

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1825
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 01/08/2024

GUIDELINES FOR ST WELFARE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

1825 SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed the Ministry's Annual report for 2022-23 which indicates that several Central Ministries allocated a lower percentage of funds for ST welfare as compared to the earmarking prescribed by NITI Aayog and if so, the reasons behind this discrepancy;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that Central Ministries comply with the NITI Aayog's earmarking guidelines for ST welfare budget allocations;
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry address the potential negative impact on tribal development programs due to the lower allocation percentages reported in the 2022-23 budget;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to intervene and hold consultations with concerned regarding prescribed low allocation percentage for ST welfare in the 2022-23 budget; and
- (e) the details of long-term strategies being considered to ensure Central Ministries consistently meet or exceed the NITI Aayog's earmarking recommendations for ST welfare allocations?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (e): Government is implementing Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) as a strategy for the development of Scheduled Tribes and areas having tribal concentration. Besides Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 40 Ministries/Departments are allocating certain percentage of their total scheme budget every year for tribal development under DAPST for various tribal development projects relating to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, electrification, employment generation, skill development, etc. NITI Aayog issues guidelines for earmarking of funds by the obligated central Ministries/Departments from time to time.

Some Ministries/Departments have not allocated funds as per the norms of NITI Aayog, whereas some have exceeded the mandated norm. In various review meetings, Ministry and NITI Aayog have raised the issue with the obligated Ministries/Departments. There was a need to review the existing guidelines in the light of new developments.

An Expert Committee was constituted by NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of member, NITI Aayog inter alia to review guidelines, the mechanism of allocation of resources for welfare of SCs and STs under SCSP/DAPSC and TSP/DAPST. Secretary, Expenditure or his nominee, Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) and Joint Secretary (SJ&E), NITI Aayog are the members of the committee. The Committee met with Secretary / representatives of all obligated Ministries/Departments and deliberated details of their schemes/programmes under DAPST. Now, a new mechanism is being worked out by NITI Aayog to ensure adequate allocation, proper and full utilisation, institutional mechanism and assess the output and outcomes from time to time.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has done villages wise gap analysis of Mission Antodaya data of Department of Rural Development. Ministry through convergence of funds available with different Ministries/Departments under TSP/DAPST is aiming at gap filling of the identified villages where the gaps within the jurisdiction of respective Ministries are identified like non-electrified house, lack of pucca house, lack of Aadhar saturation etc.

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) has been launched to provide PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in a time bound manner in 3 years. PMJANMAN focuses on 11 critical interventions being implemented by 9 Ministries.

In Union Budget 2024-25, Government has announced Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan for improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities, by adopting saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts. This will cover 63,000 villages benefitting 5 crore tribal people. The Abhiyan aims at the holistic and sustainable development of tribal populations in villages through the convergence of schemes and funds available under Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) of 14 Ministries/Departments. The Abhiyan aims to cover the service infrastructure gaps in tribal villages in Aspirational Tribal Districts and Blocks, and also Villages with high concentration of tribal based on Antodaya mission gap data (2022-23).

Under Adi Passport to Earning (P2E), the students of EMRS will be imparted computer based learning in emerging fields/new age technologies through specialized institutions and building the setting up of Semiconductor Fabrication Lab in partnership with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru for skilling 2,500 tribal students.
