



**No.1/9/11-Coord.
Government of India
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

**6th Floor, 'B' Wing,
Lok Nayak Bhawan,
Khan Market,
New Delhi – 110003**

Dated: 01.12.2011

To

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

Sub:- Summary record of the 30th Meeting of the Commission was held at 12:30 hours on 1st December, 2011.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and to say that 30th Meeting of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was held at 12:30 Hrs. on 1st December, 2011 in the Conference Room of the Commission at Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson of the 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 14th December, 2011 positively.

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

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

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

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

Subject: 30th meeting of the Commission held on 01-12-2011 at 12:30 PM in the Conference Room of the Commission.

The 30th meeting of the Commission was held at 12:30 PM on 01-12-2011 in the Conference Room of the Commission in Loknayak Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST. List of participants is enclosed at Annexure.

2. Secretary, NCST informed that the National Food Security Bill, 2011 is being processed by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Deptt. of F & PD). As the Ministry had not sought the views of the Commission on the Bill in accordance with the Article 338A(9) of the Constitution, Deptt. of F&PD has been repeatedly requested to ensure consultation with the Commission on the Bill, as finalized, before its consideration by the Cabinet. In the meeting held in the Commission on 28th November, 2011, Secretary, F&PD had assured the Chairperson that the draft Bill, as finalized by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, would be forwarded to the Commission by 1000 hrs. on 1st December, 2011; and requested communication of comments of the Commission same day as the Bill was to be submitted to the Cabinet on the next day, which was accepted by the Chairperson, NCST.

3. Secretary, NCST also mentioned that the draft Bill, as available in public domain, was discussed by the Commission in its meeting held on 11th November, 2011, and the comments were communicated to the Deptt. of F&PD vide letter dated 21st November, 2011. Meanwhile, Deptt. of F&PD also sought the comments of the Commission on the revised Bill as circulated for inter-Ministerial consultations. However, it was noted that the revised Bill was not substantially different from its earlier version.

4. Secretary, NCST further stated that the Bill, as finalized by the Deptt. of F&PD, and the views expressed by the Commission on the earlier draft of the Bill, revised

Rameshwar Oraon
डॉ० रामेश्वर उराँव / Dr. RAMESHWAR ORAON
अध्यक्ष / Chairman
राष्ट्रीय आ. सुरक्षा आ. आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

keeping in view the latest provisions, has been circulated among the Members for consideration in the meeting (copy of the views/ comments of NCST annexed to the minutes of the meeting). The Commission would re-iterate its stand that special provisions for Scheduled Areas be included as separate Chapter in the legislation, keeping in view the spirit of the provisions of Scheduled V and VI of the Constitution.

5. The Commission approved the draft comments for onward communication to the Deptt. of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, F & PD.

6. Secretary, NCST also invited attention to the Rules of Procedure of the NCST relating to circulation of agenda notes, etc and requested that in future at least one week time should be available to the Commission for furnishing its comments in such cases, keeping in view the exhaustive/critical nature of the legislation and procedural requirements for the conduct of the meeting and communicating the outcome of discussions. It was also decided that, in view of the importance of the subject, the comments of the Commission should also be communicated to the Prime Minister, as well as to all Scheduled Tribe Members of the Parliament.

7. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Rameshwar Prasad

डा० रामेश्वर प्रसाद / Dr. RAMESHWAR PRASAD
अध्यक्ष / Chairman
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजात आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

F.No.1/10/2011-Coord.

Annexure
(w.r.t Para 1 of the Summary Record)

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Meeting of the Commission held on 01-12-2011 at 12.30AM in the
Conference Room of the Commission.

S. No.	Name and Designation
1.	Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson (in Chair)
2.	Smt. K. Kamala Kumari, Member
3.	Shri Bheru Lal Meena, Member
4.	Shri Raghuvendra Singh Sirohi, Secretary
5.	Shri Aditya Mishra, Joint Secretary
6.	Shri S.P. Meena, Assistant Director
7.	Shri R.C. Durga, Consultant

Comments of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes on the Draft Food Security Bill, 2011

CL1(2)

There should be a separate chapter for Scheduled Areas since the problems are different from the rest of the country. Food security in Scheduled Areas is especially fragile because of primitive agricultural practices/low production, difficult access, infrastructure, logistical services and underdeveloped markets, besides endemic poverty and lack of opportunities for livelihood maintenance. Both availability of food grains and affordability are inter-meshed problems; and food security is not merely a question of subsidising prices for the poorer sections of the populace in these areas. Therefore, there is an imperative need to recognise these special characteristics; and have a differentiated approach for Scheduled Areas by way of provision of adequate entitlement of requisite food stocks, strengthening of warehousing and logistics, financial resources and responsibilities in a separate chapter for Scheduled Areas

CL2(27)

“Targeted” implies a subset of the population. Universal coverage is necessary in Scheduled Areas.

CL3

In view of the special Constitutional mandate for Scheduled Areas, and the persisting poor health and economic standards of tribals, full financial/logistical responsibility to ensure food security in such areas should vest in the Union Government. It is not appropriate to cast such responsibility solely on State Governments, also because they have limited capacity to mobilize foodgrains from on low production regions, arrange credit and subsidise logistical/distribution costs.

Since remote tribal areas also have acute problems of availability/marketing infrastructure, foodgrain entitlements should not be differentiated according to economic status, which is relevant only for the quantum subsidy eligible. Food entitlement should be specified on the basis of recommended nutritional requirements to enable purchase of needed quantity at option; or yearly aggregate entitlements may be specified instead, since the average off-take may fluctuate at different times of the year depending upon prices or alternate/sources of supply, and may be more relevant for planning subsidy/logistic requirements.

CL13

Special arrangements, including build-up of inventory have to be made for remote, inaccessible areas, so that food availability is not often compromised by logistical failures. It is not sufficient or desirable to provide an allowance in lieu thereof.

Cl. 14, 15

The public distribution system must assure reasonable food availability to all residents in Scheduled Areas keeping in view their special problems of availability and affordability. The number of priority households should not be arbitrarily determined; and they should be identified on the basis of discernible wealth/income-related criterion.

Cl.18 (2)(e)

Since shops are essentially a commercial activity, it is not desirable that local bodies undertake such activity themselves (especially at village level where they do not have much manpower available to devote to the task). Local credit/consumer co-operatives may be a preferred option.

Cl.18(2)(b)

Besides, use of information technology for increasing transparency of transactions, the monitoring mechanisms (specially in Scheduled Areas) should be strengthened through reliable reporting systems to enable rapid awareness of related transactions – stocks, movement, issues, etc - at all locations upto fair price shop level, and providing timely feedback for prompt remedial action to rectify logistical failures which imperil food security in remote areas.

Cl.19

Empowerment of women as the head of the household should not demand the presence of the woman head of household for drawing rations from the fair price shop, especially if identity verification systems are also implemented to curb fraudulent practices – otherwise, it will end up in denial of food security as well as facilitate diversion of unavailed entitlements.

Cl.29, 30

The special obligations of the Central Government in Scheduled Areas should include provision of foodgrains in desired quantity (as per nutritional requirements) for all residents, supplemental logistical arrangements (road/rail transportation, depots/issue points and increased inventory) as well as priority in foodgrain allocations, since resort to payment of allowance is not a feasible option because the same will compromise food security.

Cl.32

The State Government should also bear responsibility for extending subsidized credit to fair price shops to cover increased/idle inventories in remote, inaccessible and poorly served Scheduled Areas.
