

डा. रामेश्वर उराँव

अध्यक्ष

(भूतपूर्व सांसद-लोकसभा)

(पूर्व जनजातीय कार्य राज्यमन्त्री)

Dr. RAMESHWAR ORAON

Chairman

(Ex Member Parliament-LS)

(Former Minister of State for Tribal Affairs)



भारत सरकार

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग

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Government of India

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

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D.O.No.16/07/M/OAgriculture/Review/2012/RU-III

7th November, 2012

Respected Sir,

You are aware that the Constitution of India has made special provisions for upliftment and development of the Scheduled Tribe and also for safeguarding their rights. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, set up under Article 338A of the Constitution is vested with the duty, inter-alia, to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the STs and to evaluate the working of such safeguards. In pursuance of its mandate, the Commission had a meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture on 30/10/2012 to review implementation of the Tribal Sup-Plan and safeguards provided for STs. The summary record of the proceedings of the meeting is annexed.

2. During the meeting, it is revealed that both the Deptt. of Agriculture and the Deptt. of Animal, Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries are implementing the schemes which are mostly demand-driven. The Commission is of the view that such schemes, due to their design itself, are likely to lose focus on the well defined Scheduled/ Tribal Areas, as State Govts. have no compulsion or incentive for taking up these programmes in inaccessible Scheduled/ Tribal Areas. This was also evident from the budgetary allocations by the DAC for the year 2011-12 in respect of Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure and Grading & Standardization, and Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, which were important schemes concerning STs, as these schemes contained no provision for TSP against an allocation of Rs.360 crore and Rs.150 crore respectively. The Commission has also noted that the Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries had not specifically earmarked any allocation under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). It was stated that Planning Commission, vide D.O. Letter No. N-11016/12(1)/2009-PC dated 15.12.2010.had not recommended any earmarking of funds for Tribal Sub-Plan in respect of the Deptt. However, the Secretary, Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries has informed the Commission that in respect of all individual beneficiary oriented schemes, State Govt. have been requested to earmark at least 8% of the allocated benefit for the beneficiaries belonging to scheduled tribe. The Commission is separately requesting the Planning Commission to review the directions contained in its letter dated 15.12.2010 for including Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries for earmarking of funds under TSP as the schemes, being run by the Department, support the traditional way of living of tribals.

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3. The Commission is of the view that considering the fragile economic conditions of the tribals, and their poor agricultural practices including single crop culture, there is an imperative need to incorporate a TSP component in the implementation of the major Missions/ Schemes also in order to meet the objective of inclusive growth, which should not be based merely on the population share, but rather on the extent of deprivation i.e. according to "problem share" and "need based". The Commission recommends that the Ministry of Agriculture should accordingly provide TSP component in the implementation of its all major Missions/ Schemes under each of its Department.

4. The Commission has also noted that the Deptt. of Agriculture and the Deptt. of AHD&F both do not have effective system for monitoring of schemes meant for STs and to ensure effective utilization of funds under TSP. The Commission is of the view that developmental support by the Central Govt. in Scheduled/ Tribal Areas should not be confined to the issue of directions only and the MoA should also establish appropriate mechanism with setting up TSP Cell in each Department for preparing annual TSP and monitoring, including effective end utilization of TSP funds.

5. I would request you to have the observations/comments of the Commission examined in the matter urgently and the action taken by the Ministry of Agriculture may be communicated to the Commission at the earliest.

With high regards.

Yours sincerely,

Encl: As above

Rameshwar Oraon
(Dr. Rameshwar Oraon)

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