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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT
(2014-2015)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2015-2016)**

THIRTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2015/Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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(2015-2016)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 28.4.2015

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 28.4.2015



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2014-2015)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra
4. Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria
5. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
- #6. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
7. Shri Jhina Hikaka
8. Shri Prakash Babanna Hukkeri
9. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
10. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
11. Smt. Maragatham K.
12. Shri Kariya Munda
13. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
14. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
15. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
16. Dr. Udit Raj
17. Smt. Satabdi Roy
18. Prof. Sadhu Singh
19. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
- #20. Smt. Mamta Thakur
- *21. Shri Tejpratap Singh Yadav

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
- **23. Dr. Tazeen Fatma
24. Shri Ahamed Hassan
25. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
26. Shri Prabhat Jha
27. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
28. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
29. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
30. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
31. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

* Nominated w.e.f. 22.12.2014

** Nominated w.e.f. 29.1.2015

Nominated w.e.f 25.3.2015

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
6. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director
4. Shri Yash Pal Sharma - Senior Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2014-15) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants, 2015-16 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the current year i.e. 2015-16 which was laid on the Table of the House of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 16.3.2015. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 31.3.2015. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 24.4.2015.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and furnishing the information the Committee desired and tendering evidence before the Committee in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix to the Report.

New Delhi;
24th April, 2015
4th Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment.

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs 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.

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

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;
 - (a) All matters including legislation relating to the rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes on forest lands;
6.
 - (a) Scheduled Areas;
 - (b) Regulations framed by the Governors of States for Scheduled Areas.
7.
 - (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.
8. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
9. 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.

1.3 The Ministry also been given the responsibility in respect of “The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006” which seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes

and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of State forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them.

1.4 Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution which says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes.

1.5 The Scheduled Tribes population of the country, as per census 2011, is 10.43 crore, constituting of 8.6% of the total population. The population of Scheduled Tribes has grown at the rate of 23.66% during 2001-2011. More than half the Scheduled Tribes population is concentrated in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

1.6 In order to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes with regard to land and other social issues, provisions are in the Fifth and Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.

1.7 There are over 700 Scheduled Tribes notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different States and Union Territories of the country. Many tribes are present in more than one State. The largest number of Scheduled Tribes are in the State of Odisha, i.e. 62.

1.8 The Scheduled Tribes communities live in about 15% of the country's areas, in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development.

While some tribal communities have adopted the mainstream way of life, at the other end of the spectrum, there are certain scheduled tribes (75 in number) known as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who are characterized by - (a) a pre-agricultural level of technology, (b) a stagnant or declining population, (c) extremely low literacy and (d) a subsistence level of economy.

CHAPTER II

REPORT

A. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2015-16 are given under Demand No. 98. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 16th March, 2015. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the last four years along with the Budget Estimates for 2015-16 under Plan and Non-Plan expenditure.

PLAN				Rs. (in crore)
Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	% age of Expenditure over BE
2011-2012	3723.01	3723.01	3623.8748	97.34
2012-2013	4090.00	3100.00	3056.6808	74.74
2013-2014	4279.00	3879.00	3822.1165	89.32
2014-2015	4479.00	3850.00	3830.62	85.52
2015-2016	4792.19			

Non plan

Year	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	% age of Expenditure over BE
2011-2012	17.00	17.00	14.84	87.29
2012-2013	18.00	15.55	15.9403	88.55
2013-2014	16.94	17.05	17.66	104.25
2014-2015	18.96	21.88	20.42	107.0
2015-2016	27.02			

2.2 It is seen from above that the BE for 2014-15 of Rs. 4479 crore was reduced to Rs. 3850 crore at RE stage. On being asked to explain, the Ministry submitted that the main reason of reduction was availability of resources of the Government.

2.3 Elucidating further on the issue, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs deposed during evidence :-

"This year, when discussion took place at the RE stage, our expenditure was satisfactory according to the percentage which was given. But the Finance Ministry said that we have resources issues; we are reducing everybody's budget. So, we will reduce your budget but not very much. By that, the expenditure against RE was the only budget.

As I said, this was the RE which was given to us. It was not because of our expenditure was low. Our expenditure was as per the Plan which the Finance Ministry has given; how much should be spent in each month, every quarter. We have fulfilled that condition. Despite that this money was reduced.

2.4 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs furnished the following statement showing Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred during the year 2014-15 on various tribal welfare schemes :-

(Rs. in crore)

S.No	Name of Scheme	* BE	RE*	EXP	% w.r.t RE
(a)	Special Central Assistance				
1	SCA to TSP	1200.00	1040.03	1039.61	99.96
2	Grants under Article 275 (1)	1317.00	1134.68	1133.15	99.87
	Sub Total	2517.00	2174.71	2172.76	99.91
(b)	Central Sector Schemes				
3	Support to NSTFDC	70.00	70.00	70.00	100.00
4	Van Bandhy Kalyan Yojna	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
5	Aid to Voluntary Organizations/Exemplary Service	36.50	45.00	44.62	99.16
6	Vocational Training Centers (NGOs)	3.00	2.90	2.70	93.10
7	Strengthening of Educational among ST Girls	40.00	35.00	35.00	100.00
8	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTG)	207.00	180.00	180.00	100.00
9	Market Development of Tribal Products/Produce	35.00	35.00	30.82	88.06
10	State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation for Minor	15.00	11.09	11.09	100.00

	Forest Produce				
11	Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce(MFP) through Minimum support Price (MSP) and Development of value Chain for MFP	317.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
12	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	National Overseas Scholarship	1.00	1.00	0.99	99.00
14	Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Children (Administrative Exp.)	21.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Research Information & Mass Education , Tribal Festivals and Others	18.34	24.09	20.79	86.30
16	Monitoring and Evaluation	4.00	1.99	1.21	60.80
17	World Bank Project- Improving Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas	3.86	1.44	0.56	38.89
18	Information Technology -Ministry	2.80	1.70	1.27	74.71
	Information Technology -NCST	0.50	0.23	0.26	113.04
	Total of (b)	925.16	609.44	599.31	98.34

(c)	Centrally Sponsored Plan Schemes				
19	Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Children				
(i)	PMS,Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit	646.90	675.92	1058.53	99.31
(ii)	Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST Students	258.82	246.81		
(iii)	Boys & Girls Hostels	65.66	65.66		
(iv)	Ashram Schools	47.82	47.82		
(v)	Vocational Training Centers	4.90	4.90		
(vi)	Scheme of Institute of Excellence /Top Class Institute	12.74	24.74		
	Total of (c)	1036.84	1065.85		

	Grand Total (a+b+c)	4479.00	3850.00	3830.60	99.50
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* including NE allocation

2.5 It has been mentioned in the Outcome Budget (2015-16) that unspent balance (for which UCs are outstanding as per the provisions of FRBM Act, 2003) as on 31.12.2014 is Rs. 1759.95 crore from State Governments and Rs. 14.91 crore from State Corporations.

2.6 Asked what follow up action has been taken in this regard, the Ministry in their written reply informed that the meetings of Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) to assess various proposals of State Governments are being held from 23.03.2015 onwards. The issue of UC/Inspection Report/Progress Report etc. are also discussed with State Govt. representatives to ensure timely utilization of fund. As a result, the unspent balance as on 31.03.2014 was 1798.06 crore which has come down to Rs. 1759.95 crores on 31.12.2014.

Proposed outlay and approved annual outlay for 2015-16

2.7 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted Budget proposal of Rs. 5513.60 crore for Annual Plan 2015-16 to the Ministry of Finance whereas Rs. 4792.19 crore has actually been provided by the Ministry of Finance for different schemes. Due to reduction in allocation, the following schemes will be affected :-

- (a) SCA to TSP (Requirement Rs. 1600.00 crore/BE 2015-16 Rs. 1250.00 crore).
- (b) Article 275 (1) of the Constitution (Requirement Rs. 1700.00 crore / BE 2015-16 Rs. 1367.00 crore.)
- (c) Umbrella Scheme for the Education of ST Children (Requirement Rs. 1433.57 crore/BE 2015-16 Rs. 1154.84 crore.)

2.8 When asked what strategy has been chalked out by the Ministry to ensure that implementation of the schemes is not adversely affected, the Ministry stated that the overall budget outlay for Tribal welfare and development is through Tribal Sub Plan that has both Central Plan and State Plan outlays. Consequent upon implementation of the 14th Finance Commission, devolution to States of the divisible pool would go up by 10% and States are expected to enhance this TSP allocation accordingly. Ministry is also prioritizing the expenditure through Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meetings with State representatives amongst others.

2.9 In this context, the Secretary further deposed before the Committee as under:-

"For 2015-16, we already started holding the Project Appraisal Committee meetings for five or six States. We will complete the process within April. All the States would be covered for next year's budget. This is the extent of advance planning we are doing. During March itself, we would have completed Project Appraisal Committee meetings for half of the States for the next year. That is our advance preparation".

Monitoring of Schemes

2.10 On being asked to furnish details on the number of visits undertaken by the officials of the Ministry to States during the last two years for monitoring of various welfare schemes for tribals and what kind of issues came up during these visits alongwith the steps taken to resolve these issues, the Ministry in their written reply submitted that "there have been extensive monitoring of various welfare schemes for tribals through visits, mechanism of the Project Appraisal Committees recently introduced, through utilization certificates of past releases. In fact, there have been interactions with many States where this has been emphasized upon the State Tribal Welfare Departments. Besides, other senior officers of the Ministry, the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs have conducted around 30 visits to various parts of the country emphasizing not only monitoring but the strategic interventions in State specific conditions as well. The mechanism of the Project Appraisal Committee has induced a more focussed, structured and transparent monitoring of the outcomes expected of the States/UTs. Advisories on various issues have also been issued after the observations in field visits whenever required".

National Tribal Policy

2.11 The Constitution of India contains provisions for the protection and development of Scheduled Tribes, as well as to ensure a level playing field for Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable groups. Though several other central and State Acts, instruments and pronouncements which have similar objectives are in existence, yet there is no single policy

which looks at the issue of protection and development of Scheduled Tribes in an integrated and holistic manner.

In order to address the issues concerning lower HDI, poor infrastructure, diminishing control over the natural resource base, persistent threats of eviction from their habitat, exclusion from mainstream society, inequality in distribution of wealth and opportunities, non-empowerment, and inadequate implementation of Constitutional provisions and to ensure their active and informed participation in development, a National Policy for the Scheduled Tribes is considered necessary. The policy will facilitate translation of the Constitutional safeguards into reality, with simultaneous socio-economic development.

About the status of the National Tribal Policy, the Ministry stated that National Tribal Policy was formulated in June 2006 after consultation with various stakeholders, Parliamentary Consultative Committee, various Ministries/Departments of the Central/State Governments and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. It was placed before the Cabinet for approval on 31st May, 2007. The Cabinet referred it to a Group of Ministers (GoM) for harmonizing it with the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy. The recommendations were subsequently incorporated in a revised draft. Various consultations and internal fine-tuning processes have consumed a lot of time and little progress has so far been made towards actual approval of the Policy.

In the meantime, PMO had constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) on 14th August, 2013 to prepare a position paper on socio-economic status of STs and suggest a way forward. The HLC has since submitted its report to the Ministry which in turn was forwarded to PMO. The PMO advised to examine the recommendations of the Committee with other stakeholder Ministries/Departments. Accordingly, the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Central Government as well as the Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Tribal Welfare Department of the States have been requested to furnish their views/comments on the

recommendation of the Committee. As this would have implications for policy formulation, the National Tribal Policy can be finalized thereafter only.

Sickle Cell Anaemia

2.12 On the Committee's anxiety about the increasing incidents of sickle cell anaemia among tribals, the Ministry replied that Malnutrition and Sickle Cell Anaemia are specifically high among tribal community. It has been observed that the medical facilities in tribal area and awareness among the tribals are also less. During Consultation with the State Governments, it has been emphasized that, intensive health education and awareness campaign are to be given priority. States have been asked to focus on nutrition, immunization, management of Sickle Cell Anaemia, personal and domestic hygiene, sanitation, overall health education, supply of safer water, etc. Key initiatives taken by the Ministry to address the issue include :-

- "This Ministry has, under its special area programmes, allocated funds to the State Governments exclusively for health mapping of tribal people and sanitation measures including toilets.
- Ministry has launched a nation-wide initiative to control sickle cell anaemia among Scheduled Tribe. Under this initiative the State Governments have been advised to conduct a 100% health check-up of students who are admitted to the schools and hostels managed by the Tribal Affairs Department. Followed by issuance of health card which should specify the state of Sickle Cell Anaemia i.e. Sickle Cell Trait (HbAS), Sickle Cell Disease (HbSS). To further support the control initiative a sample of the health card design has also been shared with the Tribal Welfare Department in all the States.

Sickle Cell is prevalent in areas where incidence of Malaria is or was high and where the Hemoglobin genes get mutated. When both the genes get mutated in a person, it is called sickle cell disease (SCD). There is little worthwhile treatment for the disease as of now. When one of the genes is mutated, the person is said to have sickle cell trait (SCT). Such a person is otherwise healthy. However, if one SCT person marries another SCT person, their off springs have a likelihood of being born with Sickle Cell Disease. Therefore, the most important strategy to manage Sickle Cell disease is to test the children for SCT. One test known as Turbidity Test has been standardized by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The per person cost of testing is Rupees two or three only. This test can

be conducted by Health Workers also if they are trained. The cost is important because we want to complete testing of all children during 2015-16.

Following the workshops at state level, there will be training of a team from each district. The team will consist of doctor, ANM, AWC and ANMs of Tribal Welfare Department, if available. This training will be imparted by ICMR officials of State level. The district level team will go back to the district and train doctors and health workers etc. at Block level. The protocol of the test is being supplied separately.

The most challenging aspect of the work is the number of children/adolescents, one is dealing with. In order to access the maximum number of children, all students of schools, hostels etc. managed by Tribal Welfare Department should be tested, if possible, school run by Education Department/Private Institution should also be covered. This level of screening will not be possible unless the District Collector and the ITDA take initiative.

The survey of sickle cell cases should be completed within two or three months of this year's academic session. Regarding out-of-school children, this has been done through community groups. After the turbidity test, the card suggested for SCT may be issued. An advisory that (a) a persons with SCT is otherwise healthy (b) but should not marry another person with SCT to prevent SCD of the offspring's may be prepared in local languages.

There is a relationship between malaria and sickle cell. Tribal people with 8.6% share in population account for 50% of deaths due to malaria. So the burden of Sickle Cell of Tribal population is high. There is thus a need for trainings. The preferred location would be Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs). This cannot apparently be outsourced to private institutions as the number are huge, are in remote areas and there is a need for services of large network of field health officials/workers.

The Ministry has already organized workshops in Odisha and West Bengal. Workshops will also be held in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Guwahati for North Eastern States and Chhattisgarh".

Displacement of tribal People

2.13 On being enquired to specify the locations where the development projects have resulted in displacement of tribal people in Fifth and Sixth Scheduled Areas and how many tribal people have been affected, displaced and out of them how many have been rehabilitated, the Ministry in their written reply submitted that "information is not maintained centrally in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry concerned with all land related matters including its acquisition. That Department is already collecting data relating to land acquisition for various developmental projects and Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the people affected by such projects through the National Monitoring Committee constituted under Section 48 of the Right

to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013. However, the information as available with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is enclosed in **Annexure-I**".

2.14 The Committee note that the BE of Rs. 4479 crore of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for 2014-15 was cut to Rs. 3850 crore (RE) despite the Ministry having met the prescribed expenditure norm which has adversely affected the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP), Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP. Agreeing with the Ministry, the Committee urge them to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance with a plea that a lenient view may be taken and more funds provided at the RE stage so that schemes for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes are not adversely affected.

2.15 The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had requested for allocation of funds amounting to Rs 5513.60 crore during 2015-16 for different schemes but Rs. 4792.19 crore has been allocated by the Ministry of Finance . The Ministry informed the Committee that due to reduction in allocation, major schemes i.e. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP), Article 275(1) of the Constitution and Umbrella Scheme for the Education of ST Children would be affected. The Committee would like to exhort the Ministry to ensure that funds made available are prudently and optimally utilized so that they have a strong claim for enhanced allocation for these schemes from the Ministry of Finance at RE stage.

2.16 The Committee are concerned to note that utilization certificates for various welfare schemes, amounting to Rs. 1759.95 crore, are still outstanding from State Governments and State Corporations due to which the Ministry is not be able to release funds in time. The Committee, therefore, desire the Government to impress upon State Governments and State Corporations to exercise fiscal prudence and

submit utilization certificates in time to ensure un-interrupted flow of Central funds. The Committee also desire that the Ministry explore other ways and means to correct this malady.

2.17 The Committee in their Third Report of Demands for Grants (2014-15) had recommended the need for early finalizing and implementation of the National Tribal Policy which has so much to offer for the poor tribals of our country. However, the Committee are despondent to note that draft National Tribal Policy formulated in the year 2006 is yet to see light of the day. The Committee, therefore, again urge the Government to take speedy action and finalize the National Tribal Policy so that the tribals could reap its much awaited benefits without waiting endlessly.

2.18 The Committee note with concern that the disease of Sickle Cell Anaemia is very high among tribal community which is attributable to scant medical facilities in tribal area and negligible awareness among the tribals. The Committee desire that Research Centres be set up in tribal areas so that counseling could be given at an early stage of the disease. The Committee also desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare redesign primary and secondary health services in Scheduled Areas.

2.19 The Committee have been informed that the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry concerned with all land related matters including its acquisition. The Ministry are also collecting data relating to land acquisition for various developmental projects and Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the people affected by such projects through the National Monitoring Committee constituted under Section 48 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in

Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013. The Committee desire the Ministry to pursue with the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development to collect data of all the Ministries/Departments regarding the number of tribal people affected and displaced due to various developmental projects and provide compensation to all the affected/displaced tribals under "The Right for Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

2.20 The Committee find that consumption of alcohol is a part of social rituals in many tribal communities. At the national level, it is found that about half of Scheduled Tribe men (51 percent) consume some form of alcohol whereas the prevalence of alcohol consumption was found to be much lower among non-Scheduled Tribe men (30 percent). Such a pattern of drinking alcohol particularly country liquor among Scheduled Tribes is bound to have negative effect on their health. The Committee desire the Ministry to formulate a scheme on the lines of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) for identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of tribal addicts.

B. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (SCA) TO TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP)

2.21 Special Central Assistance(SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is a major programme administered by the Ministry and 100 % grants-in-aid is provided to the State Governments based on annual allocation made by the Planning Commission. This is treated as an additive to the State Plan, for areas where State Plan provisions are not normally forthcoming to bring about economic development of tribals.

2.22 The ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand based income-generation programmes and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals. The guidelines for implementation by the States were revised in May, 2003, and were further modified in January, 2008. In March, 2014, the Ministry issued operational guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Tribal Sub-Plan and Article 275 (1) grants which has brought out certain substantive changes in the thrust of these Special Area Programmes, as also some procedural changes. The erstwhile Planning Commission has also issued revised Guidelines for implementation of TSP by States /UTs on 18th June 2014. The Guidelines, *inter-alia*, reiterate the resolve of the Government for allocation of funds under TSP out of total Plan Outlays not less than the population proportion of STs in State as per 2011 census. The Guidelines further stipulates for non-diversion of funds meant for tribal areas and comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators, covering provisioning, service delivery standards as well as outcomes.

2.23 Special Central Assistance is provided to the 23 Tribal Sub-Plan States including the North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Daman & Diu. However, since 2003-04 funds meant for UTs are being provided for in the budget of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry is not concerned in

the administration of funds in the UTs. The funds under SCA to TSP are released for economic development in the following areas and for the following population :-

- (i) ITDP/ITDA areas (194 Nos.), which are generally contiguous areas of the size of at least tehsil or block or more in which the ST population is 50% or more of the total population;
- (ii) MADA pockets (259 Nos.), which are identified pockets having 50% or more ST population with a minimum population of 10,000;
- (iii) Clusters (82 Nos.), which are identified pockets having 50% ST population with a minimum population of 5,000;
- (iv) Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs), characterized by a low rate of growth of population, pre-agricultural level of technology and extremely low level of literacy;
- (v) Dispersed tribal population – those tribals who fall outside the categories at Sl. No. (i) to (iv) above.

2.24 The Ministry furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred under the scheme of SCA to TSP during the last three years as well as BE for 2015-16 :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2012-13	1200.00	852.54	852.54
2013-14	1200.00	1050.00	1050.00
2014-15	1200.00	1040.00	1040.00
2015-16	1250.00		

2.25 When asked to state reasons for cut in BE funds at RE stage continuously during the last three years, the Ministry stated that the cut in BE funds at RE stage was beyond the control of this Ministry, as the cut was effected by Ministry of Finance due to overall fund limitations of the Government.

2.26 A statement showing funds released to the State Governments/UTs under the scheme of SCA to TSP during the last three years as under :-

Sl. No.	States	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1	Andhra Pradesh	4125.00	5789.00	2937.82
2	Assam	4674.00	6563.63	1788.59
3	Bihar	0.00	0.00	403.00
4	Chhatisgarh	9478.00	9478.00	9826.50
5	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Gujarat	7410.00	8448.00	10382.74
7	Himachal Pradesh	1262.00	1768.00	997.99
8	J & K	0.00	1702.41	0.00
9	Jharkhand	11413.25	12187.00	9571.11
10	Karnataka	1853.25	2471.00	3000.00
11	Kerala	549.00	549.00	530.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	17525.00	17525.00	15274.22
13	Maharashtra	0.00	7728.00	11726.18
14	Manipur	1230.00	1581.90	1118.00
15	Odisha	13321.00	13321.00	14925.04
16	Rajasthan	7441.00	8377.00	8822.04
17	Sikkim	437.00	437.00	520.25
18	Tamil Nadu	0.00	651.00	217.33
19	Telangana	0.00	0.00	3541.00
20	Tripura	1955.00	2102.10	1183.94
21	Uttarakhand	0.00	139.60	805.83
22	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	697.79
23	West Bengal	2580.75	4181.36	5730.00
	Total	85254.25	105000.00	103999.37

2.27 Whether all the States/UTs have utilized the released funds and if not, the reasons thereof, the Ministry replied that utilization of funds made available to the State Government under the Schemes/Programmes is a continuous process. While considering release of funds to the State Governments, submission of utilization certificates with regard to previous years' releases is taken into account as per the provisions of GFR, 2005, as amended from time to time.

2.28 It has been stated that 70% funds of the SCA to be used for primary schemes supporting family/Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/community-based employment and income generation in sectors such as, Agriculture/Horticulture, land Reforms, Watershed Development, animal Husbandry, Ecology & Environment, Development of forests and Forest village, Development of entrepreneurship in SSI, etc.

2.29 On being asked how many tribals could be assisted and brought above the poverty line under the scheme of SCA to TSP so far, the Ministry submitted that since the Ministry provides funds to the State Governments under SCA to TSP as a gap filling measure, it is difficult to assess and work out the impact of SCA to TSP funds separately in reducing poverty among tribals in the country. However, the overall picture of ST people below poverty line in the country as estimated by the erstwhile Planning Commission stands as below:

Indicators	All Social Groups	STs
Rural BPL(2009-10) (Tendulkar Method)	33.8	47.4 %
Urban BPL(2009-10) (Tendulkar Method)	20.9	30.4 %

2.30 It has been stated that funds under SCA to TSP are released for economic development in the ITDP/ITDA areas, MADA pockets, Clusters, PVTGs and dispersed tribal population.

2.31 When asked to furnish State-wise details of infrastructural development carried out by SCA funds in the above areas, the Ministry stated that as a part of overall TSP strategy, the major part of infrastructural development activities was carried out through various schemes/programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under its Special Area Programme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and other Central Sector / Centrally Sponsored schemes provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps. Integrated Tribal

Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), were created in 1970s and 1980s as dedicated institutions for delivery of public goods and services to Scheduled Tribes. These agencies function under overall control of the State Governments.

2.32 When the Committee pointed out how does the Ministry ensure that TSP funds of State Government component are not diverted, the Secretary responded as under:-

"The State Tribal Sub-Plan component was Rs. 70,000 crore. This year, the Central TSP BE for 2015-16 will be about Rs. 19,000 crore, but the State TSP component is expected to go up to Rs. 82,000 crore because of the 10 per cent additional devolution which has happened because of the 14th Finance Commission grant. This point was raised, but this is the 14th Finance Commission grant, which was accepted by the Union Government. Sir, we will be writing individual letters to the Chief Secretaries to ensure that the TSP component in the State sector should also go up by 10 per cent. It will go up by about Rs. 12,000 crore this year compared to the last year's total TSP.

The other point raised was how we ensure that this money is not diverted. As the hon. Members know, earlier this was being monitored by the Planning Commission. There is still no clarity on this aspect, but we have started monitoring this ourselves from the Ministry. At least as far as Tribal Sub-Plan is considered, when we held this year the project appraisal committee meetings, we had asked all the Secretaries to come with the TSP component, not just with our money expenditure but the expenditure components of all the Ministries and all the Departments. For example, a law was framed in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and this is only first time that when they came, they had come up with a figure of an additional allocation in the budget of the Tribal Affairs Department of Telangana, which has not happened in the case of Andhra Pradesh.

A point was raised about Gujarat. The total budget for Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, as was very rightly said, is about Rs. 9,000 crore and it covers a whole lot of schemes. What happens there is that the entire TSP money of various Departments comes to the Department of Tribal Affairs which is the *de facto* Finance Department and Planning Department which means that the Tribal Affairs Department decides on the entire TSP component for all the Departments. This is a similar model which Maharashtra has started. Probably, they will be able to implement this. The question is : To what extent will this be implementable in the Government of India? A Bill had been floated some time back. It has gone back and forth. That was being piloted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Given this limitation, we are still trying to see that the State Secretaries in-charge of Tribal Affairs do monitor in some manner or the other the entire TSP component of all the Departments.

At our level, we have a Coordination Committee with various Ministries. Here, in this Ministry, not only do we look so much at the percentage of expenditure, but also how it is spent. In health, they kept saying that we have a relaxed norm. For ordinary areas, you have an ANM Centre for 5,000 people and for tribal areas, it is there 3,000

people. We have said that this is not enough. We have many other issues. This is what we are continuously monitoring with different people. Actions have been coming. We will list out and submit a summary of how other Ministries have taken up tribe-specific action".

2.33 The Committee note that the ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand based income-generation programmes and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals. However, the Committee are concerned to note that the budgetary allocation under SCA to TSP had been slashed down consecutively during the last three years at the RE stage. Against the BE of Rs. 1200 crore during each of the 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, RE was Rs. 852.54 crore, Rs. 1050 crore and Rs. 1040 crore respectively. The Committee find that due to slashing of the budget, grants could not be released by the Ministry to many States while some States could receive only partial allocation. The Committee deplore such action by which the grant for the tribals was slashed that too without any sound grounds. The Committee desire the Ministry to take up the matter again to Ministry of Finance with concrete reasoning and also stating that such cuts adversely affect the welfare programmes of the tribals who are already socially and economically deprived.

2.34 The Committee observe that the erstwhile Planning Commission had issued revised Guidelines for implementation of TSP by States /UTs in June 2014 which *inter-alia*, reiterate the resolve of the Government for allocation of funds under TSP out of total Plan Outlays not less than the population proportion of STs in State as per 2011 census. The Guidelines further stipulate for non-diversion of funds meant for tribal areas and comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators, covering provisioning, service delivery standards as well as outcomes. The Secretary Ministry of Tribal Affairs during evidence admitted that earlier Tribal Sub-Plan was monitored by the erstwhile Planning Commission but now there is no clarity on monitoring issue. However, the Ministry have started monitoring of their own. The Committee recommend the Ministry to enact a legislation to ensure that the TSP funds are not diverted and TSP funds should be made available to the States in proportion to the population of Scheduled Tribes there.

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

2.35 Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India provides as follows :-

“Such sums as Parliament may by law provide shall be charged on the consolidated Fund of India in each year as grants-in aid of the revenues of such States as Parliament may determine to be in need of assistance, and different sums may be fixed for different States :

Provided that these shall be paid out of the Consolidated Fund of India as grants-in aid of the revenues of a State to meet the costs of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by the State with the approval of the Government of India for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in that States or raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas therein to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State”.

2.36 The objective of the scheme is promotion of the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and upgradation of the level of administration in Scheduled Areas.

2.37 Under this Special Area Programme, 100 percent grant is provided to 27 States by the Ministry to meet the cost of such project for tribal development, undertaken by a State Government, for (1) raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas to bring them at par with the rest of the State and (2) for welfare of the tribal people. Focus is given for generation of community welfare assets like schools, skilled teaching, nutritional support, drinking water, etc.; Innovative grants strictly meant for innovative schemes in terms of final output/outcome or methods of delivery; every State to formulate and operate efficient monitoring of the programmes on their own, since Ministry cannot play such a large role in these; Ministry to do secondary level monitoring.

2.38 The Ministry furnished a statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred under the above-mentioned scheme during the last three years as well as BE for the year 2015-16 as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2012-13	1317.00	820.00	820.00
2013-14	1317.00	1097.14	1097.14
2014-15	1317.00	1134.68	1133.15
2015-16	1367.00		

2.39 It is seen from above that the Budgetary allocation of Rs. 1317.00 crore for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 was reduced to Rs. 1097.14 crore and Rs.1134.68 crore respectively. Asked to state the reasons for such reduction of Budgetary allocation in 2013-14 and 2014-15 at RE stage, the Ministry stated that the cut in BE funds at RE stage was beyond their control, as the cut was effected by Ministry of Finance on account of reduced availability of resources.

2.40 A statement showing amount of funds released to the State Government under the Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India which is as under :-

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.N	States	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
		Total Release	Total Release	Total Release
1	2	3	5	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	4834.00	350.00	2139.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	832.19	1880.40
3	Assam	0.00	3540.25	0.00
4	Bihar	0.00	0.00	586.00

5	Chhattisgarh	8534.00	9172.11	10778.00
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	65.00
7	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Gujarat	4629.60	10275.69	8592.45
9	Himachal Pradesh	474.00	474.00	190.99
10	Jammu & Kashmir	150.34	1146.75	0.00
11	Jharkhand	7369.50	9280.40	9873.00
12	Karnataka	4800.00	4800.00	4880.40
13	Kerala	510.00	510.00	748.94
14	Madhya Pradesh	16518.04	15793.47	17321.42
15	Maharashtra	2911.00	12489.00	11701.29
16	Manipur	1031.00	1031.00	1600.00
17	Meghalaya	0.00	2924.38	2334.03
18	Mizoram	810.75	1133.61	1877.78
19	Nagaland	2454.00	2886.93	2067.15
20	Odisha	11283.99	14706.50	12728.22
21	Rajasthan	7737.98	9437.80	9755.92
22	Sikkim	272.58	302.90	370.30
23	Tamil Nadu	0.00	901.00	639.60
24	Telangana	0.00	0.00	3894.40
25	Tripura	1375.00	1355.00	1218.99
26	Uttar Pradesh	200.00	0.00	743.49
27	Uttarakhand	0.00	267.00	1530.36
28	West Bengal	6104.00	6104.00	5747.00
Grand Total		81999.78	109713.98	113264.13

2.41 When asked what is the monitoring mechanism of the Ministry to ensure that funds are actually utilized by States/UTs, the Ministry informed that the following steps are taken by the Ministry to monitor the performance of the schemes/programmes :-

- (a) Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds.
- (b) Progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained.
- (c) Officers while visiting States/UTs also ascertain the progress of implementation of various schemes/ programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (d) Meetings/ Conferences are convened at the Central level with State officials for ensuring timely submission of proposals, speeding up of implementation of the schemes/ programmes, and reviewing the physical and financial progress.

2.42 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) with the capacity of 480 students in each school are set up in the States/ UTs under the programme under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India on the pattern of Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas (RPVVs) of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas. Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants approval for these schools. 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, which includes, apart from school buildings and hostels, a playground, students computer lab, teacher resource room etc. The objective 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. A total of 197 EMRSs have been sanctioned by the Ministry

across the country so far. Out of which, 128 EMRSs are reported to be functional. A statement showing State wise number of EMRSs sanctioned by the Ministry is as under:-

State wise number of EMRSs sanctioned and functional

S No.	State	No. of EMRSs sanction	No. of EMRSs functional
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	02	01
3.	Assam	02	--
4.	Bihar	02	--
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	11
6.	Gujarat	22	22
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01	--
8.	Jammu & Kashamir	02	--
9.	Jharkhand	15	04
10.	Karnataka	18	04
11.	Kerala	02	02
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23	20
13.	Maharashtra	11	08
14.	Manipur	03	02
15.	Mizoram	02	01
16.	Nagaland	03	03
17.	Odisha	16	13
18.	Rajasthan	17	09
19.	Sikkim	02	02
20.	Tamil Nadu	02	02
21.	Telangana	07	06
22.	Tripura	04	04
23.	Uttar Pradesh	03	02
24.	Uttrakhand	01	01
25.	West Bengal	07	07
Total		197	128

2.43 On the issue of monitoring of EMRS, the Secretary during evidence responded as under:-

"About the monitoring part, what we are now looking at is the outcome-based things. As the hon. Chairman very rightly said, the Eklavya model residential schools, for example, are often showing better results than the Navodaya Vidyalayas. It means that

the tribal students are doing better than the general students. It also shows that the management of tribal schools, because it is very closely monitored, is much better in most of the States".

2.44 The Committee note that out of 197 sanctioned Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) 128 with the capacity of 480 students in each school have been set up in the States/ UTs under the programme of Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India on the pattern of Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas (RPVVs), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas 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 are concerned about the poor maintenance of these schools/hostels besides the quality of food served there. The Committee desire the Ministry to ensure good maintenance of schools/hostels besides checking and improving the quality of food being given to the students. The Committee also desire that the tribal teachers especially from the same community be appointed in EMRS and ST youths be encouraged to take up teaching in EMRS. The Committee further desire that remaining 69 EMRS especially the one in Bahraich be completed and made functional at the earliest.

D. DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUP (PVTGs)

2.45 There are certain groups among Scheduled Tribes marred with declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward. These groups are among the most vulnerable sections of our society as they are few in numbers, have not attained any significant level of social and economic development and generally inhabit remote localities having poor infrastructure and administrative support. 75 such groups in 18 States and one UT have been identified and categorized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Since PVTGs are the most vulnerable tribal community, it becomes necessary to allocate adequate funds from Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored and State Plan schemes for the socio-economic development of PVTGs. However, it was observed that funds provided under other scheme for STs were not reaching the PVTGs adequately. Therefore, in 1998-99, a separate 100% Central Sector Scheme for exclusive development of PVTGs was started. Based on the gathered knowledge and experience the scheme was improved during the year 2007-08, to make it more effective. The scheme is very flexible because it enables every State to focus on areas that they consider are relevant to their PVTGs and their socio-cultural environment. Activities under the scheme include housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security including Janshree Beema Yojana or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PTGs. Most of the State Governments and the Union Territory of A&N Islands have formulated a "Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan" for the Twelfth Plan period keeping habitat/hamlet development approach in view and in the format prescribed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The CCD Plans indicate the annual provisions for each financial year and also the agency

involved in implementation of that activity. The State Government/UT Administration have been asked to ensure proportionate flow of financial resource for all PVTGs found in their State and the activities to be taken with a proper mix of interventions for all PVTGs through the State/UT Government and NGOs. The funds are released to States/NGOs in accordance with the annual programme proposed for a particular financial year in the CCD Plan. Funds in favour of NGOs are released directly by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in accordance with CCD Plan.

2.46 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred under the above scheme during the last three years as well as BE for 2015-16 :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2012-13	240.00	174.50	178.50
2013-14	240.00	207.00	206.90
2014-15	207.00	180.00	180.00
2015-16	213.35		

2.47 It has been observed from above that BE Rs. 207.00 crore during 2014-15 was reduced to Rs. 180.00 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure was also Rs. 180.00 crore. The reasons for reduction were due to cut at RE stage by the Ministry of Finance.

2.48 The amount of funds released to the States for the Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) (year-wise and State-wise) is given below:-

Rs. in Lakhs

S. No.	Name of State	2013-14	2014-15
1	Andhra Pradesh	3000.00	2000.00

2	Bihar	0.00	0.00
3	Chattisgarh	1400.00	2212.02
4	Gujarat	1000.00	1091.00
5	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00
6	Karnataka	0.00	0.00
7	Kerala	600.00	600.00
8	Madhya Pradesh	4500.00	4272.94
9	Maharashtra	2610.00	1900.00
10	Manipur	100.00	47.50
11	Odisha	2000.00	2500.00
12	Rajasthan	700.00	1500.00
13	Tamil Nadu	2000.00	0.00
14	Tripura	950.00	826.54
15	West Bengal	1300.00	0.00
16	Utrakhand	0.00	0.00
17	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00
18	Andaman & Nicobar island	75.00	0.00
19	Telangana	0.00	600.00
	Grand Total	20235.00	17550.00

It has been observed from above that during 2013-14 Rs. 20235.00 lakh were released to States whereas during 2014-15 , Rs. 17550.00 lakh were released . No funds were released to Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Utrakhand and Uttar Pradesh during 2013-14 and 2014-15 while no funds were released to Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar island during 2014-15. The reasons are stated to be lack of complete proposals from State Governments/UT.

2.49 It has been stated that the State Governments have been asked to ensure proportionate flow of financial resource for all PVTGs found in their State and the activities to be taken with a proper mix of interventions through the State/UT Government and NGOs.

2.50 On being asked whether all the States are earmarking funds for each of the PVTGs in proportionate to their population and if not how does the Ministry propose to impress upon such States so that they earmark funds for PVTGs in proportionate to their population, the Ministry in their written reply submitted that the CCD Plan and activities proposed under it for the development of various PVTGs in the State are in the first instance formulated by the State Government which are then examined and reviewed (with suggested revisions where necessary), by the concern Committee/Project Appraisal Committee chaired by Secretary(TA), Government of India. While the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides funding, the actual implementation of the approved activities under this scheme is carried out by the concerned State Government. Scheme guidelines stipulate that proportionate flow of financial resource for all PVTGs found in their State should be ensured by the State Government. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs does not maintain any information/records in this regard.

2.51 Details of amount of funds released to NGOs for the Development of PVTGs during 2011-12 to 2014-15 are given below:-

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Name of NGOs	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti, A & N Islands	0.000	0.000	75.000	0.000
2	Chhattisgarh	VISHWAS, Narayanpur, Distt. Bastar	0.000	6.864	17.120	8.560
		Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Naryanpur, Distt. Bastar	4.380	4.830	5.780	3.170
3	Jharkhand	Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangha, Sonari, Jamshedpur	363.566	0.000	229.937	221.910

		Bharat Sevahsram Sangha, Pakur	38.481	0.000	35.289	72.140
		Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Barajuri, Via-Ghatsila, Jharkhand	62.006	8.367	112.982	0.000
		5) Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Deogarh, Jharkhand	6.770	7.070	0.000	7.280
4	Karnataka	Swami Vivekanada Youth Movement, Hanchipura Road, Saragur, Tal. - H.D. Kote, Distt. - Mysore - 571 121, Karnataka	0.000	47.912	26.679	8.580
5	Maharashtra	Maharogi Sewa Samiti, Warora (Lok Biradari Prakalp), Hemalkasa, PO- Bhamragad, Distt- Gadchiroli, Pin - 442710, M.S.	0.000	28.300	0.000	0.000
6	Tamil Nadu	Nilgiris Adiwasi Welfare Association, Kotagiri, Nilgiris	85.107	46.658	26.757	128.360
		GRAND TOTAL	560.311	150.000	529.544	450.000

2.52 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry have formulated any action plan to impart necessary training to PVTGs members to enable them to effectively participate in the programmes being run for their development, the Ministry stated that the Government is pursuing a holistic approach to ameliorate the situation of unemployment among STs, including PVTG population, across the country. Ministry of Tribal Affairs under its Special Area Programme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and other Central Sector / Centrally Sponsored schemes provides funds as an additive to the State Plan for economic development of tribals in the States covering skill development and employment-cum-income generation activities. During the current financial year, the Ministry

has impressed upon the State Governments for promotion of need based integrated livelihood initiatives and skill upgradation of tribals to get them respectable jobs such as:

- Diversified crops, horticulture, dairy development with State cooperative, backyard poultry, fisheries, apiculture, sericulture etc. with proper market linkages.
- Financing under line department schemes like milk cooperatives.
- Marketable traditional skills like paintings, handlooms, handicrafts, artisans, skilled employment and other arts & crafts.
- Entrepreneurship.
- Modern skills: solar cell assembly and electrician, mobile phone repair etc. with appropriate placements.
- Eco tourism in Tribal areas.
- Skills for women: Computer training, hospitality, paramedics, ayurvedic and tribal medicines & medical practices etc.

It is advocated to expend 50% of the allocated funds to the State Governments for female beneficiaries.

2.53 The Committee note that Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are among the most vulnerable sections of our society, are few in numbers, have not attained any significant level of social and economic development and generally inhabit remote localities having poor infrastructure and administrative support. 75 such groups in 18 States and one UT have been indentified and categorized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The Committee are unhappy over less release of funds to States during 2014-15 *vis-a-vis* 2013-14 whereas no funds were released to Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh during 2013-14 and 2014-15 and also to Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar island during 2014-15. The reasons attributed by the Ministry are stated to be lack of complete proposals from State Governments/UT. Though, the Committee have not been informed about the efforts made by the Ministry to pursue these states to forward complete proposals, the Committee desire that the Ministry to remind the States/UT to fulfill their obligations and commitment towards STs and send complete proposals in all respects that too well in time.

E. NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR SCHEDULED TRIBE STUDENTS

2.54 The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post-Graduation, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral research programmes. The Ministry has revised some of its provisions to make it more beneficial for ST students in terms of increasing their employability and for their socio-economic development. The Ministry has approved the revised scheme of National Overseas Scholarships (NOS) for ST candidates by the Competent Authority for implementation during the 12th Five Year Plan period (2013-14 to 2016-17). 17 Scheduled Tribe candidates and 3 candidates belonging to PVTGs(Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) can be awarded the scholarship annually for pursuing Post Graduate, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral level courses abroad. Grants are given to the selected candidates on 100 per cent basis directly by the Ministry through the Indian Mission.

Salient Features:

- (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. 6.0 lakh - per annum.
- (ii) For a Post Graduate course, the candidate shall 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 M.Phil or 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 3 years from the date of communication of selection.
- (iv) The awardees are provided a maintenance allowance of US\$ 15,400/- or £ 9,900 per annum, which they may supplement upto US\$ 2400 or £ 1,560 per annum, by undertaking research/teaching assistantship. In the event of earnings beyond this limit,

the Indian Mission may reduce the maintenance allowance granted under the scheme correspondingly.

- (v) The awardees on return to India have to remain in India for at least 5 years.

2.55 Under the scheme during 2012-13 and 2013-14 the targets were set for 15 students while the achievement was 13 and 9 students respectively. During 2014-15 the target set for 15 students and the achievement is under process.

2.56 When asked the reasons for non-achievement of targets during 2012-13 and 2013-14 and the steps taken by the Ministry to achieve the target during 2014-15, the Ministry stated that the scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for ST Students provided for scholarships for 20 students each year. Of these 3 were reserved for students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. The Scholarships are granted for a variety of subjects and applications are called for by the Ministry from candidates who are eligible and interested in availing the scholarship. The applicants are interviewed to assess their eligibility and also the subject for which scholarship is being sought. The interview panel also includes expert(s) from reputed institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, etc. Only those applicants who are selected by this panel and who obtain admission in the Universities/Institutes abroad are sanctioned scholarship. While the Ministry had made provisions for grant of scholarship to 20 students, the shortage is due to non-availability of suitable candidates. In an attempt to attract more number of candidates, the Ministry is issuing advertisements in vernacular press as well as the national media and is planning to give wider publicity for the selection year 2014-15. Extended period of application process is also implemented for the selection year 2014-15.

2.57 The Committee note that the objective of the National Overseas Scholar Scheme is to provide financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post-Graduation, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral research programmes. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that under the scheme during 2012-13 and 2013-14 against the target of 15 students, the achievement was 13 and 9 students respectively which was due to non-availability of suitable candidates. Further, the Ministry informed the Committee that in order to attract more candidates, they are issuing advertisements in vernacular press as well as the national media and are planning to give wider publicity for the extended selection year, 2014-15. The Committee while commending the efforts of the Ministry to attract more students and achieve the target, exhort them that besides giving wide publicity, they should also provide appropriate guidance/coaching to the ST students in getting admission in foreign Universities so that more and more students are able to avail the benefits of the scheme which is solely meant for them.

F. SCHEME OF TOP CLASS EDUCATION FOR ST STUDENTS

2.58 The Scheme started in 2007-08 encourages meritorious ST students for pursuing studies at degree and post degree level in any of the selected list of institutes, in which the scholarship scheme would be operative.

2.59 There are 213 approved institutes under the scheme in both Government and private sectors covering the field of management, medicine, engineering, law and commercial courses. Each Institute has been allocated five awards, with a ceiling of total 625 scholarships per year.

Salient Features:

- (i) With effect from 01.04.2013, the family income of the ST students from all the sources shall not exceed Rs. 4.50 lakh per annum.
- (ii) The ST students will be awarded scholarship covering full tuition fee and other non-refundable dues in respect of Government/Government-funded institutions. However, there will be a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum per student in private sector institutions and Rs. 3.72 lakh per annum per student in private sector flying clubs for Commercial Pilot Training.
- (iii) The scholarship also provides for (a) living expenses @ Rs. 2200/- per month per student subject to actual, (b) books and stationery @ Rs. 3000/- per annum per student and (c) cost of a latest computer system along with its accessories limited to Rs. 45000/- as one time assistance during the course.
- (iv) The scheme will be funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 100% basis and the funds shall be released directly to the institutions concerned.

2.60 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred under the above scheme during the last three years as well as BE for 2015-16 :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2012-13	13.00	10.11	10.0958
2013-14	13.00	9.50	9.50

2014-15	13.84	25.84	*8.26
2015-16	50.00		

As seen from above, the BE for the year 2014-15 was Rs. 13.84 crore which was enhanced to Rs. 25.84 crore at RE stage. An amount of Rs. 8.26 crore is the actual expenditure as on 31.12.2014.

2.61 When asked to state the reasons for low utilization of funds upto 31st December, 2014 and whether the Ministry will be able to utilize the remaining amount by the end of this financial year, the Ministry stated that this scholarship is restricted to the students studying in 213 Top Class Institutions identified by the Ministry. Applications of the students have to be verified by the Institutions and forwarded to this Ministry. While the scholarship released upto 31.12.2014 was Rs.8.26 crores, an amount of Rs.18.53 crores was actually released as on 31.03.2015.

2.62 The target under the scheme during the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 was 625 students while the achievement was only 450 and 550 students respectively. During the year 2014-15, against the target of 625 students, achievement was 407. The target set for 2015-16 is also 625. The reasons for shortfall is stated to be due to non-receipt of complete proposals from selected institutions.

2.63 The Committee enquired as to why the institutions are not sending complete proposals and steps being taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the complete proposals are received, the Ministry replied that the scheme of Top Class Education proposes to grant scholarship annually to 625 students enrolled in 213 Top Class institutions identified by the Ministry. The total family income, from all sources, of the candidates applying for the scholarship under this scheme should not exceed Rs.4.50 lakhs per annum. While each of the institutes have been allocated a maximum of 5 awards, the Ministry are not receiving

applications from all the institutions. Some of these institutes and their students avail scholarship under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship.

2.64 Recently, the central sector scholarship schemes of Top class education and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship have been merged. Under the merged scheme, ceiling of 5 scholarship per top class institute has been removed and total numbers of top class scholarships have been increased from 625 to 1000 from the year 2015-16. Scope of education has been expanded to include studies on tribal art, painting, dance, music, culture, medicine, sports etc and the Top class institutes list is being revised. Online E-scholarship portal is also being developed which will simplify the application process and scholarship will be disbursed under the DBT mode directly into the bank accounts of the Institutes and students.

2.65 The Committee observe that the objective of the Scheme of Top Class Education for ST Students is to encourage meritorious ST students for pursuing studies at degree and post degree level in any of the selected list of institutes. The Committee find that the target under the scheme during the year 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 was 625 students each year and the achievement only 450, 550 and 407 students respectively. The reason for shortfall is stated to be non-receipt of complete proposals from selected institutions. The Ministry have further clarified that online E-scholarship portal is also being developed which will simplify the application process and scholarship will be disbursed under the DBT mode directly into the bank accounts of the Institutes and students. The Committee desire the Ministry to develop online E-scholarship portal without any delay so that targets set under the scheme are fully achieved and maximum number of ST students avail benefit under the Scheme.

G. RESEARCH INFORMATION & MASS EDUCATION, TRIBAL FESTIVALS AND OTHERS

2.66 Ministry of Tribal Affairs recognizes the need for continued research on cultural, anthropological, socio-economic and related issues concerning the tribal. While such research is currently undertaken by many organizations, like the Anthropological Survey of India, Universities and other institutions, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs also considers it important to support research studies in terms of knowledge advocacy. The scheme of research of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has, three components namely:

- a) Grants to Tribal Research Institutes
- b) Centres of Excellence
- c) Supporting Projects of All-India or Inter-State nature

Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) have been set up in States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The TRI of the undivided Andhra Pradesh has gone to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned funds to set a new TRI at Vishakhapatnam. However, TRI, AP is presently functioning from TRI, Telangana.

2.67 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred under the above scheme during the last three years as well as BE for 2015-16 :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2012-13	10.50	7.56	7.0730

2013-14	10.50	10.14	7.0199
2014-15	18.34	24.09	20.79
2015-16	37.70		

When asked the reasons for less expenditure during 2013-14 and 2014-15, the Ministry stated that the main reasons for less expenditure were due to incomplete proposals received from States/TRIs.

2.68 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing funds provided to TRIs during the last three years which is as under:-

(Rs in lakh)

S. No.	Name of State/TRIs	Tribal Research Institutes		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	23.25	--
2	Assam	40.84	27.56	60.01
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	15.50	--
4	Jharkhand	88.31	0.00	--
5	Gujarat	15.00	0.00	16.10
6	Karnataka	8.50	16.00	29.00
7	Kerala	43.87	44.93	---
8	Madhya Pradesh	54.275	77.00	--
9	Manipur	55.50	68.64	56.50
10	Odisha	50.34	115.31	109.8
11	Tripura	9.88	28.02	Nil
12	A&N Island	0.00	0.00	3.00
	Total	366.515	416.21	273.69

2.69 On being enquired whether the TRIs are fully equipped with staff and infrastructure and if not, the steps taken to make the TRIs fully equipped, the Ministry in their written reply submitted that problems of shortage of staff in TRIs has been reported to the Ministry. Since

TRIs have been set up by State Governments/ UT, permanent staff of these TRIs are the employees of the State Government. However, this Ministry have taken steps to meet expenses of core staff and for improvement of infrastructure of these TRIs. The Minister of Tribal Affairs on 9th March, 2015 has also written to the Chief Ministers of the States to strengthen these TRIs.

2.70 The Committee enquired how many exposure visits of tribal communities/delegates have been organized to various tribal and other areas for acquainting with the latest techniques in agriculture, animal husbandry, sericulture/small-scale industries etc. during the last two years, the Ministry stated that prior to 2013-14, the programmes for Exchange of Visits by tribals were organized for trip of places of religion/cultural importance. However, the scheme after revision in 2013-14 encourages TRIs/State Governments to organize visits in such manner that the visits got acquainted with best practices. No fund was released for exchange of visits by tribals during the last two years of 2012-13 and 2013-14. Ministry have organized a National Tribal Festival 'Vanaj' during 13-18 February, 2015, wherein more than 1000 tribal participants, (artist, craftsmen, painter, dances, singers etc.) were from majority of the States. This event helped in primarily national platform to display their talent and also to create awareness amongst main stem population. Artists and craftsman could sell their ware and cuisines during the event. It would be held every year from 2nd Friday to 3rd Wednesday of February.

2.71 The Committee find that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been releasing grants in aid to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) and these Institutes provide planning inputs to the State Governments, conducting research and evaluation studies, collection of data, identify challenges in the field of socio-economic development of tribals and understanding, promoting and preserving their culture. However, the Committee are shocked to note that out of 18 TRIs funds were not released to six Institutes set up in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, the reason being non-receipt of complete proposals from States/TRIs. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take concrete measures to minimize procedural delays and streamline its delivery mechanism for effective implementation of the scheme besides keeping in constant touch with the States/TRIs and following up with them at regular intervals. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should make serious efforts to protect and develop tribals' folk culture, preserve their languages and scripts as well.

H. SUPPORT TO NATIONAL/STATES ST FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

2.72 National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation is an apex organization set up for economic development of Scheduled Tribes and is managed by the Board of Directors with representation from Central Government, State Channelizing Agencies, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) and eminent persons representing Scheduled Tribes etc. The Corporation by providing financial assistance at concessional rates of interest helps in economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes.

2.73 The broad objectives of NSTFDC are:

- To identify economic activities of importance to the Scheduled Tribes so as to generate self-employment and raise their level of income.
- To upgrade skills and processes used by the Scheduled Tribes by providing both institutional and on the job training;
- To make the existing State/UT Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations (SCAs) and other developmental agencies engaged in the economic development of Scheduled Tribes more effective.
- To assist SCAs in project formulation, implementation of NSTFDC assisted schemes and in imparting training to their personnel.
- To monitor implementation of NSTFDC assisted schemes in order to assess their impact.

2.74 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred under the above scheme during the last three years as well as BE for 2015-16 :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2012-13	70.00	68.10	68.10
2013-14	70.00	70.00	60.50

2014-15	70.00	70.00	70.00
2015-16	70.00		

It has been observed that the BE and RE during 2014-15 was Rs. 70.00 crore respectively and actual expenditure as on 31.12.2014 was also Rs. 70.00 crore.

2.75 On being enquired whether funds allocated during 2014-15 were adequate to meet the requirements, the Ministry stated that the approved Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for 2014-15 was Rs 70.00 crore. This was adequate to meet the requirements.

2.76 The amount of funds released to State ST Finance and Development Corporation by NSTFDC during 2014-15 is given below:-

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the SCA/STATE	Disbursements
1	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	4653.00
2	ASSAM	46.00
3	CHHATTISGARH	20.53
4	GUJARAT	2343.19
5	HIMACHAL PRADESH	154.94
6	JAMMU & KASHMIR	0.69
7	JHARKHAND	41.67
8	KARNATAKA	2500.00
9	KERALA	95.18
10	MADHYA PRADESH	692.99
11	MANIPUR	230.00
12	MEGHALAYA	517.57
13	MIZORAM	42.00
14	NAGALAND	210.40
15	ODISHA	97.36
16	RAJASTHAN	1043.54
17	TRIPURA	2581.96
18	UTTRANCHAL	39.20
19	WEST BENGAL	186.84
	TOTAL	15497.06

2.77 On being asked whether NSTFDC is having adequate staff and infrastructure to carry out its functions effectively, the Ministry replied that National Scheduled Tribes Finance and development Corporation is an apex organization set up exclusively for economic development of Scheduled Tribes. It operates mainly through State Tribal Finance and Development Corporations. The operations of NSTFDC is affected due to lack of infrastructure and manpower at these corporations. The lack of adequate staff is also affecting the recovery at grassroots level thus mounting over dues at many Corporations. It is pertinent to mention that these Corporations are promoted by the State and Central Government jointly with a shareholding pattern of 51:49 per cent respectively. Therefore, there is a need for assessing the fund requirements of these corporations to have an adequate level of infrastructure and staff and sharing the same in the proportion of their shareholding.

2.78 The Committee desired to know about the details of beneficiaries who have availed loans from NSTFDC and became economically independent during the last three years (State-wise), the Ministry furnished a statement which is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	3	2350
2.	Assam	3738	1087	170
3.	Chhattisgarh	624	1157	8
4.	Gujarat	16858	26820	11884
5.	Himachal Pradesh	53	2219	2866
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	138	1	1
7.	Jharkhand	1677	3018	35
8.	Karnataka	3400	3267	1010
9.	Kerala	185	88	109
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1453	204348	626
11.	Maharashtra	0	1564	0
12.	Manipur	0	0	1050
13.	Meghalaya	1400	1252	1973
14.	Mizoram	69	1182	2977
15.	Nagaland	7972	311	46
16.	Odisha	413	37	82
17.	Rajasthan	2123	1650	1482
18.	Tripura	210	666	1228
19.	Uttranchal	7.00	9	13
20.	West Bengal	4134	4427	1745
21.	Delhi	5000	0	0

		Total	49463	253136*
				29655

* Quantum jump in beneficiaries due to Go down scheme of NCDC having 202400 beneficiaries.

In order to assess the number of tribal people who have availed loans from NSTFDC and then became economically independent, the Ministry stated that NSTFDC has conducted an evaluation study on the advice of Ministry of Tribal Affairs covering 10 States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal with a Sample size of 1827 beneficiaries through Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. The final report of the evaluation study was received on 30th September, 2013. The major findings of the study are:-

- 63.9% reported overall increase in the income.
- 71.5% reported that there has been additional employment generation by the units.
- 88.3% of the beneficiaries reported that there is a substantial improvement in their food intake.
- 84.6% of beneficiaries are able to send their children to school showing improvement in education of children.
- 82.5% of the beneficiaries have reported improvement in health care.
- 74.4% of beneficiaries are able to purchase household goods.
- Around 69% of the beneficiaries renovated/repared their houses after availing NSTFDC assistance.
- Feeling of self-reliance is as high as 83%.
- More than 85% of beneficiaries are having bank accounts.
- Around 75% of beneficiaries are satisfied with the asset and loan amount provided under NSTFDC schemes.
- Around 79% of beneficiaries reported that their net income from the scheme is sufficient to meet repayment liability.

2.79 The Committee note that National Scheduled Tribes Finance and development Corporation (NSTFDC) is an apex organization set up exclusively for economic development of Scheduled Tribes and operates through State Tribal Finance and Development Corporations. The Committee were informed that operations of NSTFDC are affected due to lack of infrastructure and manpower in these corporations besides inadequate staff which too is affecting the recovery at grassroots level leading to mounting over-dues at many Corporations. The Committee desire the Ministry to take strong steps to empower these Corporations by providing adequate funds for infrastructure development so that these Corporations seriously work for the economic development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee also desire that the issue of the shortage of staff may also be addressed on priority for smooth functioning of these Corporations.

I. RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEME FOR ST STUDENTS

2.80 The Scheme provides fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The Scheme has been started from the year 2005-06.

2.81 The scheme covers all the Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 2(f) of the UGC Act. The duration of the fellowship is as under:

Name of the course	Maximum duration	Admissibility of JRF and SRF	
		JRF	SRF
M.Phil	2 years	2 years	Nil
Ph.D	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years
M.Phil + Ph.D	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years

Funding Pattern: The rate of fellowship for Junior Research Fellow (JRF) and Senior Research Fellow (SRF) is at par with the UGC Fellowships as amended from time to time. Presently these rates are as follows:

Fellowship in Science, Humanities and Social Science	@ Rs. 25,000/- p.m. for initial two years (JRF) @ Rs. 28,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (SRF)
Fellowship in Engineering and Technology	@ Rs. 25,000/- p.m. for initial two years (JRF) @ Rs. 28,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (SRF)
Contingency for Humanities and Social Sciences	@ Rs. 10,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 20,500/- p.a. for remaining tenure
Contingency for Sciences, Engineering and Technology	@ Rs. 12,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 25,000/- p.a. for remaining tenure
Departmental Assistance (All Subjects)	@ Rs. 3,000/- p.a. per student to the host institution for providing infrastructure
Escorts/Reader assistance (All subjects)	@ Rs. 2,000/- p.m. in cases of physically and visually handicapped candidates

Salient Features:

- (i) Under the Scheme, 667 fellowships will be provided to the ST students each year.
- (ii) The maximum duration of the fellowships is 5 years.
- (iii) Fellowships are provided to ST students to enable them to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D.
- (iv) UGC implements the scheme on behalf of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (v) There will be no restrictions as regards to the minimum marks in the Post Graduation Examination or prior clearance of NET examination.

2.82 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred under the above scheme during the last three years as well as BE for 2015-16 :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2012-13	90.00	45.00	45.00
2013-14	90.00	10.00	0.00
2014-15	50.00	0.00	0.00
2015-16	50.00		

2.83 It has been observed that BE for the year 2013-14 was Rs. 90.00 crore, drastically reduced to Rs. 10.00 crore at RE stage but Actual Expenditure was nil. The BE for 2014-15 was Rs. 90.00 crore but no amount was allocated at RE stage. To this, the Ministry stated that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students is implemented through the University Grants Commission. The total number of fresh fellowships to be awarded each year is fixed at 667. The Ministry releases the scholarship amount to the University Grants Commission who in turn releases the amount to the individual candidate directly. The UGC then furnishes a Utilization Certificate indicating the funds received by it from the Ministry, fund utilized by it and the balance remaining with it. Since the

Utilization Certificate furnished by UGC indicated a sizeable amount of funds available with it, no further releases were made to it by the Ministry. From the available unutilized fund, UGC has disbursed Rs 27.19 crores during 2013-14 and Rs 39.05 crores during 2014-15 and for the year 2015-16 the administration & implementation of the Scheme will be done by the Ministry directly.

2.84 In this context, the Secretary during evidence stated as under:

"This Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship scholarship is meant for M.Phil. and Ph.D. We implement the scheme through UGC and the UGC has not been able to spend this money. They still have an unutilized amount of about Rs. 60 crore. ... We have decided to take it back to the Ministry and have the scholarship applications directly from the universities which will be processed in the computer".

2.85 The Committee enquired whether the UGC is asking 80 to 90 per cent marks in getting admission in M.Sc, to this, the Secretary during evidence responded as under:

"We will not put any additional condition of 80 or 90 per cent. Any person who gets eligible by the basic thing, that is, NET, he will be eligible for this. Probably, we were not monitoring it, having handed it over to the UGC. It is also right that having given it to an agency like UGC, if we start interfering, that also may not be correct.... We will not put any extra condition beyond the minimum condition. He must be eligible to get admission to M.Phil. and he must have taken an admission".

2.86 The Committee observe that the objective of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme for ST students is to provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes to pursue M.Phil and Ph.D. The Committee note that the BE for 2013-14 was Rs. 90.00 crore which went down to Rs. 10.00 crore at RE stage while the AE was nil. Similarly, the BE for 2014-15 was again Rs. 90.00 crore, but no amount was allocated at RE stage. The Ministry apprised the Committee that since the utilization certificates furnished by the UGC indicated that a sizeable amount of funds was available with them, no funds were released to UGC by the Ministry. The Ministry further informed that from 2015-16 the administration & implementation of the Scheme will be done by them directly. Since the Scheme will now be administered and implemented directly by the Ministry, the Committee are quite optimistic that there will be no glitches in implementation of the Scheme henceforth and not only more tribal students will benefit from the Scheme but the funds will also be spent optimally.

J. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) ACT, 2006

2.87 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is administering 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006' which seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of State forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them. The Act was notified for operation with effect from 31.12.2007. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules 2008, for implementing the provisions of the Act, were notified on 01.01.2008. In order to overcome those lacunae and strengthen the existing FR rules, 2008, the Ministry has also notified the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Rules, 2012 in the gazette of India 06.09.2012. As per the Act, and the rules notified there under, the responsibility for recognition and vesting of Forest Rights and distribution of land rights rests with the State Governments.

2.88 The progress of implementation of the Act is being monitored by the office of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretariat and the Planning Commission through monthly progress reports being sent by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been interacting with and writing to State Governments and UT Administrations urging them to take all necessary steps for effective implementation of the Act. For this purpose, the Hon'ble Minister and senior officers of the Ministry have also visited States/UTs.

2.89 The Ministry have informed that as per the information collected upto 28th February, 2015, a total number of 3961194 claims have been received. Out of these 1562453 titles have been distributed so far and 41243 are ready for distribution. Total number of claims rejected is 1729051. The State-wise statement on claims received by the Gram Sabha, title deeds actually distributed, number of claims rejected under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is given below :-

(As on 28.02.2015)

Sl. No.	States	No. of Claims received	No. of Titles Distributed	No. of Claims Rejected	Total No. of Claims Disposed of/ % respect of claims received
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4,11,012 (4,00,053 individual and 10,959 community)	1,69,370(1,67,263 individual and 2,107 community)	1,65,466	3,34,836 (81.46%)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	1,31,911 (1,26,718 individual and 5,193 community)	36,267 (35,407 individual and 860 community)	37,669	73,936 (56.04%)
4.	Bihar	2,930	28	1,644	1,672 (57.06%)
5.	Chhattisgarh	8,17,809	3,36,590	4,60,023	7,96,613 (97.40%)
6.	Goa	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	1,90,051 (1,82,869 individual and 7,182 community)	72,625 (68,769 individual and 3,856 community)	3,556 (2,455 individual and 1,101 community)	76,181 (40.08%)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5692	346	2,160	2,500 (44.02%)

Sl. No.	States	No. of Claims received	No. of Titles Distributed	No. of Claims Rejected	Total No. of Claims Disposed of/ % respect of claims received
9.	Jharkhand	42,003	15,296	16,958	32,254 (76.78%)
10.	Karnataka	2,60,679 (2,56,104 individual and 4,575 community)	7,700 (7,604 individual and 96 community)	1,73,539 (1,71,296 individual and 2243 community)	1,81,239 (69.52%)
11.	Kerala	37,535 (36,140 individual and 1,395 community)	24,599	7889	32488 (86.18%)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5,92,643 (5,52,142 individual and 40,501 community)	1,98,310 distributed (1,79,700 individual, 18,610 community)	3,12,443 (ST-40.22%) (OTD) 95.20%)	5,10,753 (86.18%)
13.	Maharashtra	3,50,908	1,45,469	2,72,675	4,18,144 (119.16%)
14.	Manipur	-	-	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-
17.	Orissa	6,09,722 (5,97,222 individual and 12,500 community)	3,45,473 distributed (3,41,999 individual and 3,474 community)	1,55,546 (1,55,245 individual and 301 community)	5,01,019 (82.17%)
18.	Rajasthan	69,775 (69,123 individual and 65 community)	34,254 (34,189 individual and 65 community)	33,515	67,769 (97.12%)
19.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
20.	Tamil Nadu	21,781 (18,420 individual and 3,361 community)	(3,723 titles are ready)	-	-
21.	Tripura	1,82,617 (1,82,340	1,20,473 (1,20,418 individual and 55	21,384 (21,164	1,41,857

Sl. No.	States	No. of Claims received	No. of Titles Distributed	No. of Claims Rejected	Total No. of Claims Disposed of/ % respect of claims received
		individual and 277 community)	community)	individual and 220 community)	(77.68%)
22.	Uttar Pradesh	93,635 (92,512 Individual and 1,123 community)	18,488 (17,654 individual and 834 community and 465 titles are ready for distribution)	74,583	93,071 (99.39%)
23.	Uttarakhand	182	-	1	1 (0.54 %)
24.	West Bengal	1,40,309 (1,37,068 individual and 3,241 community)	34,165 distributed and 16,904 titles are ready	**	34,165 (24.34%)
25.	A & N Islands	-	-	-	-
26.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
	Total	39,61,194 (38,64,161 individual and 97,033 community)	15,62,453 (15,32,555 individual and 29898 community) 41,243 ready for distribution	17,29,051 (17,25,166 individual and 3,885 community)	32,91,504 (83.09%)

2.90 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry have received complaints of eviction of tribals from National Park and Sanctuaries without setting their rights under the Forest Rights Act, the Ministry stated that complaints are received from time to time regarding

implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The onus of implementation of the Act lies with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, which is an ongoing process. Hence, these complaints are referred to the respective State Governments/UT Administrations for taking necessary action at their end. This Ministry constantly follow up with the concerned States/UTs and provide support by holding consultations in different parts of the country, and clarify doubts whenever required.

2.91 On being asked what action has been taken to ensure that tribals are not evicted till their rights are settled, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under :-

"Section 4(5) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 stipulates that no member of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dweller shall be evicted or removed from forest land under his occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete. In accordance with this stipulation in the Forest Rights Act, 2006 advisory on compliance of the provisions of the Act are issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations.

The Ministry constantly follows up with the concerned States/UTs and provides support by holding consultations in different parts of the country, and clarify doubts whenever required. Advisories are also issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations for ensuring compliance of the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. It is constantly emphasized that decision of the Gram Sabha is mandatory before diversion of any forest land can take place for non-forest purposes.

While considering development projects received from the project proponents through the State Governments, this Ministry advises the State Governments to strictly ensure that the affected Scheduled Tribes people should be rehabilitated in consonance with the provisions of the new Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013 (LARR Act, 2013). Forest Rights Act should be completed and if any person is divested of his/her forest rights, he/she should be compensated as per the LARR Act, 2013 before displacement. Payment and compensation should be as per LARR Act for private land and community land, and the land losers should be given land in the command area of the project".

2.92 In this context , the Secretary further clarified during evidence as under:-

"Regarding displacement from forest by people through sanctuaries, Section 4 (5) of the Forest Rights Act says that no person shall be displaced from a forest until the forest rights have been determined. This also applies to the wildlife sanctuaries. However, the wildlife schemes do not have sufficient money. There is a Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) fund, which is lying unutilised. So, we had said that if you do not have money under those schemes, then you please give money from the CAMPA fund, which is lying unutilised. The Ministry of Environment and Forests are now bringing a law in which we have made this point that no person should be displaced from the forest unless the forest rights have been determined and if he had a forest right, then he should be compensated. This has been our stand, and after that you can relocate him".

2.93 The Committee regret to find the slow progress with regard to distribution of title deeds under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as against 36, 61, 194 claims only 15,62,453 titles have been distributed so far while 41,243 are ready for distribution and the total claims rejected are 17,29,051. The Committee also note with serious concern that the implementation of Act has not progressed in the State of Tamil Nadu while in Uttarakhand, out of 182 claims only one title deed has been distributed. The Committee take a very serious view of the large scale rejection of claims which is certainly against the interest of the tribals. The Committee recommend that the Ministry must review all the rejected cases, so that no genuine claimant is denied of his rightful claim besides disposing the pending claims in a time bound manner.

2.94 The Committee have been informed that complaints are received from time to time regarding implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The Ministry have also maintained that as the onus of implementation of the Act lies with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, these complaints are referred to the respective State Governments/UT Administrations for taking necessary action whereas the Ministry constantly follows up with the concerned States/UTs and provides support by holding consultations in different parts of the country and clarifies doubts whenever required. The Secretary during evidence also stated that the Ministry of Environment and Forests are now bringing a law in which the Ministry have made a point that no person should be displaced from the forest unless the forest rights have been determined and if he had a forest right, then he should be compensated. The Committee desire the Ministry

to pursue with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for early enacting of the said legislation, which will ultimately protect the forest rights of the tribals.

New Delhi;
24 April, 2015
4 Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment.

ANNEXURE - I**STATEMENT OF TRIBALS FAMILIES/ PERSONS AFFECTED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS**

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Tribal Families	Tribal Persons
ANDHRA PRADESH			
1.	Srisailam	224	N.A
2.	Yeleru Reservoir Project	246	N.A.
3.	Vamsadhara ST.II		
	(A) Hiramandalam	N.A.	2068
4.	Priyadarshini Jurala Project (and + Kar)	13	65
5.	Vengalarayasagaram Project	103	127
6.	Maddigedda Reservoir Project	14	75
7.	Annamayya (Cheyyeru) Project	9	25
8.	Shriram Sagar Project		
	(A) Sriram Sagar Dam	351	1457
	(B) Lower Manair Dam	910	4623
9.	Singur Project	43	-
10.	Kandalleru Reservoir Project	200	1000
CHHATTISGARH			
1.	Sondur Reservoir Project (Mahanadi Reservoir Project)	250	869
2.	Barnai Project	26	163
3.	Hasedo Bango (Mini Mata)	2182	10910
GUJARAT			
1.	Sardar Sarovar	N.A.	83223
(i)	Gujarat	N.A.	17532
(ii)	Maharashtra	N.A.	19650
(iii)	Madhya Pradesh	N.A.	26041
2.	Panam	897	5382
3.	Damanganga Reservoir Project	1554	7770
4.	Sukhi	1373	N.A.
5.	Sipu Reservoir Project	40	290
6.	Watrak Reservoir Project	Nil	Nil
7.	Sabarmati Reservoir Project	N.A.	660
8.	Zankhari	815	
9.	Karjan Reservoir Project	1694	7970
10.	Venu-II Project	N.A.	23
11.	Und-I Irrigation scheme	N.A.	145

JHARKHAND			
1	Subernarekha M.P. Project	3411	17252
	(A) Chandil Dam	1760	8660
	(B) Icha Dam	1651	8592
MADHYA PRADESH			
1.	Bansagar	14690	32830
2.	Rani Avanti Bai Sagar (Bargi)	2286	15850
3.	Tawa	N.A.	2618
4.	Rajghat Dam Project (UP+MP)	1426	5920
5.	Indra Sagar (Narmada Sagar)	N.A.	4405
6.	Upper Wainganga Project (Sanjay Sarovar Priyojna)	232	1160
7.	Kolar Project	90	609
8.	Kodar	527	2479
9.	Mahi (a) Main Dam	1146	5591
	(b) Subsidiary Dam	612	2008
10.	Sarna	673	N.A.
11.	Omkareshwar	N.A.	776
12.	Halali	25	N.A.
13.	Gandhi Sagar (Chambal)	11	N.A.
14.	Dholawad Tank Project	229	1634
15.	Dejla Dewada Project	249	1390
16.	Choral River Project	18	160
17.	Upper Penganga Project	578	N.A.
18.	Kunwar Chain Sagar (Dudi) Project	2	N.A.
19.	Bah Medium Project	12	157
20.	Bariyarpur Left Bank Canal Project	150	500
21.	Mahan (Gulab Sagar)	472	1667
22.	Rajeev Gandhi Project (Thanwar Project)	485	2598
MAHARASHTRA			
1.	Jayakwad Project		
	MAJALGON Dam (STAGE-ii)	N.A.	2738
2.	Warna Irrigation Project	19	93
3.	Waghur Irrigation Project	250	1320
4	Mun River Project	9	36
5.	Kukadi irrigation project		
	Dimbke Project	791	3866
	Pimplgaon Dam Project	648	3240
6.	Rajiv Sagar (Bawanthadi)		
	Maharashtra	651	2769
7	Gosikhurd (Indira Sagar) Irrigation Project	N.A.	4063
8.	Upper Wardha Project (Nal Damaynti Sagar)	693	3466
9.	Lower Wunna Irrigation Project		

	Nand storage	77	98
	Wadgaon Dam	450	2246
10	Arunnavati River Project	760	2341
11	Lower Terna irrigation Project	225	266
12	Upper pavara (Nilwanda -II)	453	2980
13	Deogad irrigation Project	28	N.A.
14	Deogad irrigation Project	28	N.A.
15	Gadnadi	NIL	NIL
16	Karwa Project	3	19
17	Nandur Madhameshwar Project		
	Mukane Dam	NIL	NIL
	Waki Dam	82	481
	Bawali Dam	241	1841
	Bham Dham	161	1708
18	Khadakpurba River Project	44	167
19	Chapdh Project	124	505
20	Chilewadi Irrigation Project	N.A	347
21	Purna Medium Irrigation Project	111	666
22	Chandrabhaga River Project	45	312
23	Notwand Medium Project	125	NIL
24	Alandi Medium Project	2	9
25	Bhatsa Project	77	560
26	Kar River Project	49	65
27	Jam River Project	112	316
28	Punad Irrigation Project	206	1034
29	Sonwad Medium Project	16	128
30	Nagya Sakya medium Project	32	N.A
31	Shivan (Vrcek) Medium Project	101	450
32	Surya River project		
	Dhamni	1438	9617
33	Anjana Palshi Medium Project	13	72
34	Madan Tank Project		
	Storage Dam	17	158
35	Upper Penganga Irrigation Project		
	Isapur dam	678	N.A
36	Lal Nalla Project	43	224
37	Sapan River Project	190	869
38	Lendi Project	101	501
39	Alandi medium Project	16	105
40	Kashyapi Medium Project	261	1200
41	Sangameshwar Medium Project	3	14
42	Kalapathari Medium Project	66	162
43	Lower Wardha Project	760	1630
	ORISSA		
01	Lower Suktal	1240	N.A
02	Lower Indra	808	N.A
03	Upper Colab Irrigation (Satiguda Earth	1421	N.A

	Dam)		
04	Upper Colab Dam		N.A.
05	Subarnarekha Irrigation Project	6382	13841
	Halida Dam	366	
06	Jambhira Dam	1163	
	Bura Dam	1701	
	Icha (in Orissa)	3152	
	Direct Comment		
07	Rengali Irrigation	10	24
08	Rengail Dam	1712	N.A
09	Upper Indrawati Irrigation	2593	7683
10	Daghalati Irrigation	02	N.A
11	Hariharjori Irrigation	257	836
12	Harabhanji Irrigation	310	741
13	Badanalla Irrigation	94	NA
14	Upper Jonk Project	388	1123
	RAJASTHAN		
1	Mahibajaj Sagar	6110	26606
2	Rajasthan	5321	N.A
	Madhya Pradesh	789	N.A
3	Jakham Irrigation Project	143	715
4	Panchana Irrigation Project	36	108
5	Chhapi Irrigation Project	40	200

Annex-I

Annex-I

Statement showing details of No. of DP/PAPs rehabilitated, tribal people given employment, forest land acquired

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of displaced persons (DP/Project affected persons (PAPs))	No. of DP's/PAPs (STs)	Total No. of DP's/PAPs rehabilitated	No. of rehabilitated STs	No. of affected/displaced tribal people who were given employment	Areas of forest land acquired	Total areas of land acquired.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16,07,399 (DPs) 17,44,810 (PAPs)	12,23,709 (DPs) 12,17,770 (PAPs)	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
2.	Jharkhand 1951-1995	15,48,017	6,20,372	70,820	21,000	Information not available	3,45,085.35 Acres	15,45,947 acres
3.	Odisha	14,65,909	6,16,116	1,92,840	Information not available	Information not available	7,13,449.24 acres (1951-95)	23,62,192.03 acres (1951-95)
4.	Gujarat	40,75,051	18,21,283	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	16,41,426 (ha)	31,22,613 (ha) 77,16,070.40 (acres)
5.	Chhattisgarh	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	51,01,656 acres (1982-90) 1,03,066.7 acres (1991-07)
6.	Madhya Pradesh	97,596	28,718	93,400	27,380	75 given job 219 as casual labour	16,062.32 (ha) 39,690.47 (acres)	68,490.23 ha. 1,69,241.41 (acres)

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2015

The Committee met from 1130 hrs. to 1400 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT
SHRI RAMESH BAIS - **CHAIRMAN**

MEMBERS
LOK SABHA

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra
4. Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria
5. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
6. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
7. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
8. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
9. Smt. Maragatham K.
10. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
11. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
12. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
13. Smt. Neelam Sonkar

RAJYA SABHA

14. Shri Ahamed Hassan
15. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
16. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
17. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
18. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Shri Hrusikesh Panda	Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
2.	Shri Ashok Pai	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
3.	Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
4.	Smt. Vishu Maini	DDG, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
5.	Smt. Sarita Mittal	Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
6.	Shri Santosh Kumar	Joint Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
7.	Shri G. Ramesh Kumar	CMD, NSTFDC
8.	Shri K.B.S. Sidhu	Managing Director, TRIFED

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Secretary and other accompanying officers of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and invited their attention to the provisions contained in Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. The Chairman, thereafter, asked the Secretary to brief the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

4. The Secretary then briefed the Committee about the performance of the Ministry, detailing with the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred/physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with help of a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting relating to Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry are as follows :-

- (i) Under-utilization of funds allocated in Annual Plan 2014-15.
- (ii) Increasing of sickle cell disease among tribals.
- (iii) Implementation aspects of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
- (iv) High consumption of alcohol by tribals.
- (v) Displacement of tribal people due to development projects and their rehabilitation.
- (vi) Reduction of funds at RE stage under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan, Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India and Mechanism for

Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of value chain for MFP.

- (vii) Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Tribe Students.
- (viii) Non-achieving of targets set under the scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe Students.

5. The representatives of the Ministry also responded to the queries by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairman requested the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat by 8th April, 2015.

6. The Chairman then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views in a free and frank manner on various issues raised by the Members.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting was kept for record.

[The representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs then withdrew]

(The Committee then adjourned)

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY FIRST SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON FRIDAY, 24TH APRIL, 2015**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1515 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Kunwar Bharatendra
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Smt. Maragatham K.
5. Shri Kariya Munda
6. Prof. Sadhu Singh

RAJYA SABHA

7. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
8. Shri Ahamed Hassan
9. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
10. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to consider and adopt the following draft Reports:

- (i) *****
- (ii) *****
- (iii) Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (iv) *****

3. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any change. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No	Para No.	Observations/Recommendations
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	2.14	The Committee note that the BE of Rs. 4479 crore of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for 2014-15 was cut to Rs. 3850 crore (RE) despite the Ministry having met the prescribed expenditure norm which has adversely affected the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP), Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP. Agreeing with the Ministry, the Committee urge them to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance with a plea that a lenient view may be taken and more funds provided at the RE stage so that schemes for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes are not adversely affected.
2.	2.15	The Committee note that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had requested for allocation of funds amounting to Rs 5513.60 crore during 2015-16 for different schemes but Rs. 4792.19 crore has been allocated by the Ministry of Finance . The Ministry informed the Committee that due to reduction in allocation, major schemes i.e. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP), Article 275(1) of the Constitution and Umbrella Scheme for the Education of ST Children would be affected. The Committee would like to exhort the Ministry to ensure that funds made available are prudently and optimally utilized so that they have a strong claim for enhanced allocation for these schemes from the Ministry of Finance at RE stage.
3.	2.16	The Committee are concerned to note that utilization certificates for various welfare schemes, amounting to Rs. 1759.95 crore, are still outstanding from State Governments and State Corporations due to which the Ministry is not be able to release funds in time. The Committee, therefore, desire the Government to impress upon State Governments and State Corporations to exercise fiscal prudence and submit utilization certificates in time to ensure un-interrupted flow of Central funds. The Committee also desire that the Ministry explore other ways and means to correct this malady.
4.	2.17	The Committee in their Third Report of Demands for Grants (2014-15) had recommended the need for early finalizing and

implementation of the National Tribal Policy which has so much to offer for the poor tribals of our country. However, the Committee are despondent to note that draft National Tribal Policy formulated in the year 2006 is yet to see light of the day. The Committee, therefore, again urge the Government to take speedy action and finalize the National Tribal Policy so that the tribals could reap its much awaited benefits without waiting endlessly.

5. 2.18 The Committee note with concern that the disease of Sickle Cell Anaemia is very high among tribal community which is attributable to scant medical facilities in tribal area and negligible awareness among the tribals. The Committee desire that Research Centres be set up in tribal areas so that counseling could be given at an early stage of the disease. The Committee also desire that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare redesign primary and secondary health services in Scheduled Areas.
6. 2.19 The Committee have been informed that the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry concerned with all land related matters including its acquisition. The Ministry are also collecting data relating to land acquisition for various developmental projects and Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the people affected by such projects through the National Monitoring Committee constituted under Section 48 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013. The Committee desire the Ministry to pursue with the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development to collect data of all the Ministries/Departments regarding the number of tribal people affected and displaced due to various developmental projects and provide compensation to all the affected/displaced tribals under "The Right for Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.
7. 2.20 The Committee find that consumption of alcohol is a part of social rituals in many tribal communities. At the national level, it is found that about half of Scheduled Tribe men (51 percent) consume some form of alcohol whereas the prevalence of alcohol consumption was found to be much lower among non-Scheduled Tribe men (30 percent). Such a pattern of drinking alcohol particularly country liquor among Scheduled Tribes is bound to have negative effect on their health. The Committee desire the Ministry to formulate a scheme on the lines of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) for identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of tribal addicts.

8. 2.33 The Committee note that the ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand based income-generation programmes and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals. However, the Committee are concerned to note that the budgetary allocation under SCA to TSP had been slashed down consecutively during the last three years at the RE stage. Against the BE of Rs. 1200 crore during each of the 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, RE was Rs. 852.54 crore, Rs. 1050 crore and Rs. 1040 crore respectively. The Committee find that due to slashing of the budget, grants could not be released by the Ministry to many States while some States could receive only partial allocation. The Committee deplore such action by which the grant for the tribals was slashed that too without any sound grounds. The Committee desire the Ministry to take up the matter again to Ministry of Finance with concrete reasoning and also stating that such cuts adversely affect the welfare programmes of the tribals who are already socially and economically deprived.
9. 2.34 The Committee observe that the erstwhile Planning Commission had issued revised Guidelines for implementation of TSP by States /UTs in June 2014 which *inter-alia*, reiterate the resolve of the Government for allocation of funds under TSP out of total Plan Outlays not less than the population proportion of STs in State as per 2011 census. The Guidelines further stipulate for non-diversion of funds meant for tribal areas and comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators, covering provisioning, service delivery standards as well as outcomes. The Secretary Ministry of Tribal Affairs during evidence admitted that earlier Tribal Sub-Plan was monitored by the erstwhile Planning Commission but now there is no clarity on monitoring issue. However, the Ministry have started monitoring of their own. The Committee recommend the Ministry to enact a legislation to ensure that the TSP funds are not diverted and TSP funds should be made available to the States in proportion to the population of Scheduled Tribes there.
10. 2.44 The Committee note that out of 197 sanctioned Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) 128 with the capacity of 480 students in each school have been set up in the States/ UTs under the programme of Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India on the pattern of Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas (RPVVs), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas 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 are concerned about the poor maintenance of these schools/hostels besides the quality of food served there. The Committee desire the Ministry to ensure good maintenance of schools/hostels besides checking and improving the quality of food being given to the students. The Committee also desire that the tribal teachers especially from the same community be appointed in EMRS and ST youths be encouraged to take up teaching in EMRS. The Committee further desire that remaining 69 EMRS especially the one in Bahraich be completed and made functional at the earliest.

11. 2.53 The Committee note that Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are among the most vulnerable sections of our society, are few in numbers, have not attained any significant level of social and economic development and generally inhabit remote localities having poor infrastructure and administrative support. 75 such groups in 18 States and one UT have been indentified and categorized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The Committee are unhappy over less release of funds to States during 2014-15 *vis-a-vis* 2013-14 whereas no funds were released to Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh during 2013-14 and 2014-15 and also to Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar island during 2014-15. The reasons attributed by the Ministry are stated to be lack of complete proposals from State Governments/UT. Though, the Committee have not been informed about the efforts made by the Ministry to pursue these states to forward complete proposals, the Committee desire that the Ministry to remind the States/UT to fulfill their obligations and commitment towards STs and send complete proposals in all respects that too well in time.
12. 2.57 The Committee note that the objective of the National Overseas Scholar Scheme is to provide financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post-Graduation, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral research programmes. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that under the scheme during 2012-13 and 2013-14 against the target of 15 students, the achievement was 13 and 9 students respectively which was due to non-availability of suitable candidates. Further, the Ministry informed the Committee that in order to attract more candidates, they are issuing advertisements in vernacular press as well as the national media and are planning to give wider publicity for the extended selection year, 2014-15. The Committee while commending the efforts of the Ministry to attract more students and achieve the target, exhort them that besides giving wide publicity, they should also provide appropriate guidance/coaching to the ST students in getting admission in foreign Universities so that more and more students are able to

avail the benefits of the scheme which is solely meant for them.

13. 2.65 The Committee observe that the objective of the Scheme of Top Class Education for ST Students is to encourage meritorious ST students for pursuing studies at degree and post degree level in any of the selected list of institutes. The Committee find that the target under the scheme during the year 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 was 625 students each year and the achievement only 450, 550 and 407 students respectively. The reason for shortfall is stated to be non-receipt of complete proposals from selected institutions. The Ministry have further clarified that online E-scholarship portal is also being developed which will simplify the application process and scholarship will be disbursed under the DBT mode directly into the bank accounts of the Institutes and students. The Committee desire the Ministry to develop online E-scholarship portal without any delay so that targets set under the scheme are fully achieved and maximum number of ST students avail benefit under the Scheme.
14. 2.71 The Committee find that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been releasing grants in aid to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) and these Institutes provide planning inputs to the State Governments, conducting research and evaluation studies, collection of data, identify challenges in the field of socio-economic development of tribals and understanding, promoting and preserving their culture. However, the Committee are shocked to note that out of 18 TRIs funds were not released to six Institutes set up in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, the reason being non-receipt of complete proposals from States/TRIs. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take concrete measures to minimize procedural delays and streamline its delivery mechanism for effective implementation of the scheme besides keeping in constant touch with the States/TRIs and following up with them at regular intervals. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should make serious efforts to protect and develop tribals' folk culture, preserve their languages and scripts as well.
15. 2.79 The Committee note that National Scheduled Tribes Finance and development Corporation (NSTFDC) is an apex organization set up exclusively for economic development of Scheduled Tribes and operates through State Tribal Finance and Development Corporations. The Committee were informed that operations of NSTFDC are affected due to lack of infrastructure and manpower in these corporations besides inadequate staff which too is affecting the recovery at grassroots level leading to mounting over-dues at many Corporations. The Committee desire the Ministry to take strong steps to empower these

Corporations by providing adequate funds for infrastructure development so that these Corporations seriously work for the economic development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Committee also desire that the issue of the shortage of staff may also be addressed on priority for smooth functioning of these Corporations.

16. 2.86 The Committee observe that the objective of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme for ST students is to provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes to pursue M.Phil and Ph.D. The Committee note that the BE for 2013-14 was Rs. 90.00 crore which went down to Rs. 10.00 crore at RE stage while the AE was nil. Similarly, the BE for 2014-15 was again Rs. 90.00 crore, but no amount was allocated at RE stage. The Ministry apprised the Committee that since the utilization certificates furnished by the UGC indicated that a sizeable amount of funds was available with them, no funds were released to UGC by the Ministry. The Ministry further informed that from 2015-16 the administration & implementation of the Scheme will be done by them directly. Since the Scheme will now be administered and implemented directly by the Ministry, the Committee are quite optimistic that there will be no glitches in implementation of the Scheme henceforth and not only more tribal students will benefit from the Scheme but the funds will also be spent optimally.
17. 2.93 The Committee regret to find the slow progress with regard to distribution of title deeds under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as against 36, 61, 194 claims only 15,62,453 titles have been distributed so far while 41,243 are ready for distribution and the total claims rejected are 17,29,051. The Committee also note with serious concern that the implementation of Act has not progressed in the State of Tamil Nadu while in Uttarakhand, out of 182 claims only one title deed has been distributed. The Committee take a very serious view of the large scale rejection of claims which is certainly against the interest of the tribals. The Committee recommend that the Ministry must review all the rejected cases, so that no genuine claimant is denied of his rightful claim besides disposing the pending claims in a time bound manner.
18. 2.94 The Committee have been informed that complaints are received from time to time regarding implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The Ministry have also maintained that as the onus of implementation of the Act lies with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, these complaints are referred to the respective State Governments/UT Administrations for taking necessary action whereas the Ministry constantly follows

up with the concerned States/UTs and provides support by holding consultations in different parts of the country and clarifies doubts whenever required. The Secretary during evidence also stated that the Ministry of Environment and Forests are now bringing a law in which the Ministry have made a point that no person should be displaced from the forest unless the forest rights have been determined and if he had a forest right, then he should be compensated. The Committee desire the Ministry to pursue with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for early enacting of the said legislation, which will ultimately protect the forest rights of the tribals.