

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 310
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 24/07/2024

TRIBAL SUB-PLAN

310 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the recommendations made in the Mungekar Committee report concerning the Tribal Sub-Plan and adopted the recommendations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (b): 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 recommendations of the Committee regarding the Tribal Sub Plan were mainly concerned with shifting the allocation from Notional to reality .They are reproduced in the Annexure (enclosed).

NITI Aayog informed that the Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Narendra Jadhav had examined the Mungekar Committee's recommendations while preparing the Task Force Guidelines for Tribal Sub Plan in 2010. The last guidelines regarding Development Action Plan for SCs (erstwhile SCSP) and Development Action Plan for STs (erstwhile TSP) were issued by NITI Aayog in 2017. As per the guidelines, 2017 and earlier guidelines:

- Ministries/Departments have been mandated to allocate certain percentage of total allocation of schemes.
- Percentage of earmarking should not be less than 50 % of the population proportion or as decided by the task force or actuals whichever is higher.
- Ministries/Departments are required to place the funds earmarked for SCSP under a separate Minor Head '789' and for TSP under Minor Head '796' below the functional major Head/Sub-Major Heads
- Ministries / Departments must estimate gaps, prioritize development needs of STs and orient the schemes to bridge the gaps.

- The schemes designed under SCSP and TSP; should yield; direct and quantifiable benefits to SC/ST individuals, SC/ST households and/or SC/ST habitations.
- Institutional mechanism for monitoring may be strengthened.

It is to be mentioned here that for example, Department of Rural Development is making DAPST allocation under, “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin” and 22.36 percent beneficiaries are STs for whom houses have been sanctioned under the scheme.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 310 for 24.07.2024 by SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI regarding “TRIBAL SUB-PLAN”

The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP): Shift from notional to reality:

i. The following measures need to be taken to make TSP effective:

(a) There should be a separate Budget Head for each Ministry / Department for TSP.

(b) A minimum quantum of 8% (which shall not be the upper limit) of the Budgetted funds of Ministry / Department concerned with social sector programmes shall be allocated towards TSP. Serious and specific directions need to issue to all line Ministries in this regard from the highest levels in the Government.

(c) The TSP funds of each Ministry / Department should be made non-lapsable and non-divertible.

(d) As in the case the North East Fund, the unutilized and non-lapsed TSP funds of each Ministry / Department, should be made eligible for pooling at the end of the year.

(e) Every Ministry / Department shall prepare its ST– specific Annual Tribal Sub-Plan.

(f) A better and targeted implementation of TSP funds could be achieved by a concerted planning of resources flowing to Tribal areas through well thought out visible interventions. In other words, instead of every Ministry spending resources in a disjointed and uncoordinated manner, it would be beneficial if the TSP funds of all Ministries / Departments are managed on the advice of a single nodal agency.

(g) The TSP funds should be spent in a judicious and concerted manner under the ST - specific Annual TSP in consultation with the nodal agency, namely, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(h) There shall be established a Committee (called the “Committee for Approval and Monitoring of Annual TSPs of Central Ministries / Departments”) chaired by Member, Planning Commission and consisting of the Secretary of the concerned Ministry / Department and the Secretary (Tribal Affairs) to consider the Annual TSP Plans for the concerned Ministry.

(i) These Committee should be empowered to approve TSP components and make recommendations regarding subsequent allocations from the non-lapsable funds after the first year of allocation.

(j) The Planning Commission should devise a policy to ensure that the Annual Plan of any Central Ministry would not be cleared if there was no TSP component therein.

(k) The Planning Commission should not approve the Annual Plans of any Ministry / Department unless the TSP Annual Plans are first approved by the above – mentioned Committee.

(l) The Committee should be serviced by the M/o Tribal Affairs and the Ministry should be enabled to do so. The implementation of the projects approved by the Committee shall be the responsibility of the concerned Ministry / Department.

(m) Similarly, the TSP of each State shall be appraised and approved by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Planning Commission shall consider the Annual State Plan only after such approval on TSP.

ii. There should be closer involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions at the ITDP/ITDA level. DRDAs/ITDPs should function under the directions of the Zila Parishads. ITDPs, which are historically older than DRDAs, should be administratively and technically empowered.

- iii. It was all right generally to have some norms based on population criteria etc. to provide some basic infrastructure facilities like primary schools, health centers, roads, electricity. etc. But the same norms should not be applied for STs as the ST clusters being sparsely habitated could never satisfy such norms. Hence, there is a need for relaxing such norms to make them flexible.
- iv. At the State level, the Departments in charge of Tribal Affairs. besides undertaking the somewhat routine coordination functions should plan and devise TSP programs for Scheduled Areas.
- v. These nodal Departments should be responsible for planning and overseeing schemes under all TSP funds. The budgeting exercise should be carried out at the State level in the nodal Department and TSP document prepared for scrutiny by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Govt. of India, prior to approval of the State plan of the concerned State by the Planning Commission.
- vi. A demi-official letter addressed by the Prime Minister to the Central Ministries in 1980 (D.O. letter No. 280/PMO/80 dated 12.3.1980) is the main source of authority behind the concept of TSP. It is high time that orders are issued by the Cabinet Secretariat formalizing the recommendations suggested above.
