



No.1/8/13-Coord.

Government of India
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

6th Floor, 'B' Wing,
Lok Nayak Bhawan,
Khan Market,
New Delhi 110003
Dated: 27/06/2013

To,

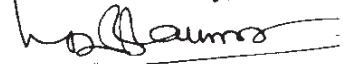
- 1) Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson
- 2) Smt. K. Kamala Kumari, Member
- 3) Shri Bheru Lal Meena, Member

Sub: - Summary record of the 47th Meeting of the Commission held at 15:00 hours on 10/06/2013.

Sir, / Madam,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and to say that 47th Meeting of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was held at 15:00 Hrs. on 10th June, 2013 in the Chamber of Hon'ble Chairperson at Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. A copy of the Summary Record of the meeting is enclosed for information and record.

Yours faithfully,



(K.D. Bhansor) Mrs.
Deputy Director

Copy with a copy of the Summary Record of the meeting forwarded to the following officers with the request that information about action taken on the decision taken in the meeting concerning each Unit / Office may be furnished to Coordination Unit by 12/07/ 2013 positively.

- (i) Director (DK)
- (ii) Director(RU-I & RU-II)
- (iii) Dy. Secretary (Admn.)
- (iv) Dy. Director (RU-III & RU-IV)
- (v) AD/RO In-charge – RU-I/RU-II/RU-III/RU-IV/Coord./ AD/OL

Copy with a copy of the Summary Record of the meeting forwarded for information to:

1. PS to Chairperson,
2. Office of the Secretary,
3. PPS to Joint Secretary,
4. Assistant Director/ Research Officer in Regional offices of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Bhopal/ Bhubaneswar/ Jaipur/ Raipur/ Ranchi and Shillong.
5. Sr. System Analyst (NIC Cell, NCST) for uploading on the website.


(K.D. Bhansor) Mrs.
Deputy Director



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

Sub: Summary record of the 47th meeting of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes held at 15:00 HRS on 10/06/2013.


The 47th meeting of the Commission was held at 15:00 hrs on 10/06/2013 in the Chamber of Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in the Loknayak Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST. List of the participants is enclosed at **ANNEXURE**. There were initially Six Agenda Items for discussion in the meeting. With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairperson two additional matters were also taken up for discussion. In all eight Agenda Items were discussed in the meeting.

2. The decisions taken and the action points that emerged out of the discussions held in the meeting are given below:

Agenda Item I	Draft Note for the Cabinet in regard to amendments in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
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3. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, vide letter No. 11020/8/2012-PCR (Desk) dated 04/04/2013 sought comments of the Commission on Draft Note for the Cabinet in regard to amendments in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

4. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes considered the Draft Note which acknowledges that continuing high incidence of occurrence of offences against members of SCs and STs is indicative that the deterrent effect of the Act is not adequately felt by wrong doers. Further, occurrences of incidents of offences of atrocities also indicate poor enforcement of effective precautionary and preventive measures. This called for an assessment whether the existing provisions of the Act needed any amendment to fulfill its objectives. It was felt that for considering appropriate amendments in the Act, there was a need for a comprehensive review of the concerned Sections of the Act. Suggestions from


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various quarters had also been received in this regard in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

5. Keeping in view the above aspects, it was decided to consider amendments in the Act, after ascertaining the views of concerned agencies in the matter. Accordingly, all the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, Central Ministries of Home Affairs, Tribal Affairs, Women & Child Development, Law & Justice and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes were addressed on 10.01.2011 to furnish their views / comments. Since comments from most of them had been received, a Committee, under the Chairpersonship of the Additional Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, was constituted in August, 2012 to examine the comments received from various agencies in regard to consideration of amendments in the Act, and to draft the amendments therein. The Committee had members from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Tribal Affairs, Women & Child Development, Law & Justice, and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and some State Governments. Meanwhile, the draft recommendations of the working Group of the National Advisory Council (NAC) had also been received. A consultation was held by the Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment with the Ministers in charge of the States and the Union Territories on 20.02.2013. Another consultation meeting was held with certain NGOs and Activists by the Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment on 14.03.2013. The Committee considered the comments received from the States / UTs, NCSC, various organisations and individuals, as well as the recommendations of the Working Group of the NAC and the various suggestions received in the meetings held on 20.02.2013 and 14.03.2013, before finalizing its report. The Committee presented its report on 15.03.2013. Following are the amendments to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for which Draft Note for the cabinet has been prepared:

(a) Amendments to Chapter II (Offences of Atrocities) in the Act as outlined below to achieve the following:-

- (i) define and include as offences some new, emerging and systemic forms of atrocities against members of SCs and STs, like
 - (1) Obstructing the use of common property resources;

- (2) Causing physical harm or death on the allegation of practicing witchcraft;
- (3) Imposing social or economic boycott;
- (4) Preventing entry to any place of public worship;

(ii) **Amendment of some existing definitions** to reflect the present day reality and re-draft following sections to remove elements which thwart the implementation of the Act.

- (1) Section [3(1)(iii)]
- (2) Section [3(1)(v)]
- (3) Section [3(1)(vi)]
- (4) Section [3(1)(vii)]
- (5) Section [3(1)(viii)]
- (6) Section [3(1)(x)]

(iii) **define some offences with strict liability**, thus diluting *mens rea* for such offences.

(iv) Bring within the purview of the Act relevant IPC offences that attract penalties of less than 10 years.

(v) Expand the scope of presumptions (in Section 8) as to whether the perpetrator had knowledge of the SC/ST identity of the victim, while committing the offence.

(vi) Strengthen State accountability by clearly defining 'wilful negligence' by public servants (in Section 4) and empowering the Dedicated Special Court to take cognizance of such wilful negligence by making provisions for:-

(b) Punishment for dereliction of duty by inserting new Section 4 (2). (Duties of public servant) and another new Sub – Section 4 (3)

(c) Institutional strengthening—

- (A) In districts where a large number of cases under this Act are reported, Exclusive Special Courts should be established with the powers to take cognizance of offences under this Act.
- (B) Special Public Prosecutors should be appointed to try cases on an exclusive basis.
- (C) In every trial in the special court and the exclusive special court, the proceedings should be continued from day-to-day until all the witnesses in attendance have been examined, unless the Court finds the adjournments of the same beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded. Further, when the trial relates to an offence under this Act, the trial should, as far as possible be completed within a period of two months from the date of filling of the charge sheet.
- (D) Cases under the Act should be given priority in appeals.

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(d) **Establishing rights of the victims and witnesses** by inserting comprehensive sections dealing with these rights.

(e) **Strengthening preventive measures** by modifying the existing provision under section 10(1) as given below:

"where the Special Court is satisfied, upon a complaint or a police report, that a person is likely to commit an offence under chapter II of this Act in any area included in 'Scheduled Areas' or 'tribal areas', as referred to in article 244 of the Constitution, or any area identified under the provisions of Section 21(1) (VII), it may, by order in writing, direct such person to remove himself beyond the limits of such area, by such route and within such time as may be specified in the order, and not to return to that area from which he was directed to remove himself for such period, not exceeding two years, as may be specified in the order."

6. The Commission recalled that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as well as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had earlier sought views of the Commission on certain proposals of the Ministry for amendment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and views of the Commission were forwarded to the Ministry. The Commission also noted that the proposals contained in the Draft Cabinet Note were broadly in line with the views of the Commissions forwarded to the Government earlier.

7. The Commission also recalled that in the context of earlier proposals of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for amendment of Sections 14 and 21 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 received from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Commission had made certain suggestions while agreeing to the proposed amendment of section 21 of the Act by inserting new sub section 2(A). The amendment of section 21 provided for forwarding of a report, to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes beside others, by the concerned police officer in each case registered under the PoA Act. On receipt of information in National Commission for Scheduled Tribes about registration of cases under PoA Act, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes will have to investigate the cases as per mandate of the Commission under Clause (5) of Article 338A of the Constitution. Consequently,



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the workload relating to investigation and monitoring of cases of atrocities on Scheduled Tribes in this Commission will increase manifold. The Commission had desired that to enable it to concentrate on such cases, a Special Cell, fully equipped with adequate manpower and infrastructure facilities will be required to be created in the Hqrs. Office. The Commission had accordingly suggested that Ministry of Tribal Affairs should request the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to make a provision for creation of a Special Atrocity Cell/ Unit with requisite complement of staff in the Commission in the financial memorandum to be enclosed with the Bill for amendment of the Act. The comments/views of the Commission on the proposed amendments, were communicated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide letter dated 12/08/2008 with the request to ensure due consideration of Commission's views/comments on the proposed amendments by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

8. While discussing the current proposals contained in the Draft Cabinet Note the Commission expressed the view that amendment of section 21, which was aimed at safeguarding the rights of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and prompt monitoring of the cases of atrocities committed on them and agreed to by the Commission earlier should also have been considered and incorporated in the proposal as well as Draft Cabinet Note prepared for amendment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

9. In view of above the Commission agreed to the Draft Cabinet Note with the recommendations given in the succeeding paragraphs to be incorporated in the Draft Note.

Agenda Item II	Draft Cabinet Note seeking approval for including Homoeopathy under Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM) and renaming the Commission as Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and other related amendments.
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10. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide letter No. 17011/21/2013-P&M dated 24/04/2012 have sought comments of the Commission with reference to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of AYUSH, letter No. A.12025/01/2011-HPC (PCIM) dated 16/04/2013 on the Draft Cabinet Note seeking approval for

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including Homoeopathy under Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM) and renaming the Commission as Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and other related amendments.

11. As per the Draft Cabinet Note, the Cabinet in its meeting held on 13th May 2010 had approved setting up of Pharmacopoeia Commission of Indian Medicine (PCIM)) as an autonomous society on the lines of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (for allopathic medicine) for the purposes of standardization of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs through a credible institution. Currently the approved governance structure of the PCIM comprises of three bodies, namely the General Body, the Governing Body and the Scientific Body.

12. At present, PCIM has no legal mandate for setting standards for ASU drugs and legal mandate for setting standards for ASU drugs is with Pharmacopoeia Laboratory of Indian Medicine (PLIM) as per Rule-163A of Drugs & Cosmetics Rule 1945. It is proposed to provide legal standing to the restructured PCIM &H through incorporating amendment in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules 1945. For this purpose, rules will be appropriately amended.

13. The Commission observed that the proposals contained in the Draft Cabinet Note primarily related to including Homoeopathy under Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM) and renaming the Commission as Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and other related amendments and nothing seemed to be against the interests of the Scheduled Tribes and thus agreed to approve the contents of the draft Note.

Agenda Item III	Draft SFC Memo for Central Sector Grant-in-aid scheme for Promotion of AYUSH Intervention in Public Health Initiatives
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14. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide letter No. 17019/1/2013-R&M dated 16/05/2013 have sought comments of the Commission with reference to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of AYUSH, letter No.Z-15014/4/2007 E &C (II) dated 22/04/2013 on Draft SFC Memo for Central Sector Grant-in-aid scheme for Promotion of AYUSH Intervention in Public Health Initiatives.

15. Commission noted that Central Sector Grant-in-aid scheme for promotion of AYUSH Intervention in Public Health Initiatives is continuing scheme. The scheme implemented in the 11th Plan was proposed to be continued in the 12th Five Year Plan. As per the Draft Note, the Steering Committee has recommended the following:

- I. Support for nationally coordinated projects on public health priorities like anemia, provision of clean drinking water, under-nutrition among children. reduction of maternal & infant mortality
- II. Support for all-India innovative program called AYUSH Gram through government institutional networks to plan, design and implement location specific AYUSH public health interventions in a district, Taluka or a particular cluster of villages. The AYUSH interventions demonstrate the impact of the intervention.
- III. Support for a network of reputed colleges and research institutes including institutions specializing in public health, to design & organize in service training for medical officers and paramedics in clinical medicine and public health.

16. The Commission noted that the scheme is location specific. A project may be sanctioned to a Public Health Organization for one or more Community Development Blocks. The proposals are mostly invited from the different **backward Districts and tribal area of different States, where the Public Health facilities are very poor or not up to the mark.** During 11th plan total 29 projects were supported in different states and Rs.14.71 Crores has been spent.

17. The proposals were supported mainly for AYUSH intervention on various communicable and non-communicable diseases like Anemia, Malnutrition, Mother & childcare, Malaria, Autism etc. The main objectives of the scheme i.e. promotion of AYUSH for community health care in different parts of the country is stated to have been fulfilled. Incidence of anemia, malnutrition, occurrence of malaria, Infant Mortality rate in different project implementation area of different States is also stated to have markedly reduced. From the general outcome of the scheme it can be stated that the AYUSH has a great role for prevention of communicable and also some non-communicable diseases.

18. The total proposed outlay for the 12th Five year plan period is Rs.28.00 Crores and in the current annual plan there is a provision of Rs. 5.00 Crores. In order to support more such projects in the 12th Plan with focused deliverables and for exploring and implementing strategic AYUSH interventions of Public Health importance through the relevant public health programs / public health organizations, scaled up allocation of Rs 28.00 crore has been proposed for the 12th plan. No modification in Annual Plan has been proposed.

19. The Commission noted that the proposal relates to continuity of the scheme from the 11th Five Year Plan and covers tribal blocks also. The Commission agreed to the SFC Memorandum for promotion of AYUSH intervention in Public Health initiatives. The Commission emphasized the need for sustained research led health outreach initiatives to tackle tribal specific conditions such as Sickle Cell Anemia etc. The Commission was also of the view that backward tribal blocks particularly those affected by Naxalism or Left Wing Extremism may be covered on priority and grants provided for the purpose liberally.

Agenda Item IV	Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA): Draft Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal.
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20. The Ministry of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education (Higher Education Bureau) vide their OM No. F.4-18/2013-U.II dated 10/05/2013 have sought comments of the Commission on the Draft EFC proposal on the above subject.

21. The Commission noted that Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CCS) spread over the 12th and 13th Five Year Plan periods, for improving access and quality in the state higher education system, without compromising on its equity aspects. With over 94% of the students enrolled in the state public higher education system, there is a much felt need for State Universities to be strengthened through adequate funding and also by implementing certain much needed reforms. A major cause of concern is the



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declining investments (plan) of the State Governments in higher education. The scheme envisages to provide incentives to the States to step up investments in higher education.

22. As per the EFC Note the National Development Council (NDC) has approved the Scheme as part of the 12th Five Year Plan. The Approach Paper to 12th Plan prepared by the Planning Commission had suggested the creation of such a scheme in view of the need for comprehensive reforms in State higher education sector. It had suggested using central funds in a strategic manner to ensure holistic planning at the State level and enhancement of allocations for the State Institutions. The Scheme would be an over-arching scheme for funding the State Universities and colleges to achieve the aims of equity, access, excellence and inclusion. Centre – State funding will be in the ratio of 90:10 for North – Eastern States, Sikkim & J & k, 75:25 for Other Special Category States (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and 65:35 for Other States and UTs. Funding will be available to even private aided institutions in a ratio of 50:50 for permitted activities based on certain norms and parameters. State governments would be free to mobilize 50% of their share of cost through private partnerships. No funding is proposed under RUSA to private unaided institutions. The objectives of RUSA would be to achieve the target of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 32%, by the year 2022-23 with equity and inclusion.

23. The second scheme, i.e. the incentivization of states for setting up new institutions and expanding existing institutions, was proposed in the year 2010 with a total outlay of Rs. 16,690 crores but could not be sanctioned since Planning Commission recommended that an umbrella scheme subsuming similar schemes may be taken up in the 12th Plan. This recommendation of the Planning Commission constitutes the basis for the formulation of the Scheme presently under consideration. Additionally, in keeping with the recommendations of the B.K Chaturvedi report, RUSA will subsume a number of schemes in these areas in order to fill in the gaps in design, implementation and outcomes.

24. The Scheme will subsume the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme to set up Model Degree Colleges in each of the identified 374 Educationally Backward

Districts of the country. Introduced in XI the plan the RUSA would also subsume the existing CSS of Polytechnics. UGC has been implementing some schemes which cater to the objectives now proposed under RUSA, which include one time catch-up grants to non – 12B universities and colleges, additional assistance to already covered universities and colleges, and development grants etc.

25. The main components of the scheme, for which seats will receive support under RUSA, are as follows:-

- New Universities
- Up gradation of existing autonomous colleges to Universities
- Conversion of colleges to Cluster Universities
- Infrastructure grants to Universities
- New Model Colleges (General)
- Upgradation of existing degree colleges to model colleges
- New Colleges (Professional)
- Infrastructure grants to colleges
- Research, innovation and quality improvement
- Equity initiatives
- Faculty Recruitment Support
- Faculty Improvements
- Research Universities
- Vocationalisation of Higher Education
- Leadership Development of Educational Administrators
- Medical college up gradation
- Institutional restructuring & reforms
- Capacity building & preparation, Data collection & planning
- All India Survey of Higher Education
- Polytechnic Colleges
- Capacity building of Central Institutions/ Agencies

26. The Scheme will be implemented throughout the country. All state controlled and funded higher educational institutions would be eligible for coverage under the Scheme. Private but aided institutions will be eligible for funds on 50:50 basis. Private unaided institutions will not be covered under RUSA.



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27. The Commission agreed in principle to the proposal as contained in the EFC Note as the scheme was aimed at enhancing level and quality of higher education in the country. The Commission, however, observed that Scheduled Tribes which belong to most backward segment of the society, forming over 8% of the population of the country and by and large reside in areas isolated from the rest of the population also need special attention, keeping in view the needs and problems of Scheduled Tribes and notified Scheduled Areas, Tribal Sub-Plan areas and the Tribal Areas under Sixth Schedule to the Constitution. In order to cater to the needs of these specified areas, the Commission recommended that the Scheme should have a separate chapter highlighting flow of benefits to the Scheduled Tribes and applicability of the Scheme to the Tribal Sub-Plan area, Scheduled Areas and the Tribal Areas in the country. The Commission directed that the sponsoring Ministry may be advised to incorporate the above recommendation into the Scheme and also to the EFC Note.

Agenda Item V	Inclusion of Bhuinya (भूईया) Bhuiyan (भूईया) Bhuyan (भूया) Communities as synonyms of Bhardia Bhumia listed at Sl. No. 5 in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh.
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28. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide letter No. 12016/11/2010-C&LM-I dated 20/05/2013 forwarded for comments of the Commission a proposal for Inclusion of Bhuinya (भूईया) Bhuiyan (भूईया) Bhuyan (भूया) Communities as synonyms of Bhardia Bhumia listed at Sl. No.5 in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh.

29. The Commission observed that the documents and the material received alongwith the proposal from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs were not adequate enough to arrive at a conclusion, as per the modalities prescribed by the Government for inclusion of a community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The Commission decided that a Member of the Commission will visit the habitations of Bhuinya (भूईया) Bhuiyan (भूईया) Bhuyan (भूया) Communities in the State of Chhattisgarh and recommendation of the Commission will be finalized after taking into consideration the report of the Member.


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Agenda Item VI	Draft 6th Annual Report of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes for the year 2010-11.
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30. Draft of the Sixth Annual Report of the Commission for the year 2010-2011 was discussed in the Meeting. The Report has Five Chapters. Chapter 6 containing summary of recommendations contained in these five chapters was being compiled separately. Joint Secretary, NCST mentioned that the Draft Report requires certain corrections, refinements and, if possible, to concise it further. The Commission, while endorsing the recommendations made, also observed that the Report needed editorial corrections and resetting of the formats of each Chapter in the Report. The Commission authorized the Secretary, NCST to incorporate consequential refinements/ modifications in the Report and submit the final Report to the Chairperson, alongwith the forwarding letter for submission of the Report to the President of India. Since Annual Report for the period 2011-12 and 2012-13 has also become due, it was also decided that collection of data and information and preparations for the next report may also be initiated.

Additional Agenda Items

Agenda Item VII	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Districts – CCEA Note
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31. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide letter No. 17019/13/2013-PC&V dated 30/05/2013 with reference to Planning Commission O.M No. M-13053/6/2/2013-MLP dated 27/05/2013 have sought comments of the Commission on Draft Note for the Cabinet regarding Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Districts.

32. The Commission noted that while the issue of development of Backward Districts will continue to be addressed largely through the district component of Backward Regions Grant Funds (BRGF) for which enhanced funding has been provided for in the annual plan 2013-14, the feedback from the States and the Ministries has stressed the need for providing some flexi funds to the District Administration to deal with the situation in LWE Districts. Therefore, an amount of Rs. 1000 crore has been provided in Budget 2013-14 as ACA for LWE affected Districts. It is proposed to continue assistance to Districts previously covered

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under the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for selected Tribal and Backward Districts with focused attention to Districts affected by Left Wing Extremism.


33. The Commission noted that as per the guidelines of the scheme, the funds were placed at the disposal of the Committee headed by the District Collector and consisting of the Superintendent of Police of the District and the District Forest Officer. The District level Committee had the flexibility to spend the amount for Development Schemes according to need, as assisted by it. The State Governments and the District Collectors were also advised to ensure a suitable form of consultation with the local members of Parliament on the Schemes to be taken up under the IAP. The District level Committee had to draw up a plan consisting of concrete proposals for public infrastructure such as schools and buildings, anganwadi centres, primary health centres, drinking water supply, village roads, electric lights in public places.

34. The Commission noted that the ACA for LWE affected Districts will be on 100% grant basis and cover 82 Districts. An amount of Rs. 1000 crore will be provided per year involving a total requirement of Rs. 4000 crore for the period 2013-14 to 2016-17. Funds will be allocated on the basis of a fixed amount of Rs. 5 crore per District and the remaining amount will be distributed on the basis of the area and the population of the Districts with equal weightage.

35. After detailed discussion, the Commission decided to agree with the proposal.

Agenda Item VIII	Memorandum for the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for approval of the scheme, "Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Corporation for Minor Forest Produce Operation during the Twelfth Five Year Plan".
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36. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide letter No. 2/1/2013-CP&R dated 06/06/2013 have sought comments of the Commission on Draft Memorandum for the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for approval of the scheme, "Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Corporation for Minor Forest Produce Operation during the Twelfth Five Year Plan".


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37. The Commission noted that the Central Sector Scheme of "Grant-In-Aid to State Tribal Development Corporative Corporations (STDCCs) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) operations was launched in 1992-93 to ensure better income and livelihood to Tribals whose lives depend on collection and sale of MFP. It was estimated that this operation could generate gainful employment for about 10 million persons per year. The scheme had been framed to ensure that Tribals get remunerative prices for MFP they collect. This was to be achieved by Marketing of Tribal Produce specially MFP and protecting them against exploitation by private traders. Beside continuing the existing activities, it proposes to include operation of important MFP that has not been covered under the scheme so far. This will be implemented in Scheduled 5 States to start with. Under this scheme physical and financial target are not fixed. However, this scheme is being monitored and evaluated on a year to year basis by the Ministry while releasing grants to the States.

38. The Commission noted that the funds under the scheme will be made available to the STDCCs etc for following activities:

- i. For release of working capital for the corporation with a view to increase a quantum of MFP handled.
- ii. Setting up of scientific warehousing facilities, wherever necessary.
- iii. Establishing, processing industries for value addition with the objective of ensuring maximum returns for the MFPs for the Tribals.
- iv. Supplementing research and development R&D efforts provided that these funds will not be used for meeting any administrative or salary expenses.
- v. Increasing the scope of the scheme to incorporate additional MFP not covered so far.

39. The Commission noted that this is an ongoing central sector scheme but all references to MFP should be substituted as referring to non-timber forest produce (NTFP). It has been proposed that the scheme will continue in the current plan period and an amount of Rs. 108 crore has been proposed for the scheme. Since the proposal is for extension of a useful ongoing scheme into 12th Five Year Plan, the Commission essentially agreed to the proposal.

40. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


डा. रामेश्वर उराव
अध्यक्ष
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली

ANNEXURE

ATTENDANCE SHEET

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

47th Meeting of the Commission held at 15:00 hrs. on 10/06/2013 in the Chamber of the Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes - List of participants.

S. No. **Name and Designation**

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

1. Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson (in Chair)
2. Smt. K. Kamala Kumari, Member
3. Shri Bheru Lal Meena, Member
4. Shri R. Vijaykumar, Secretary,
5. Shri Aditya Mishra, Joint Secretary,
6. Shri M. S. Chopra, Director,
7. Shri Dwarka Karol, Director,
8. Smt. Saroj Jaisia, Deputy Secretary
9. Smt. K. D. Bhansor, Deputy Director
10. Shri R.C. Durga, Consultant
11. Shri S.P. Meena, Assistant Director