

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2056
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 20/12/2023

MUNGEKAR COMMITTEE REPORT

2056 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:
SMT. SULATA DEO:
SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the need for distinct policy prescriptions and separate strategies under each sector for Scheduled Areas, as highlighted in the Mungekar Committee Report; and
- (b) if so, the details of the policy measures taken; if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b): Government is seized of the matter. The Standing Committee on Inter-Sectoral issues relating to Tribal Development was constituted on 30/10/2004 under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.L Mungekar, Member, Planning Commission. The Committee submitted its reports, which contains recommendations on a variety of issues. These include inter-alia reviving institutions of self governance, effective delivery mechanism, creation of critical infrastructure, Tribal Sub-plan, implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Governors Report etc. The report also contains recommendations on the role of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and State Tribal Welfare Departments, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

The recommendations of Mungekar Committee have been taken care of with the appropriate policies, strategies and schemes adopted by the Government, which targets the socio-economic advancement of Scheduled Tribes (STs) across multifarious sectors encompassing education, healthcare livelihood infrastructures etc., as elucidated below:

(i) Enactment of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA): Sub-section (a) to (m) of Section (3) (1) of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (in short FRA) lists the rights to be vested among Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs). Section (a) of Section 3 (1) of the FRA stipulates “right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes or other traditional forest dwellers”. The FRA though its Section 3(1)(c) guarantees the right of ownership, access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries.

(ii) **Enactment of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act, 2013):** This stipulates the provisions for Compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement in the matter of land acquired for public purposes. The purpose of the said Act is to ensure, in consultation with institutions of local self-government and Gram Sabhas, a humane, participative, informed and transparent process for land acquisition with the least disturbance to the owners of the land and the other affected families and provide just and fair compensation to the affected families whose land has been acquired or proposed to be acquired.

(iii) **Scheduled Areas:** The Article 244(1) of the Constitution enables designation of certain areas as “Scheduled Areas” and for their administration in terms of Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. At present, Scheduled Areas have been notified in the States of Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana), Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan. As per the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Fifth Schedule the Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) has also been constituted in the 10 States having Scheduled Areas as well as in 3 States not having Scheduled Areas namely Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. A Tribal Cell/Tribal Welfare Cell also have been established in the Governor Secretariat in all states having Scheduled Areas except in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, to monitor and coordinate on the constitutional matter relating to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Areas.

(iv) **Integrated Tribal Development Programmes (ITDPs):** ITDPs have been set up in the States as a dedicated institutions to spearhead the development initiatives meant for tribal people. As per records available in the Ministry there are 194 ITDPs / Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDAs) functional across the country.

(v) **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** It is a central sector scheme introduced in the year 1997-98 to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) students (Class 6th to 12th) in remote areas to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population. Realizing the importance of the EMRS, in the Union Budget of 2018-19, Government announced that every block with 50% or more ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, is to have an EMRS. Accordingly, the target of establishing 740 EMRSs across the country has been set up which is likely to benefit more than 3.5 lakh ST children. National Education Society for Tribal (NESTS) an autonomous society has been established to administer the scheme. As on date, 694 schools have been sanctioned by the Ministry, out of which 401 are reported to be functional benefiting about 1,18,982 ST children.

(vi) **Introduction of the Van Dhan Vikas Kendra:** Under the scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Yojana’ Government envisages to set up Van Dhan Vikas Kendra for value addition to the Minor Forest Produce collected by the tribes in order to enhance their income. As on 19-12-2023, 3958 VDVVKs have been sanctioned across the country.

(vii) **Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Yojana (PMAAGY):** Ministry of Tribal Affairs has revamped the existing Scheme of ‘Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) with nomenclature ‘Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)’, for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26. Under the Scheme, 36,428 villages having at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs across States / UTs with notified STs have been identified for undertaking development programs / activities through convergence approach amongst Ministries to bridge gaps prominently in 8 sectors of development viz. Road connectivity (Internal and Inter village /block), Telecom connectivity (Mobile /internet), School, Anganwadi Centres, Health Sub- Centre, Drinking water facility, Drainage and solid waste management and bring about saturation.

(viii) Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN):

Government has recently launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) on 15th November 2023, which is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. The mission with financial outlay of around Rs.24,000 Crore aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of un-electrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in time bound manner in 3 years.

(ix) ‘Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)’: PMJVM envisions to strengthen tribal entrepreneurship initiatives and to facilitate livelihood opportunities by promoting more efficient, equitable, self- managed, optimum use of natural resources, Agri / NTFP / Non-farm enterprises. With a total financial outlay of Rs. 1612.27 crore for 5 years (2021-22 to 2025-26), there are 3 major components. The first component comprises of “Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP), where in MSP is fixed for 87 MFPs. The 2nd component, Development of Value Chain for MFP”, wherein Vandhan Kendras are set up. The 3rd component is “Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products / Produce”, where in grants are given to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), which is the nodal agency for implementation of the Scheme.

(x) Pre-Matric Scholarship: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through respective State/UT administrations. This is an open-ended Scheme covering all ST students studying in Std. IXth & Xth, whose parental annual income is up to Rs. 2.50 lakhs. The contribution from Government of India is 75% and the state contribution is 25%. In respect of North East states and hilly states, the contribution from Government of India is 90% and the state contribution is 10%. In case of UTs like Andaman & Nicobar without Legislative Assembly and own grants, Govt. of India’s contribution is 100%.

(xi) Post Matric Scholarship: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through respective Ste/UT administrations. This is an open-ended Scheme covering all ST students studying in in class XI and above, whose parental annual income is up to Rs. 2.50 lakhs. The contribution from Government of India is 75% and the state contribution is 25%. In respect of North East states and hilly states, the contribution from Government of India is 90% and the state contribution is 10%. In case of UTs like Andaman & Nicobar without Legislative Assembly and own grants, Govt. of India’s contribution is 100%.

(xii) Support to Tribal Research Institute (TRI): Under the schemes Support to TRIs funds are provided to the State governments / UTs research, documentation etc. based on their proposal.

(xiii) Grants under Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution: Ministry of Tribal Affairs also provides funds to the State Governments under Grants under Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution. It is a 100% grant from Government of India. Funding under this programme is to enable the State to meet the cost of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by the State for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in that State for raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas therein to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State. Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for overall development of tribal people across the country, which includes various sectors viz. (i) Education (ii) Health (iii) Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry (AH), Fisheries, Dairy & others in Primary Sector (iv) Other income generating schemes to augment Tribal household economy and (v) Administrative structure / Institutional framework & Research studies.

(xiv) Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of STs: Financial assistance is provided to the Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of STs

(xv) Sickle Cell Anaemia: Government has taken steps to control and manage Sickle Cell Anaemia, which is one of prime health concerns of the tribal population, culminating in the budget 2023 announcement and Launch of the National Mission for Elimination of Sickle Cell Anaemia in July, 2023 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in Madhya Pradesh.

(xvi) Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST): Government has adopted a policy of earmarking of dedicated funds for tribal development out of various schemes of Central Government catering to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, electrification, employment generation, skill development, etc. In the union budget 2023-24, apart from Ministry of Tribal Affairs, a sum of Rs. 105557.73 crore has been earmarked.

As regards State Tribal Sub-Plan, Guidelines have been issued in the year 2014 by erstwhile Planning Commission. In the guidelines it is stipulated that Tribal Welfare Department is the nodal department authorized to lead the process of TSP development at the State level. Nodal Department has to coordinate progress of various schemes / programmes and design a comprehensive monitoring framework with well-defined indicators, covering provisioning, service delivery standards as well as outcomes. As per Guidelines, States has to allocate funds under TSP out of total Plan Outlays not less than the population proportion of STs in State as per 2011 Census.

(xvii) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 was enacted to prevent atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) which has been amended in 2015 to make it more effective.

(xviii) The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas), Act 1996" (PESA): It empowers State Legislatures to frame all laws concerning the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution of India, relating to the Panchayats, in Fifth Schedule Areas, subject to such exceptions and modifications as are provided in section 4 of the Act. Accordingly, out of the ten PESA States, nine States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana have incorporated the provisions of PESA in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. State of Rajasthan, the tenth State, has notified "The Rajasthan Panchayat Raj (Modification of Provisions in their Application to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1999". For effective implementation of PESA Act, framing of PESA rules is an imperative. Presently, eight PESA States have framed their State specific PESA rules and two States (Jharkhand & Odisha) have also framed their draft PESA Rules but have not yet notified them.

(xix) Constitutional Safeguard under Fifth Schedule The Article 244(1) of the Constitution enables designation of certain areas as "Scheduled Areas" and for their administration in terms of Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. The "Scheduled Areas" are defined as 'such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas' according to paragraph 6(1) of the Fifth Schedule under Article 244(1) of the Constitution of India. Specification of a Scheduled Area or modification of an existing Scheduled area is done after consultation with the Governor of that State and through notification issued with approval of the President of India. At present, Scheduled Areas have been notified in the States of Andhra

Pradesh (including Telangana), Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan. As per the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Fifth Schedule the Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) has also been constituted in the 10 states States having Scheduled Areas as well as in 3 States not having Scheduled Areas namely Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. A Tribal Cell/Tribal Welfare Cell also have been established in the Governor Secretariat in all states having Scheduled Areas except in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, to monitor and coordinate on the constitutional matter relating to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Areas.
