

Minutes of the meeting held on 28.10.2021 to review the Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) funds and discuss the convergence of Integrated Village Development Programme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with STC Schemes.

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) on 28.10.2021 at 3:00 P.M. with the Ministry of Culture (MoC), Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYS) to review the allocation, utilization and physical progress of their schemes under TSP/STC funds and also to discuss on the convergence of the proposed Integrated Village Development Programme (ITVDP) of the MoTA being launched under the revamped Special Central Assistant to Tribal Sub-Plan. A list of officers who attended the meeting is given at Annexure.

2. Main points of discussion held, Ministry wise, are given below:

3. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)

M/o EF&CC is mandated to allocate 8.6 per cent of their allocation as TSP/STC. Till FY 2020-21, they were not adhering to the norms prescribed by NITI Aayog. In FY2021-22 M/o EF&CC has allocated 8.64 per cent of their Schemes budget as STC funds. However, it is observed that the expenditure is very low as the Ministry could only spend about Rs. 23.00 crore out of Rs.152 crore allocated, as on 23rd October, 2021 in the current FY. M/o EF&CC allocating the STC funds under schemes/programmes - Eco-Task Force, Environmental Education, National Mission for a Green India, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems, Pollution Control, National Coastal Mission, National Adaptation Fund, National Mission on Himalayan Studies and Environment Information Systems.

3.2 Secretary, Tribal Affairs (TA) wanted to know whether Ministry is making notional allocation or making allocation based on ST population, Tribal areas/tribal districts. Shri Sunil Sharma, Assist. Inspector General (Wildlife), M/o EF& CC stated that he is not having any information regarding this. He was also not having any details regarding physical performance/data of ST beneficiaries or ST areas as he is only looking after Wildlife related schemes/initiatives.

3.3 AIG, M/oEF&CC informed that under National Mission for a Green India, they provide funds for afforestation and creation for forest line. Under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, the Ministry provides funds for creation of livelihood such as poultry, piggeries activities etc. Secretary, TA asked whether the Ministry maintains the data of how many families have been benefitted in this regard. AIG, M/oEF&CC informed that they do not have such data.

3.4 Secretary, TA then asked how M/oEF&CC ensures that STC funds are being utilized for the welfare of STs. AIG, M/oEF&CC informed that they mention in the sanction letter that this amount has been sanctioned for STC and should be utilized for STs only.

3.5 Secretary, TA opined that the M/oEF&CC has huge potential and scope for many areas of intervention for Tribal development such as community forestry in tribal areas/districts, employing Tribal in tree plantation like activities under National Mission for a Green India, Conservation of Natural Resources etc.

3.6 Secretary, TA then stated that Ministry of Tribal Affairs based on Mission Antyodaya data of Department of Rural Development and Census 2011, has done a gap analysis of 1,17,064 villages (as on 31.08. 2019) having 25% or more tribal population, in respect of 18 parameters. Out of these, there are 36,428 villages which have tribal population of 50 % or more, with at least 500 tribal population. For filling gaps and for focused development of these villages, Ministry has prepared action plan under the scheme SCA to ITVD of the Ministry for comprehensive development of 36,428 village in next 5 years by taking one-fifth villages every year during 2021-22 to 2025–26. The scheme is envisaged to undertake the developmental activities in these villages mainly through convergence of funds available with different Ministries/Departments under STC, whereas the funds of Ministry of Tribal Affairs available under the scheme of SCA to ITVD would be used for gap filling. He suggested that MoEF&CC may proactively use the data for village level targeting and focused interventions.

3.7 AIG, M/oEF&CC informed that they will share the list of villages with States and request them to prioritize these villages for implementation of the schemes/programmes and utilize STC funds in the identified villages. DDG informed that the list of villages has already been shared with the Secretaries of all the obligated Ministries/Departments.

3.8 Secretary, TA stated that it may not be desirable for M/o EF&CC to have small allocations spread over many schemes. Instead, they may allocate STC funds in the schemes which provide specific benefits to STs. Small allocation in other schemes may be transferred to schemes having higher allocation for STs.

4. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYS)

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is mandated to allocate 8.6 per cent of the total scheme allocation as STC funds as per NITI Aayog guidelines. MoYS allocated STC funds in the range of 11 – 13 percent during 2017-18 to 2020-21. In current FY i.e., 2021-22 the STC allocation for the Ministry is 8.67 percent. The Ministry has made STC allocation under the schemes Khelo India, Assistance to Promotion of Sports Excellence National Youth Corps, National Service Scheme, National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development and National Young Leaders Programme.

4.2 Director, MoYS informed that Khelo India scheme has 12 components. One of the components is creation of infrastructure. Secretary, TA desired to know how STC funds are being utilized by the Ministry. Director, MoYS informed that funds are being given to States on the basis of ST population living in that State. He further informed that they maintain district – wise list of projects and will share the same with MoTA. Under Assistance to Promotion of Sports Excellence, MoYS organizes National Championships and provide facilities of boarding, lodging etc. to the participants. Also, MoYS conducts training programme for participants of international events. Secretary, TA urged that MoYS may devise a mechanism to collect and maintain data of how many tribal sports persons are benefitted under their schemes.

4.3 The initiatives under National Young Leaders Programme aim for developing leadership qualities among the youth to enable them to realize their full potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation-building process. Secretary, TA requested that activities under NYLP may be organized for tribal youth in EMRS, Tribal Universities etc.

5. Ministry of Culture (MoC)

Ministry of Culture is mandated to allocate 4.3 per cent of the total scheme allocation as STC funds as per NITI Aayog guidelines. MoC is adhering to the norms prescribed by NITI Aayog. STC allocation of the M/o Culture has come down from Rs 35.10 cr. in 2017-18 to Rs 19.57 cr. in current FY (2021-22). M/o Culture could spend only Rs. 3.01 crore (as on 23rd Oct 2021) from total STC allocation of Rs. 19.57 crore during the current FY 2021-22. In FY 2021-22, M/o Culture has allocated the STC funds under 4 schemes namely (i) Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana(ii) Centenaries and Anniversaries, Celebrations and Schemes (iii) National Mission for Preservation of Manuscripts and (iv) Development of Libraries and Archives.

5.2 While clarifying schemes, Director, MoC informed that Ministry's all schemes are Central Sector Schemes. MoC provides Pensions, scholarships to ST artists under the scheme Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana. MoC maintains the data of individual beneficiaries also. Director further informed that they are providing funds to general population working for tribal arts – dance, painting etc., However, they are not booking expenditure for this as STC.

5.3 Secretary, TA commented that the Ministry of Culture (MoC) has several potential areas and scope to intervene to promote Tribal culture, Tribal museums, Tribal traditions and way of life and preserve their old, traditional languages. Secretary TA suggested that MoC actually can allocate more funds than prescribed by NITI Aayog for tribal culture, museums and preservation of tribal languages.

5.4 Secretary, TA stated that MoTA is providing funds for establishing Tribal museums to various States. However, MoTA does not have expertise in building museums. He requested that MoC may provide necessary technical inputs for construction of tribal museums. Director, MoC said that MoC has many agencies which can be roped in for taking up such activities. DDG, MoTA asked if MoTA sends proposal for construction of tribal museums whether MoC will be able to provide funds from STC. Director, MoC said they can provide STC funds for museums.

5.5 Secretary, TA suggested that a separate meeting may be arranged with M/o Culture to discuss in details about establishment of tribal museums.

5.6 DDG requested MOC that NCSM may open regional Science centers in some tribal areas to inculcate scientific temper among the students of tribal areas.

6. Ministry of Tourism (MoT)

Ministry of Tourism is allocating STC funds as per NITI Aayog guidelines i.e., 4.3 per cent as Tribal Sub-Plan/Scheduled Tribe Component (TSP/STC) funds. However, it is observed that the utilization/expenditure of STC fund is very low i.e., only Rs. 4.37 cr. out of total allocation of Rs. 82.00 cr. during the current FY 2021-22. Ministry of Tourism is allocating the STC funds only under one scheme viz. Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around specific themes (Swadesh Darshan).

6.2 Under Secretary, M/o Tourism informed that MoT provides funds to States for providing basic amenities at tourist destinations, tourist guide trainings, capacity building for service providers. He further informed that MoT is doing notional allocation. Secretary, TA asked about physical progress of the scheme; how many STs are benefitted. US, MoT informed that

he is not having data right now and he will check about this with the concerned programme Division of MoT and share with MoTA.

6.3 Secretary, TA commented that MoT has scope to promote tribal tourism and also tourism in tribal population districts. He suggested that MoT may ask for proposals from States to focus on the tribal circuits and locations and provide funds for such proposals. In addition, there is scope to support tribal youths as tour guides in these tribal circuit and locations.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Annexure

List of Participants

Srl.No.	Name & Designation
1.	Shri Anil Kumar Jha, Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs -in- Chair
2.	Shri Biswajit Das, Deputy Director General, M/o Tribal Affairs
3.	Shri Satyendra Kumar, Joint Director, M/o Tribal Affairs
4.	Shri Rahul Kumar, Deputy Director, M/o Tribal Affairs
5.	Shri Sunil Sharma, Assist. Inspector General (Wildlife), M/o Environment, Forest & Climate Change
6.	Shri Dayanand, Director (Finance), M/o Youth Affairs & Sports
7.	Shri P.S. Tomar, Deputy Secretary (Sports), D/o Sports
8.	Shri Hari Kumar, Director (Finance), M/o Culture
10.	Ms. Richy, Deputy Director (Budget), M/o Culture
11.	Shri Om Prakash, Under Secretary, M/o Tourism