0.00			0.00	
22	Vocational Training Centers				0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00			0.00	
23	Umbrella Scheme for Development of STs: Tribal Education	1454.22	1659.84	1659.31	-205.09									
	Grant Total	4800.14	4798.64	4793.96	6.18	5300.14	5293.30	5285.67	14.47	5957.18	5957.50	5954.78	2.40	6847.89

- (i) The scheme EMRS (SI No. 2 of the statement) was a component of Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution and hence funding was made in the said schemes;
- (ii) During the financial year 2015-16, the budget allocation for ongoing schemes mentioned at SI. No. 5 to 7 of the statement has been merged under the head of "Aid to Voluntary Organization working for the Scheduled Tribes".
- (iii) Intervention of schemes Boys & Girls Hostels, Ashram Schools and Vocational Training Centers (mentioned at SI. No. 20,21 & 22 of the statement) have been shifted to scheme of SCA to TSS (SI. No. 1) from 2018-19.

2.5 Further the Ministry were asked to furnish a statement showing the scheme-wise details of funds, which could not be utilized during the last financial year 2018-19 and surrendered along with the reasons thereof. The information given is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Allocation for 2018-19			Amount Surrendered	Reason for surrender
		BE	RE	Exp.		
1.	Grants in aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes including Coaching & Allied	130.00	120.00	114.00	06.00	Surrender due to lack of complete proposals for release of grants-in-aid for the year and 2017-18 and 2018-19 and also due to enforcement of model code of conduct and security clearance i.r.o. projects based in Manipur from MHA.
	Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts					
	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas					
2.	Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP.	130.00	97.47	96.85	0.62	Due to receipt of incomplete proposals

2.6 When asked about the increase in budgetary allocation in amount from the last year, the Ministry has replied as under:

"For the current financial year total budgetary allocation (BE) is ₹ 6894.96 Crore to meet the Demands of various schemes for welfare of Scheduled Tribes (STs). The budget allocated to the Ministry is re-distributed among various schemes & non-schemes keeping in view requirements of the funds for different sectors for welfare of STs.

2.7 When the Committee enquired about any new strategy to ensure that the implementation and efficacy of the schemes gets improved, the Ministry has replied as under:

"The guidelines of these schemes have been revised in order to improve implementation and to achieve desired targets/objectives.

NGO Scheme Guidelines are under revision which inter alia includes

- (i) upward revision of financial norms
- (ii) rationalization of project eligibility etc.

Besides, online portal has been introduced for processing of applications at all levels in order to bring transparency and speedy disposal thereof to commensurate the intent of e-Governance. The portal is a single-point source for inviting applications, inspection by the States, monitoring and sanction of funds by Ministry and Finance."

2.8 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been taking various steps since last 2 years to minimize the hurdles faced by tribal beneficiaries to avail benefits under various schemes meant for them. When asked about the steps taken by the Ministry to minimize the hurdles, the Ministry stated as under:-

"As stated earlier Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is in communication with States, Districts and NGOs mainly through online portal "NGO Grants Online Application & Tracking System" inviting applications, inspection by the States, monitoring and sanction of funds by Ministry and Finance. This has brought, efficiency, transparency and speedy disposal thereof to commensurate the intent of e-Governance.

Further, the Ministry has developed a communication and grievance module in the portal, wherein the NGOs, States and Districts can raise query, upload documents and have 2-way communication with each other. All the stakeholders have facility to locate an application and its pendency at various levels, whether in the State or Ministry. NITI Aayog has asked other Ministries to follow this model while developing IT systems for NGOs.

The Ministry provides funds under the schemes of SCA to TSS and PVTGs to the State Governments for the development of Tribal Population and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. As the implementing agencies, the State Governments assess the hurdles faced by the tribal beneficiaries in availing benefits under these schemes. In order to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the beneficiaries in full measure and to remove hurdles faced by them in getting the benefits, the Ministry has evolved a multi-pronged strategy to monitor the implementation of these schemes and improve their efficacy. Implementation of these schemes is continuously reviewed through the Project Approval Committee meetings, Regional Workshops, Video Conferences held with the State Governments implementing the schemes, field visit by the senior officers, Management Information System and third party Impact Assessment Studies. Implementation of these schemes is also reviewed by the Hon'ble Union

Ministers. Corrective measures, as and when required, are undertaken based on the inputs/feed backs received during the meetings/field visits/studies.

This Ministry revised the guidelines of MSP for MFP scheme vide Notification No. 19/17/2018 dated 26.02.2019 wherein the scope of the scheme was extended to 50 MFP items (from previously 24) with revised MSP and the concept of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVK) was introduced which is an initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribal population by harnessing the wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan. The programme aims to tap into the traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribal people by adding technology and Information Technology for upgradation of output at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a remunerative economic activity. Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram seeks to promote and leverage the collective strength of tribal people through the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) to achieve a viable scale.

2.9 When the Committee asked about the various initiatives taken by the Ministry to sensitize the ST population about different welfare schemes, the Ministry replied as under:

"The Ministry has been primarily funding on projects relating to education and health. Ministry has conducted various Consultation meetings and workshops in Delhi and State HQs with NGOs working for the welfare of STs regarding their feedback on interventions of the Ministry. It has been unanimously brought out that tribal specific interventions are required in the area of livelihood generation, health and filling the gaps in infrastructure especially in rural areas and aspirational districts. The Ministry is working on these areas. Further, MoTA has obtained data from Ministry of Rural Development for gap analysis in respect of various parameters and asking the States to make efforts to reduce these gaps.

The NGO scheme doesn't have any specific budget for sensitization program, however in the new guidelines for next financial cycle, the Ministry is keeping provisions of administrative expenses to sensitize and train the NGOs on the NGO Online portal and EAT Module and generating awareness about different initiatives of MoTA.

SCA to TSS and the Scheme of Development of PVTGs are intended to support and supplement the efforts of other Ministries and the State Governments and to fill the critical gaps in institutions and programmes, taking into account the situation of the Scheduled Tribes. The primary responsibility for promoting the interests of the Scheduled Tribes in various areas of development rests with all the respective Ministries. The Scheduled Tribe Component, adopted for the accelerated development of tribal population, channelizes the flow of outlays and

benefits from all sectors of development to ST population. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements their efforts by way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes. This ensures that the benefit of schemes reaches to all the tribal population in full measure. The scheme of SCA to TSS is being implemented in all the States with notified ST population. Similarly, the Scheme of Development of PVTGs is implemented in 18 States and 1 UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands covering all the 75 PVTGs. There is no indication that there are any areas with 'nil' reach of welfare programmes.

This Ministry conducted Evaluation studies for the three scheme monitored by Livelihood Division namely – 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP', Institutional Support for Development & Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce and Support to National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations (STFDCs) through Indian Institute of Policy Analysis (IIPA). The reports of the evaluation studies have just been received and are under examination in the Ministry."

2.10 The Committee note that BE of 2019-20 was to the tune of ₹ 6894.96 crore, as against the Ministry's projected demand of ₹ 9406.03 crore while the expenditure as on 30.09.2019 reported was ₹ 4529.89 crore which comes around 65.69 % of the total allocation.

The Committee find that in some of the important schemes the actual expenditure was very low which are as follows:

- (i) Grants to Assam Government under clause (A) of the second Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution: Expenditure was nil against the allocation of ₹ 0.01 lakh.
- (ii) Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS): Expenditure was nil against the allocation of ₹ 0.31 lakh.
- (iii) Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of STs: Expenditure was ₹ 5.86 crore against the allocation of ₹ 110 crore.
- (iv) Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP): Expenditure was ₹ 50.91 crore against the allocation of ₹ 130 crore which is less than 50%.
- (v) Tribal Festivals, Research Information and Mass Education: Expenditure was ₹ 0.47 lakh against the allocation of ₹ 24 crore.
- (vi) Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas (EAP) and Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana: The expenditure was nil against the allocation of ₹ 0.01 lakh.

The Ministry cited the same reasons like non-receipt of complete proposals/non-submission of Utilization Certificates/Physical Progress Report for the same.

In this connection, the Committee note that a TRI portal has been developed with a view to provide online solutions including processing of proposals sanctioned and release and outcome monitoring, which is likely to be launched.

While appreciating the same, the Committee desire the portal to be launched immediately so that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is able to bring desired impact on welfare of STs. The report of evaluation studies of these schemes must be followed up too. The Committee also desire that the revised guidelines of schemes must be implemented sincerely.

CHAPTER III

GRANTS UNDER FIRST PROVISIO TO ARTICLE 275(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

3.1 Under the programme, Grants are released to States, having ST population for raising the level of Administration in Scheduled Areas and for the welfare of tribal people. Funds are released to States based on proposals received from the State Governments depending on the felt needs of ST population to bridge the gap in infrastructure activities in sectors like education, health and agriculture etc.

Funding Pattern: This is a Special Area Programme and 100% grants are provided to States. Allocation is made based on proportion of tribal population and tribal area in the State.

Grant is provided to 27 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Institutional Mechanism:

- i. At the State level, Apex Level Committee (ALC) or a Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) Should be with Chief Minister as Chairperson and Minister of Nodal Department as Vice-Chairman. It will meet once in six months.
- ii. Executive Committee should be with Chief Secretary as its Chairperson and Principal Secretary of all line departments as its Members and Principal Secretary of the Nodal Department as Member Secretary. It will meet once in three months.
- iii. District Planning and Monitoring Committee (DPMC) should be with DC as its Chairman and project offices of ITDP/ITDA as its Secretary, District level officers of concerned line departments as its members.

(iv) **Approval Process:**

A Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) in Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) headed by Secretary (Tribal Affairs) with representatives of State Governments, concerned line Ministries, Financial Advisor of MoTA, NITI Aayog etc. appraises and approves the proposals for allocation under various scheme of the Ministry including provisions under Article 275(1) Grants. 1.

The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure along with Budget Estimate for 2019-20 under the scheme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution:-

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Expenditure
2016-17	1400.14	1260.01	1265.86
2017-18	1500.01	1500.00	1510.70
2018-19	1800.01	1820.00	1819.82
2019-20	2662.56	—	—

3.2 The Ministry have informed that the expenditure is ₹ 1390.30 crore upto 30.09.2019 whereas BE is ₹ 2662.56 crore for the year 2019-20.

3.3 The Committee sought reasons for enhancement of BE for the year 2019-20 the Ministry replied as under:-

"Establishment of EMRS was funded through Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. A new Scheme of EMRS has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in December, 2018. In pursuance to the decision, a separate budget head was created in December, 2018. Since the structure for a new autonomous body had not been created during BE stage of 2019-20, a token amount of ₹ 31 lakhs is allocated under the budget heads of EMRS scheme. In order to meet the requirements of recurring expenditure and capital cost of EMRS, funds were allocated under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The enhanced additional amount is being utilized towards meeting the recurring and capital costs as per the enhanced unit cost approved by CCEA in addition to the regular proposals under Article 275 (1)."

3.4 When the Committee asked how the increased funds are actually utilised by the States/UTs The Ministry replied as under:

"During the PAC meetings, the State Governments share the progress made under different activities approved during the previous year. Apart from this, States are mandated to submit Utilization Certificates for the funds sanctioned. States also submit Physical Progress Report wherein activity wise progress details are highlighted. Senior officers of the Ministry have also been allotted specific States and they periodically visit the States to review the progress of activities funded by the Ministry. The Ministry also conducts Review Meetings and Video Conferences to review the financial and physical progress of activities funded under the scheme."

3.5 Statement showing State-wise release of funds under Grants-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India during 2017-18 to 2018-19 is given below:

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No	States	2017-18		2018-19	
		Amount Released	Utilization Reported	Amount Released	Utilization Reported
1	Andhra Pradesh	4591.11	4591.11	6390.77	6390.77
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8378.82	8378.82	12170.52	7626.73
3	Assam	0.00	0.00	3916.32	19.56
4	Bihar	991.89	0.00	0.00	0
5	Chhattisgarh	10964.49	10964.49	11352.92	11352.92
6	Goa	103.00	0.00	345.66	0
7	Gujarat	11384.08	11384.08	11648.20	8160.77
8	Himachal Pradesh	2074.70	2074.70	3378.16	3242.16
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3049.06	3049.06	2051.79	510.044
10	Jharkhand	12386.93	5724.76	7354.30	2317.835
11	Karnataka	5881.74	5715.81	5220.61	1880.590
12	Kerala	803.17	244.02	472.28	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	22399.48	11755.54	24635.30	7683.14
14	Maharashtra	13862.24	13862.24	17015.91	1766.34
15	Manipur	2308.80	2308.80	5367.65	864.64
16	Meghalaya	3603.40	1267.80	5129.79	43.37
17	Mizoram	2504.41	2504.41	3507.71	2876.55
18	Nagaland	4434.11	4434.11	9194.49	4368.51
19	Odisha	15995.30	7306.70	21449.15	3941.06
20	Rajasthan	10240.58	10240.58	13769.23	3301.7
21	Sikkim	405.30	405.30	355.34	355.34
22	Tamil Nadu	378.00	378.00	773.57	213.71
23	Telangana	5015.32	5015.32	3248.89	3248.89
24	Tripura	2040.89	2040.89	2006.73	1034.06
25	Uttar Pradesh	189.00	189.00	252.43	252
26	Uttarakhand	1577.56	473.20	1255.27	0
27	West Bengal	5376.51	5376.51	9235.73	6246.66
Total		150939.89	119808.45	181498.72	77697.35

3.6 It may be seen from the above that in respect of (i) Bihar no Utilization Certificates were submitted in the years 2017-18 and 2018-19 although funds were released in 2017-18, (ii) in respect of Assam no grants and no UCs were submitted in 2017-18, although funds were released in the year 2018-19, UCs submitted were very less, (iii) in respect of Goa, UCs were not submitted in the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 but funds were released in the years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

The Ministry in their Written Reply informed as under:

"In case of Bihar, no utilization Certificates has been submitted; therefore, no fund could be released to the State during 2018-19 and 2019-20 (as on 14.11.2019). In case of Assam, UC due not submitted during the year 2017-18 due to which no fund could be released during that year. During the year 2018-19, ₹ 3916.32 lakh was released to the State. As per provisions of GFR, Utilisation Certificate of funds for non-recurring expenditure becomes due 12 months after the closing of the financial year. Therefore, UC for ₹ 19.56 lakh, which became due on 01.04.2019, have been submitted by the Government of Assam as mentioned in the statement.

In case of Goa, an amount of ₹ 103.00 lakh was released during the year 2017-18 under Creation of Capital Assets (CCA). As per provisions of GFR, Utilization Certificate (UC) of funds released for non-recurring expenditure becomes due 12 months after the closing of financial year. Therefore, UC for ₹ 103.00 lakh was not due during 2018-19. Hence, an amount of ₹ 345.66 lakh was released during the year 2018-19."

3.7 When the Committee sought reasons for under utilization of funds in many States, the Ministry have replied as under:

"Funds are released for various projects proposed by the State Governments. Utilisation of funds, a large part of which are for creation of capital assets, is dependent on availability of land, necessary clearances for constructions, etc."

3.8 During evidence when enquired about the Outstanding Utilization Certificates (UCs), the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal affairs stated as under:

"You have raised a question of UCs, I want to submit before you that this year and from the last year without verifying UCs and physical progress reports, we have not released funds. In the past, it may be done. But we will try to stop the practice. In future, we will see that the Ministry should be run in an organized way."

3.9 The Committee note that during the year 2019-20 funds allocated to the scheme of Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India are ₹ 2662.55 crore whereas expenditure upto 30.09.2019 was only ₹ 1390.30 crore. From the information furnished to them on the 27 States which received grants, the Committee observed that performance of some States was pathetic. Assam, Goa, Kerala and Uttarakhand showed zero utilisation in 2017-18, 2018-19 or both due to which no fund could be released.

The Committee are happy to note that senior officers of the Ministry have been allotted specific States and they visit those States for monitoring. The Committee desire that details of these officers can be shared with MPs/MLAs belonging to these States so as to take their feedback and help.

CHAPTER IV

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

4.1 With the objective of providing quality education at middle and high school level to the tribal students, it was decided during 1997-98 to set up residential schools from Class VI to Class XII. Funds for these schools, called Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), were provided through grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India. The setup of EMRS requires a minimum of 15 acres of land and it is mandated to have better infrastructure facilities catering to the need of academic education as well as extracurricular activities. Apart from school building, provision for a playground, students computer lab, teacher resource room etc. have also been facilitated in EMRSs with a view to create an enabling environment for the students to make use of the opportunities to shine in the areas of their interests.

4.2 As per EMRS Guidelines, 2010, at least one EMRS is to be set in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) having 50% ST population in the area. The capital cost for setting up the school complex, including hostels and staff quarters has been earmarked as ₹ 12.00 crore with a provision to go up to ₹16.00 crore in hill areas, deserts and islands. During the year 2018-19, Recurring cost has been enhanced to ₹ 61,500/- per student per year from ₹ 42,000/- per student per year.

4.3 Monitoring of the EMRSs has been taken up in a large way. Two video conferences were held on 23.04.18 and 10.08.18 with the officials of the State Government and EMRS Societies to improve the functioning of the EMRS, bring improvement in the academic performance, completion of buildings etc. Apart from this EMRSs have occupied a significant position in the discussions during the Regional Review Meetings, PAC Meetings and the Mid-Term Review Meeting. Several EMRSs were visited by the officials of the Ministry to gain first hand experience of the conditions of the EMRS. Based on the findings of the visit, directions have been issued to the State Governments to take necessary action to improve the EMRSs.

4.4 EMRS have been carved out as a separate scheme in 2019-20. In order to give further impetus to EMRS, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS. Eklavya schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalaya and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development. Across the country, as per census 2011 figures, there are 564 sub-districts i.e., blocks/taluka/tehsil having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. Out of these sub-districts, at present 102 sub-districts have EMRSs. Out of this 462, 145 EMRS, 5 Eklavya Model Day Boarding Schools (EMDBS) and 2 Centre of Excellence in Sports have been sanctioned across the country.

4.5 When the Committee sought the progress of EMRS in the sitting of the Ministry with various State Governments held on 17.01.2019, the Ministry have replied as under:

"The Ministry had identified 150 locations for establishing schools as per criteria approved by the Government, i.e. Sub Districts/Blocks having 50% or more ST population and 20,000 or more tribal population. Based on confirmation received from the State Governments regarding availability of land, 150 schools were sanctioned. Out of the 150 schools sanctioned, 55 schools have been reported functional from the academic year 2019-20 with an enrolment of 4833 students. Further, out of 88 schools sanctioned but not opened till December, 2018; 29 schools have been made functional. The Ministry is pursuing with the State Governments to make the remaining schools functional in alternate buildings, wherever feasible, till the construction of own building gets completed."

4.6 State wise list of EMRS sanctioned by the Ministry so far and status of those of functional as on date is given as below:

EMRS Information

Sr No	Name of State / UT	Number of EMRS Sanctioned	Number of EMRS to be Sanctioned	EMRS Functional
1	Andhra Pradesh	19	9	19
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8	4	2
3	Assam	5	12	0
4	Bihar	2	1	0
5	Chhattisgarh	42	33	42
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		1	34
7	Gujarat	35	13	5
8	Himachal Pradesh	4	0	0
9	Jammu & Kashmir	8	0	13
10	Jharkhand	46	46	10
11	Karnataka	12	0	2
12	Kerala	4	0	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	45	27	45
14	Maharashtra	25	14	24
15	Manipur	10	12	3
16	Meghalaya	15	25	0
17	Mizoram	11	6	2
18	Nagaland	12	10	3
19	Odisha	57	62	19
20	Rajasthan	22	9	18
21	Sikkim	4	0	4
22	Tamil Nadu	8	0	8
23	Telangana	16	8	16
24	Tripura	13	8	5
25	Uttar Pradesh	4	0	2
26	Uttarakhand	3	1	1
27	West Bengal	8	1	7
	Grand Total	438	302	284

4.7 In the evidence meeting the representative of the Ministry has informed as under:

“Till now we are spending funds for EMRS from the Article 275(1) but now we have taken EMRS as a separate Scheme for the year 2019-20 and a token of ₹ 31 lakh has been sanctioned for the year 2019-20.”

4.8 The Ministry further informed in their Written Reply as under:

- (1) "Out of the 438 schools, 100 schools were sanctioned during 2019-20. As on 14.11.19, 284 schools have been reported functional by the State Governments. The Ministry has been pursuing with States to make the schools functional at the earliest in alternate buildings wherever possible.
- (2) An autonomous society viz. National Education Society for Tribal Students has been established to plan, construct, establish, endow, maintain, control and manage the Schools and to do all acts and things necessary for or conducive to tribal education."

4.9 When the Committee sought reasons for not starting EMRS in North-Eastern States, the Ministry replied as under:

"In North Eastern States, construction of the schools is in progress as reported by the State Governments. It has also been shared that the State Governments find it difficult to make the schools functional, pending completion of the construction of the buildings as finding alternative interim building is difficult given the remoteness of the location. However, the Ministry is regularly following up with the States to ensure early completion of the buildings."

4.10 When the Committee asked the Ministry why the EMRS in West Champaran and Jamui districts in Bihar haven't yet started, the Ministry replied as under:

"In case of Bihar, the State Government has reported that the construction of the School Building in Jamui will be completed by March, 2021 and the construction of school building in West Champaran will be completed by March, 2022."

4.11 When the Committee asked the Ministry whether any strategy has been framed to solve the issue of shortage of teachers, the Ministry informed as under:

"With the establishment of National Education Society for Tribal Students, steps are being taken to finalise the standard guidelines/Recruitment Rules for recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff for the schools. The process of framing of recruitment rules and the modalities for recruitment are under way."

4.12 On being enquired about the complaints received for running of EMRS from any State/UT Governments from the last five years, the Ministry replied as under:

"Welfare and all round development of students is of primary concern. In the event of any shortcomings coming to light, the same is handled with alacrity. Proper functioning of EMRS is also ensured through visits by officers, discussions with States during PAC meetings, Video conferencing and other means of communication, as appropriate."

4.13 The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors, but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population. The Committee note that EMRS has since been carved out as a separate scheme in 2019-20 and from this year onwards EMRS will be treated separately from Article 275(1) of the Constitution and a budget of ₹ 31 lakh has been allotted to it for this year alone.

The Scheme is in operation for the last 22 years and out of 438 sanctioned EMRS, only 284 are functional although 302 EMRS are also due for sanctioning. The Committee also note that out of 564 sub-districts having 50% ST population, only 102 have EMRS. The reason submitted by the Ministry for less EMRS include delay in construction in school building, difficult to find alternative building, unavailability of the land and delay in submitting of proposals by States. The Ministry have now assured that by the year 2022, total number of EMRS will be 740. The Committee note that several field visits by the Ministry officials have been undertaken in order to see the progress of EMRS. Based on these findings, directions have been issued to State Governments to take necessary action to improve the condition of EMRS.

However, the Committee observe that the meetings of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) with State Governments are not yielding the desired results and hence apprehensive about the completion of all 740 EMRS till the year 2022 which is just 3 years away.

The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to speed up their efforts with respect to EMRS for maximum benefit of the target group and ensure strict monitoring for the same. Also, the Committee recommend that at least one EMRS should be sanctioned for every ST district and be made functional. The Committee further desire that the Ministry should formulate a mechanism to closely and regularly monitor different stages of completion of EMRS infrastructure in all States and UTs.

CHAPTER V

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

I. Post-Matric Scholarship scheme for ST Students

5.1 The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education. The scheme has been revised w.e.f. 01.07.2010 with some modifications. The scheme is open to all ST students w.e.f. 01.4.2013 whose parent's income is less than ₹ 2.50 lakh, per annum and the scholarships are awarded through the Government of the State/Union Territory where he/she is domiciled.

5.2 Salient features:

- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.
- Central assistance is 75:25 (North East and special category states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10) to all States Governments/UTs Administration.
- The Scheme provides financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage.
- Scholarships are available for studies in India only.
- The State Government and UT to which the applicant actually belongs awards the scholarship.
- The scheme also covers Central assistance to States/UTs for setting up Book Banks.

5.3 Eligibility:

- Scholarships are paid to students whose parents'/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed ₹ 2.50 lakh per annum.
- All children of the same parents/guardian are eligible.
- Scheduled Tribe candidates who have passed the matriculation or higher secondary or any higher examination of a recognized University or Board of Secondary Education are eligible.
- The scholarships are available for the study of all recognized post matriculation or post-secondary courses in recognized institutions except certain identified training courses like Aircraft Maintenance Engineer's Courses etc.
- Students studying through correspondence courses are eligible.
- Employed students on leave without pay for the entire duration of a full time course are eligible for course.

- The scholarship holder under this scheme will not hold any other scholarship/stipend.
- Students who have received coaching in any of the pre-examination training centres with financial assistance from the Government will not be eligible.

5.4 Benefits available to ST students:

- Scholars are paid :-
- Fees for enrolment/registration, tuition, games, Union, Library, Magazine, Medical Examination and such other fees compulsorily payable by the scholar to the Institution or University/Board.
- Study tours charges upto a maximum of ₹ 1600/- per annum.
- Thesis typing and printing charges upto a maximum of ₹ 1600/- for the research scholars.
- Additional allowances to the ST students with disabilities at the prescribed rates for different degree of disability.
- Annual allowance of ₹ 1200/- for essential/prescribed books, besides reimbursement of course fees to correspondence course students.

5.5 The Ministry informed that the maintenance amount is given to ST students as mentioned below:

Groups		Rate of Maintenance allowance (in Rupees per month)	
Group	Courses	Hostellers	Day Scholars
Group-I	(i) Degree and Post Graduate level courses including M.Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral research in Medicine (Allopathic, Indian and other recognized systems of medicines), Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance /Administration, Computer Science/ Applications. (ii) Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and multiengine rating) course. (iii) Post Graduate Diploma courses in various branches of management & medicine. (iv) C.A./I.C.W.A./C.S./I.C.F.A. etc. (v) M.Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Programmes (D. Litt., D.Sc. etc.) – a) In existing Group II courses b) In existing Group III courses (vi) L.L.M.	1200	550
Group - II	(i) Graduate/ Post Graduate courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B Pharma), Nursing (B Nursing), LLB, BFS, other para-medical branches like rehabilitation, diagnostics etc., Mass Communication, Hotel Management & Catering, Travel/Tourism/Hospitality Management, Interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation etc.) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2).	820	530

	(ii) Post Graduate courses not covered under Group-I e.g. M.A./M.Sc./M.Com./M.Ed./M.Pharma etc.		
Group – III	All other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group I & II e.g. BA/B Sc/B Com etc.	570	300
Group- IV	All post-matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g. senior secondary certificate (class XI and XII); both general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.	380	230

Central assistance to States/UTs for setting up of Book Banks is given @ prescribed rates. For the degree courses maximum limit is ₹ 7500/- for a set of books for two students and for Post-Graduate course @ ₹ 5000/- per student.

5.6 When the Committee asked about the details of funds allocated under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, the Ministry replied as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Expenditure
2017-18	1347.07	1436.00	1463.91
2018-19	1586.00	1643.03	1647.56
2019-20	1613.50	–	1544.60 (upto 30.09.2019)

5.7 For the year 2015-16 and 2016-17, there was no separate allocation of funds under Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) scheme, as PMS scheme was part of Umbrella Scheme for tribal education. However, from the year 2017-18, separate budgetary allocation for PMS has been earmarked.

Details of Fund Released to State Governments/UT Administrations and Beneficiaries covered during the year 2016-17 to 2018-19 under the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students							
Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Fund Released during 2016-17 (₹ In lakh)	2016-17 Total Beneficiaries (Male + Female)	Fund Released during 2017-18 (₹ In lakh)	2017-18 Total Beneficiaries (Male + Female)	Fund Released during 2018-19 (₹ In lakh)	2018-19 Total Beneficiaries (Male + Female) (as on 29.10.2019)
1	A. & N. Islands	0	167	0.00	544	10.09	439
2	Andhra Pradesh	9777.62	65173	8269.11	71687	13945.02	28341
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1136.32	22564	5803.65	18863	1883.82	Not yet uploaded by state
4	Assam	266.653	29423	2516.48	26867	3248.03	-do-
5	Bihar	0	0	71.25	9950		-do-
6	Chhattisgarh	2674.82	135586	3811.26	143320	4609.57	53315
7	Daman & Diu	53.63	328	26.19	196	3.41	149
8	Goa	645	1924	364.80	4442	536.26	Not yet uploaded by state
9	Gujarat	22040.27	192322	14609.74	214605	32429.12	186807
10	Himachal Pradesh	931.36	3739	3123.36	10747	278.15	Not yet uploaded by state
11	Jammu & Kashmir	2587.84	13854	2322.56	16905	637.93	4308

12	Jharkhand	8148.39	63029	2716.50	73385	5281.32	51720
13	Karnataka	8540	109943	8873.31	101059	7341.33	70618
14	Kerala	3122	15834	2745.46	16111	2674.37	11965
15	Madhya Pradesh	13054	263176	10320.50	272714	13405.24	209707
16	Maharashtra	22092.28	163321	10884.91	147262	15238.15	Not yet uploaded by state
17	Manipur	3385.2	59995	6382.55	59661	2026.76	22588
18	Meghalaya	3189	54900	770.50	35305	2457.52	Not yet uploaded by state
19	Mizoram	4267.52	42072	2434.73	51983	3528.21	32030
20	Nagaland	1344	44404	2515.00	28949	4716.66	38132
21	Odisha	15556.48	176579	8784.18	185888	14801.92	196474
22	Rajasthan	9800	126965	19912.49	135523	13598.95	195590
23	Sikkim	938.16	2605	1247.32	2962	1134.36	Not yet uploaded by state
24	Tamil Nadu	3061.85	23574	2440.39	23815	3933.65	-do-
25	Telangana	11483	112236	18031.25	153845	9921.68	8789
26	Tripura	1323.9	21001	2756.25	23020	3626.55	Not yet uploaded by state
27	Uttar Pradesh	1057.5	5322	1244.91	2779	1210.54	6815
28	Uttarakhand	5090.57	15401	600.25	8335	0.00	Not yet uploaded by state
29	West Bengal	0	85901	2807.89	90395	2219.39	21559
	Total	155567.36	1851338	146386.79	1931117	164698.00	1139346

It may be seen from the above table that list of total number of beneficiaries during the year 2018-19 has not been uploaded by many States. On being enquired, the Ministry replied that since States have not yet completed the process of disbursement for 2018-19, the data would be uploaded only after the process of disbursement by the States is complete.

5.8 The Committee find that as against the target of 10.10 lakh students, 18.51 lakh students had received Post-Matric Scholarship in 2016-17. Similarly in the year 2017-18 against the target of 17.87 lakh students, 19.31 lakh students had received Post-Matric Scholarship. During the year 2018-19 upto 29.09.2019 as against the target of 18.50 lakh students, only 7.45 lakh students have received Post-Matric Scholarship.

When the Committee asked the Ministry why against the target of 18.50 lakh students, only 7.45 lakh students have received Post-Matric Scholarship in 2018-19.

The Ministry replied as under:

"The Post-Matric Scholarship is Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through the States/UTs. The scheme is open ended scheme and every tribal student who fulfils the criteria of Income limit is eligible for the Scholarship. There is no specific target in the scheme. The State is responsible for identification,

verification and timely disbursement of scholarships to beneficiaries. State releases scholarship through PFMS/state treasury after getting funds from the MoTA. The details of beneficiaries maintained by States/UTs and uploaded by them on the DBT MIS Portal. MoTA is continuously striving to reduce the time lag from the date of application and the disbursement date and ensure that the scholarship is released in the same academic year. Since States have not yet completed the process of disbursement for 2018-19, the data would be uploaded only after the process of disbursement by the States is complete. The Ministry is continuously monitoring progress of States in this regard and asking them to complete process at the earliest. It is expected that the States would complete the disbursement process by March 2020 for academic year 2018-19.

Regarding grant to the book bank, the grant for book bank from the financial year 2017-18 has been discontinued as per CCEA approval dated 13.02.2019 and whenever required the funding will be done from SCA to TSS. Hence, no grant have been released under the Scholarship scheme by the Ministry since 2017-18."

5.9 When the Committee enquired whether any survey has been conducted to know the difficulties encountered by the students for availing benefits of the Scheme, the Ministry replied as under:

"Yes, the task of evaluation of the scheme was given to Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). IIPA has submitted the draft report and has given the presentation to the Ministry. The final report of the evaluation will be submitted shortly."

5.10 When the Committee asked the Ministry if it has any plan to revise the allowance because it is too meagre, the Ministry replied as under:

" At present there is no proposal for increasing the scholarship amount of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. However issue will be examined at the time of revision of the Plan Guideline for the Post-Matric scheme for 2020-21."

5.11 On the issue of increasing the book allowance rate to Graduate and Post Graduate courses, the Ministry replied as under:

"The issue of amount for book allowance (for correspondence courses including distance and continuing education) will be examined at the time of revision of the Plan Guideline for Post-Matric Scheme."

5.12 During evidence when the Committee desired to know the average expenditure per student under Post-Matric Scheme, the representative of the Ministry inter alia replied as under:

" In Maharashtra the facilities and amenities received by ST students are much better than those in other States.... The expenditure incurred on one student is ₹ 1,000 or slightly more on an average per month (₹ 13,000 per year)....

Hon'ble Member from Maharashtra, during evidence, confirmed this distinction in Maharashtra and attributed it to two factors: (i) support from NGOs and (ii) equal financial contribution of State and Centre. The Committee also found that the budget for ST students in Maharashtra was more than ST students from other States."

II. National Overseas Scholarship Schemes

5.13 The Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe Candidates provides financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post-Graduation, Ph. D and Post-Doctoral research programmes. Grants are given to the selected candidates on 100 per cent basis directly by the Ministry through the Indian Missions abroad. The scheme provides grants for to and fro passage from India and back by economy class. 17 awards are sanctioned to ST students and 3 to PVTG students per year.

The salient features of the scheme are

- (i) The scholarship is awarded to ST candidates (one member from each family) below 35 years of age on the date of advertisement, provided the total income of the candidate or his/her parents/guardians does not exceed Rs 6.00 lakh per annum),
- (ii) For a Post Graduate course the candidate should possess 55% marks or equivalent grade in the relevant Bachelor's degree with at least 2 years' work experience being desirable. Candidates with experience would be given preference. For Ph.D course he/she shall have 55 % marks or equivalent grade in the relevant Master's degree with 2 years' research/ teaching/M.Phil Degree in the concerned field is desirable. Candidates with experience would be given preference. For post-Doctoral studies a candidate shall have 55% marks or equivalent grade in the relevant Master's degree and Ph.D. 5 years' teaching/ research/ professional experience in a relevant field is desirable,

(iii) The candidates are required to arrange admission to a university/ institute abroad on their own within 2 years from the date of communication of selection.

5.14 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished the funds, expenditure and number of ST students joined universities abroad under National Overseas Scheme are as follows:

Year	Funds Released (₹ in Crore)	No. of ST students joined univ. abroad	Expenditure
2016-17	0.39	2	0.39
2017-18	1.00	12	1.00
2018-19	2.00	16	2.00
2019-20	2.00	—	—

5.15 When Committee asked the reasons for only 20 students being selected in the scholarship scheme during evidence, it was replied as under:

"This scheme is implemented from the last 5 years. We have started a drive to approach maximum students we also felt that it should be increased from 20 students to more students.

We increase the students from 20 to more in the new plan which will start from 2020-21. We try our best to include more students in the scheme."

5.16 The Committee note with deep concern that the rate of maintenance allowance for degree/Post Graduate/PhD. and other courses for hostllers and day scholars of different courses ranges from maximum ₹ 230 to 550 for day scholars and ₹ 380 to 1200 for hostllers. As the amount is very meagre, it needs to be revised keeping in view the rising cost of education. The Committee are sad that this allowance has not been revised since the year 2010. As a result, poor ST students must be struggling hard to complete their education. Therefore, the Committee desire the Ministry to address this issue on priority basis.

The Ministry informed the Committee that the details of beneficiaries maintained by States/UTs are uploaded by them on the DBT MIS portal. The Committee further note that the Ministry are continuously striving to reduce the time lag between the date of application and the disbursal of allowance. This is to ensure that the scholarship is released in the same academic year. They hope that such efforts will continue. The Committee also observe delay in uploading data on the part of States for the year 2018-19 like Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Tripura while completing the process of disbursement and thus feel that the Ministry should emphasise upon the States for uploading beneficiary data in time and ensure that students receives scholarship amount with minimum delay. As now the on-line monitoring software of the Ministry is functional, the Committee desire that the Ministry should pay utmost attention towards analysing the data fed in its modules and alert the defaulters in real time so that the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship proves to be a valuable support for ST students to raise their educational status.

5.17 The objective of the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme is to provide financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post Graduate, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Research Programme. Under the scheme 17 awards are sanctioned to ST students and 3 to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) students per year. Total 20 students are benefitted through this scheme.

The Committee , however, note with concern that during 2016-17,2017-18 and 2018-19 only 2 students, 12 students and 16 students respectively joined the

universities abroad which does not fulfill even the tiny slot of 20. The Ministry is in agreement and plans to increase the slot next fiscal, which the Committee appreciate. The Committee are also of the opinion that lack of awareness among the ST students could also be one of the reasons for weak performance of the scheme. For instance, the Tribal Department website of Assam Government gives a one-line information on the scholarship scheme and the window for application just shows that it will be notified shortly. The Committee are appalled at such apathy of a few State Governments towards the welfare of STs and feel that the Ministry should have been alert to such lapses. Now the Committee desire them to carry out an inspection of all State Government websites to ensure maximum publicity of all ST welfare schemes including the scholarship schemes.

CHAPTER-VI

I. Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)

6.1 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) have been established and administratively supported by concerned State Governments. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India has taken a decision to continue the scheme "Support to TRIs" with revised financial norms and identified interventions. The basic objective of the scheme is to strengthen the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in their infrastructural needs, Research & documentation activities and Training & Capacity Building programmes etc. It is envisaged that TRIs should work as body of knowledge & research more or less as a think tank for tribal development, preservation of tribal cultural heritage, providing inputs to States for evidence based planning and appropriate legislations, capacity building of tribals and persons/institutions associated with tribal affairs, dissemination of information and creation of awareness.

6.2 At present, TRIs function in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Tripura and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Island. New TRIs will be set up in the States where no TRI exists.

6.3 The Committee were informed that as per guidelines issued by the Ministry in December, 2017, activities undertaken under this Scheme are as under:

Building Infrastructure:

- (a) State-of-the-Art building for TRIs/ National TRIs
- (b) Repairs/Augmentation /Upgradation of existing TRI Building excluding routine maintenance like house-keeping, day to day maintenance, utility bills etc.
- (c) Support for setting up of Tribal Museum / Memorials including virtual museums.
- (d) Support for setting up of libraries including Digital Repositories.
- (e) Conference Hall, Training / Resource Centers, training hostels in TRI building.

- (f) Setting up of tribal food cafe, Artisans Corner, Exhibition-cum- Sale outlets of tribal art & artifacts, souvenirs, etc. in TRI/Museum campus, or at other places in the State.

Research & Documentation (including Audio/ Video/ Virtual Reality (VR)/ Augmented Reality (AR) & new technologies):

- (a) Tribal welfare measure
- (b) Success stories
- (c) Tribal Profile
- (d) Tribal language, culture, traditions, customs, art & artefacts, traditional medicinal practices, tribal myth & stories, tribal cuisines and other special characteristics and
- (e) Monitoring and evaluation of various government interventions
- (f) Development and printing of primers in local tribal languages
- (g) Any other aspects relating to tribal art, tradition and culture.

Training and Capacity building:

- (a) Laws/constitutional provisions in respect of Scheduled Areas/tribal rights. (Including Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, the Parliament enacted Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), Prevention of Atrocity Act, Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, etc.)
- (b) Capacity building of functionaries and tribal representatives on socio-economic programs.
- (c) Capacity building of Artisans- Art & craft, Metal craft, painting, dance/drama, textiles, handicrafts as well as value addition to art, craft and designs etc. This can include kits and tools etc.
- (d) Conducting of Seminars, Conferences and Workshops on various tribal related issues.
- (e) Think tank related activities.

Organisation of Tribal festivals/yatras

6.4 Many of tribal festivals/yatras etc. are celebrated in States which can be publicized at National Level to attract more tourists. TRIs may propose such festivals/yatras etc., for supplementary support under the scheme.

Exchange of visits by tribals

6.5 TRI shall arrange visit to other parts of the State/Country to get a wider perspective of culture and traditions, to learn about socio- economic development/ best practices of other areas and to see how TRIs can be managed more efficiently and to see how socio-economic development can happen without losing core culture etc.

Innovative projects /initiatives / activities which can help the tribals or tribal majority area.

6.6 When the Committee desire to know the outcome on activities taken by the TRIs, the Ministry replied as under:

“Government has established Tribal Research Institutes in 25 States and 1 UT. Core responsibility of TRIs is to function as a body of knowledge & research and as a think tank for tribal development and preservation of art and culture of tribal people. Within the setup of TRIs, there are cultural museum, library, training centre, research wing etc. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) provides funds to State Governments under the Scheme ‘Support to Tribal Research Institute (TRI)’ for the functioning of TRIs.”

6.7 They further informed that there is no uniformity of requirements among TRIs. Some of the TRIs have their own building, some others are running in rented building. Similarly, some TRIs have libraries, museums etc. on the other hand some others do not have. It is thus not feasible to lay down a strict criterion for allocation of funds to States. Funding under this Scheme would, however, be 100% grant-in-aid by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the TRIs on need basis with the approval of APEX Committee. TRIs would be responsible to prepare proposal and detailed action plan for the year along with budgetary requirement and submit it to the Ministry through State Tribal Welfare Department.

6.8 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budgetary Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) for the last three Years along with the Budgetary Estimates for 2019-20:

(₹ in crore)				
Sl. No.	Year	B.E.	R.E.	Expenditure
1	2016-17	21.00	17.00	15.11
2	2017-18	80.00	80.00	79.00
3	2018-19	100.00	100.00	99.99
4	2019-20	100.00	-	68.58

6.9 The annual outlay of the Scheme 'Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) has been enhanced from ₹ 21.00 crore in 2016-17 to ₹ 80.00 crore in 2017-18 and ₹ 100.00 crore each in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. During the year 2014-15 and 2018-19, funds have been provided for establishment of new Tribal Research Institute in the States of Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram, and UT of Jammu & Kashmir, where TRIs did not exist. New TRI portal has also been developed for overall monitoring of TRIs and various research work.

6.10 With the objective of preserving rich tribal cultural heritage, a digital repository with web address <http://tribal.nic.in/repository> has been developed where documents, folks songs, photos/videos regarding their evolution, place of origin, lifestyle, eating habits, architecture, education level, traditional art, folk dances and other anthropological details of the tribes in India are stored. The repository currently has more than 10,000 photographs, videos and publications which are mostly done by TRIs.

6.11 The Committee were informed that some of the TRIs are not functioning properly. The Ministry in their written note submitted the constraints as under:

“As per the findings of the report of the Sub-group on Tribal Research Institutes submitted by NITI Aayog the following have come to the notice of this Ministry:

- i. Vacant posts in TRIs:
- ii. Delay in provision of funds to the TRIs by the States.
- iii. Some of the TRIs lack regular and full time Directors.
- iv. In some states, TRI staff were also engaged in the tasks other than the core objective of TRI like verification of caste certificate etc.”

6.12 The Ministry in their written reply informed that it has taken initiative to set up a national level TRI at Delhi which will provide support to TRIs in its research work and fulfill core objectives of TRI at the States. On being enquired about the progress in this regard, the Ministry replied as under:

“The concept of setting up of NTRI has been approved by NITI Aayog in principle. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has been requested to allot the requisite land for the purpose. The allotment process is underway.”

II. Tribal Universities

6.13 The Committee note that there is a regional campus of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in Manipur with just five departments. It is not located in the tribal area.

On being enquired about any tribal universities are in existence in present and functional, the Ministry replied that at present no tribal university is under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

6.14 The Committee note that TRIs have been established for tribal development, reservation of tribal culture and providing inputs to States through various activities viz. research studies, evaluation studies, organization of training/seminar/workshop organizing of tribal festivals etc. The Committee note that some of the TRIs have not been functioning properly due to vacant posts. As new TRIs are being planned, the Committee are apprehensive whether those will prove to be any good or will just be white elephants. The Committee feel that information technology is advanced enough now to manage all activities in a central place hence establishing a National TRI should suffice. However, its location should be revisited as preferably such an institution should be in a State having the largest ST population like Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra.

6.15 The Committee were informed that at present there is no tribal university under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Committee further note that there is a regional campus of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in Manipur with just five departments. Moreover, it is located at the border line of tribal area. The Committee believe that the establishment of a full fledged tribal university in a tribal area would encourage more ST students to take up higher education. With the improvement in the education sector, the tribal students can pursue what they want to and secure jobs in their field of interest. This would overall improve the condition of tribal families and uplift them financially. The Committee are aware that universities come under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Hence, they desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should approach and pursue with them to examine the proposal of establishment of a full fledged Tribal University in States having very large ST population viz. Tripura, Meghalaya, Odisha etc. so that tribal people can be benefitted.

CHAPTER VII

GRANT-IN-AID TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS LOOKING FOR THE WELFARE FOR STS

7.1 The Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes' scheme was launched in 1953-54 and is since continuing.

Objective

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

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

7.4 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budgetary Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) for the last three Years along with the Budgetary Estimates for 2019-20:

(₹ in crore)				
Sl. No.	Year	B.E.	R.E.	Expenditure
1	2016-17	120.00	120.00	120.00
2	2017-18	120.00	120.00	119.94
3	2018-19	130.00	120.00	114.00
4	2019-20	110.00	-	5.86 (upto 30.09.2019)

7.5 On being enquired reasons for under utilization under the Scheme, the Ministry replied as under:

“Allocation under the scheme for the year 2019-20 has been decreased due to following factors:

(i) This scheme is demand driven. Ministry has been able to clear almost the entire backlog reimbursement cases of more than one year by 2018-19, which was running into about 75 crore during 2018-19. During the current financial year 2019-20, grant-in-aid is now being considered for 2nd installment of 2018-19 and current year's demand. Hence, the budget requirement is accordingly reduced.

(ii) As a part of rationalization of schemes, it has been decided to subsume following components of the scheme to scheme of SCA to TSS and Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution:

(a) Running of Vocational Training Centres.

(b) Running of educational projects by State Societies.”

7.6 Funding Pattern

The Committee were informed that the grants are normally released every year subject to the satisfactory performance of the NGO based on annual inspection conducted by the District Collector or authorized officers, and the recommendations of the State Committee. The inspection report should be submitted annually in prescribed format and should be duly countersigned by District Collector with date. Monitoring of the activities of the NGOs is carried out as per provisions of the financial rules, besides inspection by officials of the Ministry or State Governments / UTs.

7.7 The Committee were informed that many projects have been prescribed under the Scheme some of which are preventive health and sanitation, mobile dispensary and hostels etc. Due to non availability of colleges near the villages and high cost involved in accommodation in cities, hostels for ST students is a must.

The Ministry have informed that at all India level, there is a shortfall of 5935 Sub Centres (SCs), 1187 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 275 Community Health Centres (CHCs) in tribal areas as on 31st March 2018 as compared to requirement.

When the Committee desired to know the status of Health Centres set up under the Scheme to improve health facilities for the tribals, the Ministry have replied as under:

"There is no specific scheme being administered by the Ministry to ensure enhanced investment in supply of drinking water, sanitation and civic system for prevention and control of water and vector borne diseases and family planning."

7.8 During the course of evidence, the Committee find that besides poverty, there are rampant mining activities in some of the tribal areas, tribal people work very hard but most of them are suffering from fever and respiratory problems. Most of the tribal children suffer from mal-nutrition.

7.9 On being enquired about the problems faced by the Ministry in getting proposals from the State Governments, the Ministry in their written note stated as under:

"Though NGO scheme is a Central Sector scheme, however, as per scheme guidelines, in respect of new applications and ongoing projects, there is provision of 02 level verification, first at District level and second at State level. The portal is opened in such a way that sufficient time is given to NGO to upload application and Districts & States for uploading verification report & State Committee report approving the NGO. It has been realized that due to delay in inspection at District levels and non-adherence to the timelines stipulated by the Ministry for uploading the recommendations by the District and State, the portal has to be opened many times, which results in delay of processing of applications at Ministry level and subsequent release of funds. For eg. the portal for inviting applications for FY 2019-20 was opened well in advance on 15.01.2019 and the date of closure was 31.05.2019. The date of closing of portal for NGO was extended to 31.07.2019 and then to 15.08.2019 due to requests from various quarters. The date of inspection by State has also been extended twice accordingly. The portal was finally closed on 15.10.2019 but despite multiple closing dates, there are large number of applications pending at District & State level for ongoing as well as new cases. MoTA is making constant efforts

with State Authorities to ensure that the applications are timely processed to avoid inconvenience to ongoing projects regarding release of grants.”

7.10 When asked about the specific steps taken to receive the complete proposals on time from the State Governments, the Ministry have replied as under:

“Currently, applications under the scheme are being submitted through online portal “NGO Grants Online Application & Tracking System” (www.ngograntsmota.gov.in). With the implementation of the portal, Ministry is enforcing timelines for processing and recommending by District authorities and State Governments. The verification form has been simplified and the District Collector has been given an option to get the application rectified by the NGO, in case there is mistake in filling the application form. A communication module has also been prepared in the portal, where in NGO as well as State has option to raise query, upload deficient documents and has facility of 02 way communication. This has resulted in reduced processing time for disbursement of grants in respect of those applications which have been duly forwarded by the State.”

7.11 The prime objective of Grants-in-aid to Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is to stimulate the growth of service deficient tribal areas in sectors like education, health and sanitation etc. The Committee observe that budget allocated for the fiscal year 2019-20 is ₹ 110 crore. The Ministry have spent approximately ₹ 6 crore upto 30.09.2019. The Committee note with concern that upto 30.09.2019 merely 5% of the total budget could be spent. It has been informed that the NGO portal is compelled to have many closing and opening dates to accommodate the processing of applications leading to delay in release of grants. Hence the Committee recommend that the communication module of the portal should be made more interactive to readily provide advice and resolve queries to speed up the procedures.

The Committee also desire a foolproof monitoring mechanism for NGOs/VOs associated with the scheme to ensure maximum benefit to the target population. A multi phase monitoring system can be designed to check release of funds and the work progress of the NGOs and VOs.

7.12 The Committee find that the main components of this Scheme are Health, Education and infrastructure. However, there is a shortage of Medical Centres, Mobile dispensaries and doctors in tribal areas which must be rectified. The Committee also opine that due to major mining activities in tribal pockets, the workforce are basically tribal people who suffer from specific respiratory and skin problems and various type of fevers. Even the rampant malnutrition among tribal children is a cause for worry. Considering these facts, the Committee desire the Ministry to make concerted efforts in posting of efficient doctors in ST districts, opening of more medical centres and mobile dispensaries.

NEW DELHI;

10 December, 2019
19 Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

SMT. RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing
Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6th NOVEMBER, 2019

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1347 hrs. in Committee Room No. 139, PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
3. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
4. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
5. Shri Y. Devendrappa
6. Shri Abdul Khaleque
7. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
8. Shri Vijay Kumar
9. Shri Akshaibar Lal
10. Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze
11. Shri Arjun Singh
12. Smt. Supriya Sule
13. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

14. Shri Biswajit Daimary
15. Shri P. L. Punia
16. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Vatsala Joshi Director

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Deepak Khandekar	Secretary
2.	Ms. M.R. Tshering	Joint Secretary
3.	Dr. Naval Jit Kapoor	Joint Secretary
4.	Shri A.K. Singh	Joint Secretary
5.	Ms. Yatinder Prasad	Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser
6.	Shri Biswajit Das	Deputy Director General
7.	Shri Jaideep Singh Kochhar	Economic Adviser
8.	Shri Asit Gopal	CMD, NSTFDC
9.	Shri Pravir Krishna	MD, TRIFED
10.	Shri Sisir Kumar Ratho	Joint Secretary, NCST

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened to have discussion on Demands for Grants (2019-20) pertaining to their Ministry. Referring to the Directions by the Speaker to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential' till a Report on the subject is presented to the House, the Chairperson asked the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to introduce his team and give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly briefed the Committee about overall performance of the Ministry, detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred/physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes etc. through a power point presentation. The major issues discussed at the sitting relating to Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry are as follows:-

- (i) Ensure the completion of 750 Eklavya Model Residential School upto the year 2022 and efforts to make them functional too.
- (ii) Need to pursue with the State Governments to send proposals complete in all respects so that targets set under all the Schemes are achieved and to study the Maharashtra model where schemes for Tribals are performing well.

- (iii) Conducting impact assessment surveys to ascertain the extent of welfare of tribals through Government efforts,
- (iv) Need for a fullfledged Tribal University so that tribal students would be benefitted. Also to establish working women hostels for ST women/girls.
- (v) To ensure that TSP funds are not diverted and should be made available to the States in proportionate to the population of Schedule Tribes there.
- (vi) Need to generate better awareness on various tribal students schemes and to include more students in the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship instead of just 20 students per year.
- (vii) Proposal to revise the rates of Post-Matric Scholarship scheme to tribal students.
- (viii) Need to study specific diseases prevalent in tribals residing in mining areas apart from rampant malnutrition and provide suitable health facilities and adequate doctors for tribals.
- (ix) Need to generate employment opportunities to tribal population.
- (x) To assess functioning of various Tribal Research Institutes.

4. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson then directed the Ministry to furnish written replies to the all the queries raised by Members, to the Secretariat by 11th November, 2019 for early finalization of the Report.

5. The Committee also decided to invite Chief Secretary, Maharashtra Government, in near future, to be apprised of the steps taken for better performance of tribal welfare schemes.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 2019.

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1550 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
4. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
5. Shri Bholanath (B.P. Saroj)
6. Shri Y. Devendrappa
7. Shri Abdul Khaleque
8. Smt. Geeta Kora
9. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
10. Shri Lorho S. Pfoze
11. Smt. Supriya Sule
12. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

13. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
14. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
15. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
16. Shri P.L. Punia
17. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
18. Shri Ram Kumar Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

3. Smt. Anita B. Panda Joint Secretary
4. Dr. Vatsala Joshi Director

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para	Observations/Recommendations
1	2.10	<p>The Committee note that BE of 2019-20 was to the tune of ₹ 6894.96 crore, as against the Ministry's projected demand of ₹ 9406.03 crore while the expenditure as on 30.09.2019 reported was ₹ 4529.89 crore which comes around 65.69 % of the total allocation.</p> <p>The Committee find that in some of the important schemes the actual expenditure was very low which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Grants to Assam Government under clause (A) of the second Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution: Expenditure was nil against the allocation of ₹ 0.01 lakh.(ii) Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS): Expenditure was nil against the allocation of ₹ 0.31 lakh.(iii) Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of STs: Expenditure was ₹ 5.86 crore against the allocation of ₹ 110 crore.(iv) Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP): Expenditure was ₹ 50.91 crore against the allocation of ₹ 130 crore which is less than 50%.(v) Tribal Festivals, Research Information and Mass Education: Expenditure was ₹ 0.47 lakh against the allocation of ₹ 24 crore.(vi) Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas (EAP) and Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana: The expenditure was nil against the allocation of ₹ 0.01 lakh. <p>The Ministry cited the same reasons like non-receipt of complete proposals/non-submission of Utilization Certificates/Physical Progress Report for the same.</p> <p>In this connection, the Committee note that a TRI portal has been developed with a view to provide online solutions including processing of proposals sanctioned and release and outcome monitoring, which is likely to be launched. While appreciating the same, the Committee desire the portal to be launched immediately</p>

so that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is able to bring desired impact on welfare of STs. The report of evaluation studies of these schemes must be followed up too. The Committee also desire that the revised guidelines of schemes must be implemented sincerely.

2. 3.9

The Committee note that during the year 2019-20 funds allocated to the scheme of Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India are ₹ 2662.55 crore whereas expenditure upto 30.09.2019 was only ₹ 1390.30 crore. From the information furnished to them on the 27 States which received grants, the Committee observed that performance of some States was pathetic. Assam, Goa, Kerala and Uttarakhand showed zero utilisation in 2017-18, 2018-19 or both due to which no fund could be released.

The Committee are happy to note that senior officers of the Ministry have been allotted specific States and they visit those States for monitoring. The Committee desire that details of these officers can be shared with MPs/MLAs belonging to these States so as to take their feedback and help.

3. 4.13

The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors, but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population. The Committee note that EMRS has since been carved out as a separate scheme in 2019-20 and from this year onwards EMRS will be treated separately from Article 275(1) of the Constitution and a budget of ₹ 31 lakh has been allotted to it for this year alone.

The Scheme is in operation for the last 22 years and out of 438 sanctioned EMRS, only 284 are functional although 302 EMRS are also due for sanctioning. The Committee also note that out of 564 sub-districts having 50% ST population, only 102 have EMRS. The reason submitted by the Ministry for less EMRS include delay in construction in school building, difficult to find alternative building, unavailability of the land and delay in submitting of proposals by States. The Ministry have now assured that by the year 2022, total number of EMRS will be 740. The Committee note that several field visits by the Ministry officials have

been undertaken in order to see the progress of EMRS. Based on these findings, directions have been issued to State Governments to take necessary action to improve the condition of EMRS.

However, the Committee observe that the meetings of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) with State Governments are not yielding the desired results and hence apprehensive about the completion of all 740 EMRS till the year 2022 which is just 3 years away.

The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to speed up their efforts with respect to EMRS for maximum benefit of the target group and ensure strict monitoring for the same. Also, the Committee recommend that at least one EMRS should be sanctioned for every ST district and be made functional.

The Committee further desire that the Ministry should formulate a mechanism to closely and regularly monitor different stages of completion of EMRS infrastructure in all States and UTs.

4. 5.16

The Committee note with deep concern that the rate of maintenance allowance for degree/Post Graduate/PhD. and other courses for hostllers and day scholars of different courses ranges from maximum ₹ 230 to 550 for day scholars and ₹ 380 to 1200 for hostllers. As the amount is very meagre, it needs to be revised keeping in view the rising cost of education. The Committee are sad that this allowance has not been revised since the year 2010. As a result, poor ST students must be struggling hard to complete their education. Therefore, the Committee desire the Ministry to address this issue on priority basis.

The Ministry informed the Committee that the details of beneficiaries maintained by States/UTs are uploaded by them on the DBT MIS portal. The Committee further note that the Ministry are continuously striving to reduce the time lag between the date of application and the disbursement of allowance. This is to ensure that the scholarship is released in the same academic year. They hope that such efforts will continue. The Committee also observe delay in uploading data on the part of States for the year 2018-19 like Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Tripura while completing the process of disbursement and thus feel that the Ministry should emphasise upon the States for uploading beneficiary data in time and ensure that students receives scholarship amount with minimum delay. As now the

on-line monitoring software of the Ministry is functional, the Committee desire that the Ministry should pay utmost attention towards analysing the data fed in its modules and alert the defaulters in real time so that the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship proves to be a valuable support for ST students to raise their educational status.

5. 5.17

The objective of the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme is to provide financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post Graduate, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Research Programme. Under the scheme 17 awards are sanctioned to ST students and 3 to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) students per year. Total 20 students are benefitted through this scheme.

The Committee, however, note with concern that during 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 only 2 students, 12 students and 16 students respectively joined the universities abroad which does not fulfill even the tiny slot of 20. The Ministry is in agreement and plans to increase the slot next fiscal, which the Committee appreciate. The Committee are also of the opinion that lack of awareness among the ST students could also be one of the reasons for weak performance of the scheme. For instance, the Tribal Department website of Assam Government gives a one-line information on the scholarship scheme and the window for application just shows that it will be notified shortly. The Committee are appalled at such apathy of a few State Governments towards the welfare of STs and feel that the Ministry should have been alert to such lapses. Now the Committee desire them to carry out an inspection of all State Government websites to ensure maximum publicity of all ST welfare schemes including the scholarship schemes.

6. 6.14

The Committee note that TRIs have been established for tribal development, reservation of tribal culture and providing inputs to States through various activities viz. research studies, evaluation studies, organization of training/seminar/workshop organizing of tribal festivals etc. The Committee note that some of the TRIs have not been functioning properly due to vacant posts. As new TRIs are being planned, the Committee are apprehensive whether those will prove to be any good or will just be white elephants. The Committee feel that information technology is advanced enough now to manage all activities in a central place hence establishing a National TRI should suffice. However, its location should be revisited as

preferably such an institution should be in a State having the largest ST population like Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra.

6.15

The Committee were informed that at present there is no tribal university under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Committee further note that there is a regional campus of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in Manipur with just five departments. Moreover, it is located at the border line of tribal area. The Committee believe that the establishment of a full fledged tribal university in a tribal area would encourage more ST students to take up higher education. With the improvement in the education sector, the tribal students can pursue what they want to and secure jobs in their field of interest. This would overall improve the condition of tribal families and uplift them financially.

The Committee are aware that universities come under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Hence, they desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should approach and pursue with them to examine the proposal of establishment of a full fledged Tribal University in States having very large ST population viz. Tripura, Meghalaya, Odisha etc. so that tribal people can be benefitted.

7.

7.11

The prime objective of Grants-in-aid to Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is to stimulate the growth of service deficient tribal areas in sectors like education, health and sanitation etc. The Committee observe that budget allocated for the fiscal year 2019-20 is ₹ 110 crore. The Ministry have spent approximately ₹ 6 crore upto 30.09.2019. The Committee note with concern that upto 30.09.2019 merely 5% of the total budget could be spent. It has been informed that the NGO portal is compelled to have many closing and opening dates to accommodate the processing of applications leading to delay in release of grants. Hence the Committee recommend that the communication module of the portal should be made more interactive to readily provide advice and resolve queries to speed up the procedures.

The Committee also desire a foolproof monitoring mechanism for NGOs/VOs associated with the scheme to ensure maximum benefit to the target population. A multi phase monitoring system can be designed to check release of funds and the work progress of the NGOs and VOs.

8.

7.12

The Committee find that the main components of this Scheme are Health, Education and infrastructure. However, there is a shortage of Medical Centres, Mobile dispensaries and doctors in tribal areas which must be rectified. The Committee also opine that due to major mining activities in tribal pockets, the workforce are basically tribal people who suffer from specific respiratory and skin problems and various type of fevers. Even the rampant malnutrition among tribal children is a cause for worry. Considering these facts, the Committee desire the Ministry to make concerted efforts in posting of efficient doctors in ST districts, opening of more medical centres and mobile dispensaries.