

14. Visit to Basavanahalli Ashram School, Somvarpeth Taluka

14.1) The Commission was informed that this Ashram School was started in the year 1961 and students are taught by way of joy learning, study material and nutritious food is provided to the students as per the diet chart. The Commission observed that students were taught by way of playing, dancing along with learning through games and quizzes. A Quiz shala was also being run for creating general awareness among the tribal students where the students are shown videos in the LED T.V available in the school. It was also informed that students of class I, II and III are taught through interactive video in Kannada language. The Commission appreciated innovation introduced in the field of education by the district authorities.

- Commission observed that some of the students were weak in English subject as they could not even read the text books with understanding of the subject.
- It was also noted that the teachers were appointed on contract basis and paid Rs. 4400 pm. and they demanded that their salary should be increased as it was below the minimum wages provided to the labours by the Govt.

15. Visit to Primary Health Centre, Mobile unit building, Basavanahalli



Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST in PHC, Basvanahalli

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15.1) The Commission visited, Mobile unit building, Primary Health Centre, Basavanahalli and interacted with the doctor and staff about various issues related to tribal health care. It was informed that ANMs visits the hadis of Jenu Kuruba tribals and PHC mobile unit covers 12 hadi but Tribals do not continue prolonged treatment because of lack of knowledge. The ANMs were following their duty chart for visiting the tribal hadis.

15.2) For effective control over the treatment /facillitates extended, the Commission advised to provide each ANMs a register to record date wise place of visit, number of patients attended by them along with names and quantum of medicines provided etc, and to ensure that same is checked periodically by the doctor.

16) Visit to Morarji Desai Model Residential School, Antharasanthe (Sollepura), HD Kote, District Mysuru



Dr.Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST meeting tribals and public representatives in Morarji Desai Eklavya Model Residential School, Antharasanthe (Sollepura), HD Kote, District Mysuru

16.1) The Commission visited Morarji Desai Eklavya Model Residential School, Antharasanthe (Sollepura), HD Kote, District Mysuru and held a meeting with local tribal representatives about the various issues related to their development. Following is the gist of interaction:

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16.2) **The Public Distribution System:** All the eligible STs have not been given BPL cards.

16.3) It was alleged by the villagers that Forest Department Officials have implicated about 2000 tribals in false cases as a result of which they are suffering a lot.

16.4) District Tribal Welfare officer had made complaint in the police against many tribals in the year 2008 when they were protesting against the department in non-violent way demanding for supply of water in many tribal villages. A case was registered by police against them under Section 243 IPC and since then, they are attending the court many times in a month resulting in mental torture and financial loss. It was urged that the case should be withdrawn immediately.

16.5) There is more focus on construction of roads under Tribal Sub Plan in the District and other developmental activities are neglected. Moreover, works undertaken in the TSP is not visible. The progress of the works being carried out under TSP needs regular monitoring and tribal representatives should also be included in the decision making process of TSP expenditure.

16.6) There is no reservation for PVTGs in the PR institutions which should be considered favourable as they do not get elected under the ST reservation quota because reservation is enjoyed by the dominant tribal groups.

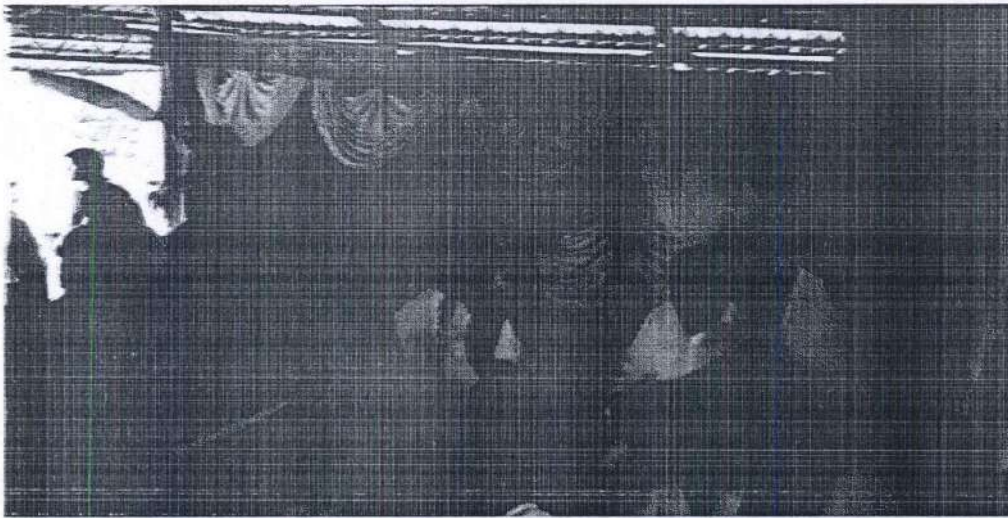
16.7) There is a need to provide marketing facilities and fair prices to the producers like minor forest produces in favour of tribals.

16.8) Many tribals were displaced due to development projects and resettling of their villages for National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries but their forest rights were not recognised before displacement and at the new places of settlement, adequate facilities were not provided to them.

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17. Visit to Basavanagiri, Kollapure, B. Hadi



Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST meeting tribals in Basavanagiri, Kollapure, B. Hadi

17.1) The Commission visited to Basavanagiri, Kollapure, B. Hadi which is a settlement of Kadukuruba ST community and interacted with the tribals. The Commission was informed as under:

17.2) **Forest Rights:** They were shifted from their original villages located in the forests for creation of Bandipur National Park and Habbali Dam. Their rights admissible to them under the FRA were not recognised. They were provided some assistance for construction of houses and roads. They were given 2.5 acres of lands and 2 Oxen for agriculture but subsequently they died. Now they do not have any work to do. The land provided to these families after displacement is not cultivable. The Govt. should provide assistance for improvement, land reclamation, soil conservation and irrigation of the land.

17.3) **Drinking Water:** There is problem of drinking water also in the hadi and no water storage facility is there. All the 150 families are suffering due to water scarcity.

17.4) **Road Connectivity:** There is no metalled road connecting the hadi which needs to be constructed. Proper and regular public transport facilities have also not been provided to them.

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17.5) State Govt. through ST Corporation is implementing scheme "Ganga Kalyan Yojna" for providing Land to landless STs. In the hadis, nobody has been provided assistance under Ganga Kalyan Yojna.

17.6) Community Hall should be made for the tribals of these hadis from the support of tribal development department.

17.7) **Employment:** Traditionally, they have been making articles with the help of bamboos but do not have any revolving fund for production and marketing on credit. They collect minor forest produces but no marketing facility has been made available to them. Skill development training should be imparted to the tribal youth to make them self-dependent.

17.8) **Declaration of revenue village:** For overall development of the village and the hadis, their settlement should be declared as revenue village and separate Gram Panchayat should be created for all the three hadis.

17.9) **Electrification :** There is problem related to non- functioning of solar lamps and street lights and it require frequent repairing and maintenance. This problem should be addressed at the earliest.

17.10) **PDS:** They are facing problem due to introduction of bio-metric system for PDS whereas the said system is not properly working. It should be improved so that they do not have to suffer.

17.11) There is no boundary wall of the Anganwadi centre in the hadi which should be made.

17.12) **Education:** The quality of education needs improvement as the contract teachers are paid very meagre amount as salary.

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18. 20.9.2016 Visit to Billigiri Rangana (BR) Hills Tiger Reserve, Yelander taluk, Chamraj Nagar



Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST meeting Soliga tribals in BR Hills

18.1) Commission was informed that total ST population of the District was about 33,000 out of which there were 8000 Soligas. BR Hills Tiger Reserve, has 10 colonies of Soliga. Commission interacted with the tribals and the officers in the village. **Gist of issues for further action:**

18.2) **Health :** A total of 246 cases of traits of sickle cell anaemia have been reported in the District but screening has not been done so far for this disease. The Commission advised the District Administration to complete the sickle cell screening at the earliest.

18.2) **Forest Rights:** It was informed that 252 families were given forest right pattas in the village and in total, 669 families have been provided forest right pattas in BRT Hills and 25 community rights have been recognised in the District. However, many families of Yelender taluka could not be provided individual forest rights as they were not in possession of forest land. The Commission advised the District Administration to educate the tribals by organising special camps as many of them are not aware about the various provisions of the Act.

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18.4) Tribals demanded for sanctioning of IAYs to the tribals who do not have proper houses and/ or who are residing in huts in the forest villages. The FRA beneficiaries should be supported by providing IAY in deserving cases.

19. Visit to Keredimba Village under Kollagala Taluka, Chamraj Nagar

Following information was given to the Commission by the villagers:

19.1) **Forest Rights:** Most of them have been issued forest rights pattas but still there are about 400 families who have not been provided forest rights pattas. They should also be provided the pattas. So far community rights have been issued in 25 Gram Sabhas and 79 cases are pending for distribution of these rights in the District.

19.2) **Drinking Water :**There is a drinking water problem in the village.

19.3) **Road connectivity:** The villagers reported that there is no public transport facility for which they are facing hardship. Roads are in very bad shape and need immediate repairing.

19.4) The Commission directed the forest department officials present in the meeting to arrange repair the roads at the earliest and district administration to look into the transport needs.

19.5) **Declaration of revenue village:** The villagers demanded that their village should be declared as revenue village so that they could get benefit of various development programs run by the Govt. for the welfare of the tribals as without it, those programs are not allowed to be run by the forest department.

19.6) **Loan for income generating activities :**They have been provided forest right pattas but the banks do not extent loan to the tribals as it is only recognition of rights on the land and it cannot be mortgaged. If the Govt. of Karnataka provides guarantee, then only the banks will agree to provide them loan to fulfil their requirements. Or the State ST Corp. may provide loans for income generating activities. Similarly, Crop insurances is also not provided by the companies to the tribals who occupy forest land and cultivate it. District Administration was advised to look into the above issues.

19.7) **Housing:** The houses in which they live are quite old hence need repairing and reconstruction. Due to increase in family size, a bigger house should be provided to them. There is no scheme to provide land to the landless tribals and the State Govt. should allot them land for agriculture.

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19.8) **Education** : Ashram Schools in the District needs improvement as there is a high drop-out rate after class V among the soliga tribals. The local tribals could not get of their wards admitted in Morarji Desai Model Schools. One Residential Model School should be opened in the BR Hills area and local tribals should be given priority in admission. The teachers of the schools have been appointed through outsourcing agency who are paid only Rs. 5000 pm. as a result of which they do not continue and run away. The local educated tribals should be given preference in the matter.

19.9) Products made from Lantana plant by Soliga tribes do not have facility for marketing of the same. The Govt. should come up with a plan to facilitate marketing of lantana and other produces.

19.10) There is no Asha worker in the village. The Commission suggested the District Administration to appoint educated tribal girls of the village. The officials present in the meeting agreed to appoint as Asha worker and Anganwadi worker.

19.11) **PDS** :Some problem in distribution of ration was also reported by the tribals as it was distributed through sub-contractors. The Commission suggested to form a SHG of the tribals and give them responsibility to manage the distribution of ration.

19.12) **Funds for self-employment and skill development** : Some female members have formed 'Stri Shakti Sangh' and they are working as a Self Help Group but they have not received any revolving fund and they require skill development training. The concerned officer of Women and Child Development Department immediately agreed to provide them assistance.

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20. Meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Chamraj Nagar and other District level officers:



Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST with District Officers in Chamraj Nagar District

20.1) The Commission held meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Chamraj Nagar and other District level officers and discussed the issue which emerged during field visits and implementation of developmental programs in the District. Gist of points /advise is as under:

20.2) **Forest Rights :** The Commission noted that a total of 1915 individual and 25 community rights have been provided to the STs in the Districts. A total of 2512 individual claims were received in the District. The Deputy Commissioner informed that 106 cases are ready for distribution of rights. The Commission advised to complete the process at the earliest. It was noted that 67 cases of community claims were rejected. The Commission advised that such claims should be reviewed by the Deputy Commissioner.

20.3) It was informed to the Commission that Soliga tribals were ousted from the forest and their settlements were relocated in the periphery but community rights were not provided to them. Commission advised that all Soliga families should be given forest rights-both individual and community, as they were residing and depending on the forests for their livelihood. The Communities which are residing outside BRT hills should also be informed of provisions of FRA and claims for rights should be received if they were in possession of land prior to the date notified under FRA. For this purpose, the District Administration

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was advised to hold Gram Sabha and proceed further for recognition of rights, survey and demarcation. Commission be informed of the action taken.

20.4) Deputy Commissioner and the State Govt. to look into the matter of conversion of forest villages to revenue villages to enable the tribals to get benefits and facilities.

20.5) **Road:** Steps may be taken for roads constructed to connect tribal villages and hadis from the nearby towns by using TSP and MNREGA funds.

20.6) **Primary Health Centre** in BRT hills area may be created. Some hadis do not have Asha workers. The District administration to look into this.

20.7) **Provision of land for landless STs:**

It was reported that 20% of STs are landless and there is no policy of the State Govt. to provide land to the landless families, it was advised that the State should consider framing such policy for tribals. It was informed in a meeting that 10 ST families were provided land from the assistance of NSTFDC out of which 3 were from Soliga community but the Commission noted that only 50% assistance is provided in the scheme and remaining 50% is contributed by the individual which was not considered viable for the tribals.

20.8) **PDS :**The Commission noted with concern that there was problem of distribution of ration in PDS due to sub-contracting. The Commission advised for formation of Self Help Groups from the tribals and they may be provided licence to run fair price shops so that business is handed over to the community for running it properly.

20.9) **Electrification :**During the field visits, it was brought to the notice of the Commission that there was a need for repairing of solar units provided to the tribals residing in the BRT hills. It was suggested that local person should be trained for repairing of solar units and annual maintenance contract to the local firm so that necessary maintenance is not delayed.

20.10) **Drinking water :** Some villagers in the BRT hills area had reported of inadequacy of drinking water, it was informed that water was not found even after drilling 250ft. If the depth of the bores is further increased, the solar pumps are not capable to lift the water up to the surface. The Deputy Commissioner assured that open wells shall be constructed in Keradimba and also in other villages where there is a problem of drinking water.

20.11) **Crop Insurance :** During the discussion with the tribal villagers, the Commission had noted that no crop insurance cover was given to the FRA patta holders and in case of failure of crop, they do not have any help from

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insurance companies. The Commission advised Deputy Commissioner to take up with the M/o Agriculture through Govt. of Karnataka.

20.12) MGNREGA : Complaints regarding delay in payments of wages under MGNREGA were made . It was advised to the District Authorities for timely payment to the workers. District Administration mentioned that the delay had occurred due to delay in allocation of the funds from the Central Govt.

20.13) The Commission was informed that a new initiative called SMART (Support Mentoring and Responsive Teaching) has been undertaken in the District which is a yearlong program for the students in which the teacher is trained to be a mentor for the students. Skill developments among the tribals particularly girl students are also being promoted and there is a plan to train them to prepare for manufacturing of sanitary napkins. The Govt. of Karnataka has approved this as pilot project. Another step taken in the District is creation of "DISHA" (Digital Information of Students and Hostel Assets Management System) which is likely to be useful in management of students and the hostels.

20.14) Income generating activities :Commission suggested that women self-help groups should be promoted among tribals and revolving funds should be made available to them for running their income generating activities. They may be imparted training for making artistic material from bamboo and other locally available resources to enhance their income. They can be trained for processing and marketing of minor forest produces.

21. Meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru and other District officials.



Dr.Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST being welcomed by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru

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21.1) The Commission held meeting with the Deputy Commissioner and other District level officers regarding various issues raised by the tribals during field visits. The brief of discussion and points for action are as under:

21.2) During field visits, tribals informed that more than 2000 false cases were instituted against tribals by the forest officials under Wild Life Protection Act and Indian Forest Act. District authorities responded that institution of 2000 cases was not correct. District Commissioner informed the Commission that only few cases were registered and the same would be reviewed at his level. As some other tribals complained that cases were registered against them on the complaint of tribal welfare officer of the District in the year 2008 for obstructing of duties, they are made to appear in the court till date without any fault. After detailed discussion, the Deputy Commissioner assured the Commission to review the cases to avoid hardship to these tribals.

21.3) **Funds for Income Generating Activities:** Tribals submitted that banks are not extending loans for income generating activities. Commission advised the District Administration to see that the banks are mandated to assist STs therefore tribals need to be assisted by the banks and steps' should be taken in providing concessional financial assistance under NSTFDC schemes. District authorities/State ST Corporation and NSTFDC to look into the needs of financial assistance of tribals for undertaking income generating activities and requirement of skill development . **District Admn/State ST Corpn/NSTFDC to take action and apprise the Commission of the same.**

21.4) **ST Community Certificate:** Hiranshikari community belonging to Bagalkot District submitted petition as they are not being provided ST certificate by the Administration and described the facts that their community has been included in the ST list of the State. Presently, they are residing in Mandya District. During the meeting petition was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner with the advice from the Commission advised that Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru to take up the issue with his counterpart in Bagalkot District to sort out the problem as the number of such persons was reported to be around 350. As result of non-availability of ST certificate petitioners were not getting benefit of various developmental schemes like IAY etc.

21.5) **Enhancement of Funds under IAY:**

It was informed that the per unit amount sanctioned under IAY is not sufficient to complete construction of house hence there is need to increase the same.

21.6) **Ashram Schools:** Commission was informed by the tribals that the ST youths are not getting employment in Ashram Schools despite having qualification of B.Ed and D.Ed qualification. Further 50% posts of teachers

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should be reserved for teachers knowing tribal language. It was observed that quality of education in the Ashram School was poor, hence Proper monitoring by Deputy Commissioner is required in this matter.

21.7) **Health:** STs particularly, Soliga and Jenu Kurubas should get focus as they are facing problems of malnutrition, anaemia etc. It was noted that sickle cell screening of tribals was not done in the District. District Authorities were advised to get the same to be completed at the earliest.

21.8) **Forest Rights:** Many tribal villages were shifted due to establishment of Bandipur National Park. They were shifted in the year 1972 out of the forest but till date their forest rights have not been recognised in many places. For example, in Nagarod, community rights have not been given so far. The Commission was informed that due to lack of documents required under rules, they could not be given individual or community rights. The Commission advised the Administration to keep in mind that they are the displaced persons and in their cases, the non-availability of documents should not be a reason for denial of rights. In such cases, statements of elders of the concerned villages could also be taken as evidence under the rules and thus, they could be provided individual and community rights, as admissible to them. The Commission advised the District Administration to ensure that the rejected cases should be reviewed at the earliest. It should be kept in mind that the FRA is having overriding effects on wildlife Conservation and Forest Acts.

21.9) The villagers also pointed that they are not allowed to visit in the forest areas for collection of Minor Forest Produce. Commission advised the District Administration to respect the traditional rights of the tribal community in the matter of collection of MFPs and their social, cultural and religious practices.

21.10) **Employment:** It was informed that 60 STs were employed by the forest departments to work for protection of forest and conservation of wild life, similar action is required from other departments to provide employment to tribals.

21.11) **TSP Funds :** Tribals complained that TSP funds are not been properly utilised in Mysuru District and the work is not visible. No work is taken up under TSP for Kadu Kuruba tribals. It was also reported that Jenu Kurubas do not have houses, lands, drinking water, health facilities and education. The District Administration was advised to look into above and take up the issues for overall development of Tribals.

21.12) **Restoration of Land:** It was reported by Deputy Commissioner that 5 cases of restoration of tribal land are pending in the District. The Commission advised him to get it restored at the earliest.

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21.13) **Representation/Association of PVTGs in Govt. programmes:** There is no representation of PVTGs in the District Level Committees formed for implementation of developmental programs for them. They have also not been given representation in the TSP committee, CCD Plan and the management committee of the Ashram Schools. The Commission found this demand to be genuine and advised the District and State Govt. to consider it favourably.

21.14) There is no political reservation for PVTGs though there is 7.25% reservation for STs. The PVTGs are not getting representation in Panchayati Raj Institutions hence, some seats should be reserved for them in the three tier system of Panchayati Raj.

21.15) **PDS:** The tribals have reported that they are facing problem in receiving ration through PDS fair price shops due to problems related to bio-metric system. This problem should be solved at the earliest and there should be no denial of ration for this reason.

21.16) The District Administration should focus on skill development of tribals and provide them employment wherever available under various schemes like MGNAREGA. They should be provided benefit by way of convergence of different programs.

22. 21.9.2016 (Wednesday)

22.1) Director, Tribal Welfare Department, Govt. of Karnataka and MD, State ST Corporation met the Commission at Bengaluru. Commission advised them to look into the issues and take action as were pointed out by the Commission during meeting with the District Officials. Action taken report on the same may be sent to the Commission within one month by the District Authorities. (**Action Department of Tribal Welfare Govt of Karnataka/ State ST Corpn**).

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Dr.Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST and Shri Ashok Pai, Joint Secretary, NCST with MD, KSTFDC and other officer of Tribal Welfare Department, Govt. of Karnataka

22.2) In addition to the action to be taken by the Department of Tribal Welfare Govt .of Karnataka on the issues listed herein above, Commission noted that intervention of the following is required ;

- a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs in implementation of FRA,
- b) NSTFDC in creating awareness of their programmes and for providing financial assistance for Income Generating Activities and grant for skill development programmes and
- c) TRIFED in assisting in marketing tie ups of the produce /products of tribals for their overall development.

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