
CHAPTER 14

GENDER ISSUES

14.1 The Constitution not only Grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

14.2 Active participation of women in the entire development process is essential for the overall socio-economic development of any country. Therefore, raising the status of women in general and that of socially and economically backward women in particular is not just a moral imperative but also a strategic one.

14.3 A Gender Budgeting Cell has been constituted in the Ministry to oversee the implementation of various Gender Responsive Budgeting initiatives vis-à-vis Ministry's policies, programmes in a way that could tackle gender imbalances, promote gender equality and development and ensure that public resources through the Ministry budget are allocated and managed accordingly. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is concerned about the well-being of the Scheduled Tribes who suffer as a group due to their social and economic backwardness and relative isolation. The major policies of the Ministry are accordingly aim to ensure the overall development

of both Scheduled Tribe men and women. However, within the Scheduled Tribes, women often suffer from a greater disadvantage. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs therefore, while trying to ensure that women benefit equally from general schemes also has some special schemes meant for the benefit of ST women and girls. Achievements under schemes having coverage for women beneficiaries during 2014-15 are at **Annex: 14**.

14.4 The Ministry provides grants to the States/ Union Territories under Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub-Plan, Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India, Central sector schemes and Centrally Sponsored schemes for the development of the Schedule Tribes and for creation of infrastructure in tribal areas. The Ministry also implements the following schemes, which are focused on the upliftment of tribal girls and women in the field of education and employment so that they lead a life of self-confidence and dignity.

14.5 Low female literacy among STs being a particular concern, the gender-specific scheme of "Setting up Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for development of Women's Literacy in Tribal Areas" introduced in 1993-94, was revised in 2008-09 and renamed as "Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts". The revised scheme became effective from 1st April 2008. The revised scheme is being implemented in 54 identified low literacy Districts where the ST population is 25% or more and ST female literacy rate is below 35%, or its fraction, as per 2001 census. Any other tribal block in a district, other than aforesaid 54 identified districts, which has scheduled tribe population of 25% or above, and tribal female

literacy rate below 35% or its fraction, as per 2001 census, is also covered. The areas inhabited by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and naxalite affected areas are given priority. The scheme aims to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women, through facilitating 100% enrolment of tribal girls in the identified Districts or Blocks, more particularly in naxal affected areas and in areas inhabited by PVTGs, and reducing drop-outs at the elementary level by creating the required ambience for education. The scheme is implemented through Voluntary Organizations (VOs)/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and autonomous society/institutions of State Government/Union Territory Administration. The scheme lays emphasis on providing hostel facilities to enable them to attend regular schools and wherever schools are not available within five km distance, both schooling and hostel facilities may be considered. The revised scheme envisages the convergence with the schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya of Ministry of Human Resource Development. It meets the requirement of primary level students as well as middle/secondary level students and provides residential facility to ST girl students to ensure their retention in schools. Besides formal education, the revised scheme also takes care of skill upgradation of ST girls in various vocations.

14.6 The Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy Scheduled Tribe students studying in classes IX & X has been launched w.e.f. 01-07-2012. The Scheme is being implemented through the State Governments and UT Administrations which receive 100% Central Assistance from the Ministry over and above the committed liability of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. Scholarships are paid @ Rs.150/- per month for day scholars and @ Rs.350/- per month for hostellers, for a period of 10 months in a year. Books and ad-hoc grant are paid @ Rs. 750/- per year for day scholars and Rs. 1000/- per year for hostellers. ST students with disabilities who are studying in private unaided recognized schools are eligible for monthly

allowances @ between Rs. 160/- to Rs. 240/- per month depending upon their degrees of disability. The scholarship is provided to eligible boys and girls ST students whose parents'/guardians' have an annual income of Rs.2.00 lakhs from all sources.

14.7 The Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students is being implemented through the State Governments and UT Administrations for studying of all recognized post matriculation/post-secondary courses pursued in recognized institutions. The Post Matric Scholarship for ST students has been revised from 01-07-2010 with changes in (i) annual income ceiling; (ii) revision of grouping of courses; and (iii) rate of maintenance and other allowances. **The parental income ceiling from all sources for Scholarship has been revised and increased from Rs.2.00 lakh to 2.50 lakh with effect from 1.04.2013.**

14.8 The Ministry also funds construction of Hostels for ST students, who would otherwise have been unable to continue their education because of poor economic conditions in remote locations of their villages. State Governments are eligible for 100% Central share for construction of all girls hostels.

14.9 In the current year 2014-15, a new Central Sector Scheme Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) has been introduced with a budgetary provision of Rs. 100 Crore. VKY is a strategic process, aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of the tribal people. VKY envisages to ensure that all the intended benefits of goods and services under various programmes/schemes of Central as well as State Governments actually reach the target groups by convergence of resources through appropriate institutional mechanism. While carrying out the activities under the Scheme, the States will ensure that 50% of budgetary allocation is utilized for women beneficiaries/ farmers. The concerned States/Implementing Agencies will be responsible for monitoring implementation of these components and shall be required to submit such reports in this regard as may be called for by this Ministry.

14.10 Under the programme ‘Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India’ funds are released to State Government for taking up specific projects for creation and up-gradation of critical infrastructure required to bring the tribal areas at par with the rest of the country. The guidelines under the programme specifically envisage that the concerns/issues effecting women should occupy central position in preparation of the projects/schemes, including the involvement of women, right from planning to the implementation stage.

14.11 Under the Special Area Programme, SCA to TSP meant for community based income generating activities for BPL families; the guidelines stipulated that priority should be accorded for income generation activities of women beneficiaries.

14.12 During 2014-15, funds have been allocated to the State Governments in respect of following development initiatives with the condition to expend 50% of the funds for female beneficiaries:

- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)
- Skill Development Programmes
- Construction of Coed / Ashram Schools.
- Health mapping of tribal people and sanitation measures including toilets

14.13 The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation is an apex organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs for economic development of Scheduled Tribes. The Corporation is having an exclusive scheme for economic development of Scheduled Tribes women titled “Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana” (AMSY). Under the scheme, the Corporation provides financial assistance upto 90% of the schemes having unit cost upto Rs. 1 lakh. This financial assistance is extended at highly concessional interest @ 4% p.a.

14.14 Under AMSY, during the year, NSTFDC has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 2.78 crore for economic development of 687 women beneficiaries.

14.15 The Corporation also extends its financial assistance for women beneficiaries under other income generating schemes.

14.16 The Scheme of ‘Exchange of Visits by Tribals’ has now been clubbed under the activities of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) under the revised scheme. Grants are extended to TRIs on 100% basis to organize exchange of visits by tribals under the scheme “Grants in aid to Tribal Research Institutes”, to enable Scheduled Tribe below the poverty line to visit other parts of the country for a period of 10-12 days. According to the extant provisions, each team/group, consisting of say 10 tribals, will include minimum 5 women. This enables them to broaden their perspective and also create awareness about the developments taking place in the country.

14.17 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs introduced a scheme, ‘National Tribal Awards’ from 2007-08 with the objective of recognizing achievements of Scheduled Tribes in different fields. Under ‘individual’ category of these awards, one of the awardees has to be a woman.

14.18 In some of its schemes the Ministry of Tribal Affairs takes special care to ensure 50% participation of girls or women. In the Eklavya Model Residential schools for instance, 50% of the seats are meant for ST girls. Under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme for M. Phil and Ph.D., instructions have been issued to the UGC, which implements the scheme, to make efforts to award 50% of the fellowships to women. Every year two tribals from each state/UT are invited to witness Republic Day parade in Delhi, it is ensured that each state/UT sends one woman and one man.

14.19 Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, the Gram Sabha is defined {Section 2(g)} as “village assembly which shall consist of all adult members of a village and in case of States having no Panchayats, padas, tolas and other traditional village institutions and elected village committees, with full and unrestricted participation of women”. Further Section 4 (4) provides that “right conferred by sub section (1)

shall be heritable but not alienable or transferable and shall be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses in case of married persons and in the name of single head in the case of a household headed by a single person and in the absence of a direct heir, the heritable right shall pass on to the next-of kin". Also as per Section 6 (8) "The Sub divisional level committee .the district level committee and the State level monitoring committee shall consist of officers of the departments of revenue, forest and tribal affairs of the State Governments and three members of the Panchayati Raj institutions at the appropriate level, appointed by the respective Panchayati Raj institution of whom two shall be the Scheduled Tribe members and at least one shall be a woman, as may be prescribed". Further, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Rules, 2012 provide {Under Section 3(1)} that the Gram Sabhas shall be convened by the Gram Panchayat and in its first

meeting it shall elect from amongst its members, a committee of not less than ten but not exceeding fifteen persons as members of the Forest Rights Committee, wherein at least two-third members shall be the Scheduled Tribes provided that not less than one-third of such members shall be women. This also provides further that where there are no Scheduled Tribes, at least one-third of such members shall be women.

14.20 In addition, issues that are specific to womenfolk such as health, education and livelihood are also taken up by the Ministry with line Ministries in its various meetings of Coordination Committee constituted for monitoring, planning and progress of the schemes/programmes being implemented for overall development of the Scheduled Tribes and also in continuous dialogue with field functionaries to ensure that women are not left out in the process of empowering STs section of the population.

ANNEX: 14

Achievements Under Schemes Having Coverage For Women Beneficiaries During 2014-15 (as on 31-12-2014)

Rs. in crore

| Sl. No | Name of the Scheme/ Programmes | Details of Sub-Schemes | Budgets Estimates 2014-15 | Identifiable, Measurable and Monitorable Outputs/ Outcomes | Target Achieved up to 31-12-2014 |
|--------|---|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Support to National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSTFDC) | NSTFDC-Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) | 28.50 | i) Number of beneficiaries assisted; ii) Sector-wise physical assets created: a) Agricultural and Allied; b) Industrial; c) Services. | NSTFDC sanctioned Rs. 2.78 crore for economic development of 687 women beneficiaries as on 31.12.2014. In addition, women beneficiaries have been covered under other Income Generating schemes including the Micro Credit Scheme. |
| 2 | Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill Development & Vocational Training Programmes Construction of Coed / Ashram Schools/Hostel Health mapping of tribal people and sanitation measures including toilets | 1200.00 | (i) Number of ST beneficiaries assisted (ii) Component-wise physical assets/ opportunities created. (a) Agriculture/ Horticulture- in hectares. (b) Watershed development/Soil & Moisture Conservation- in hectares. (c) Animal Husbandry- in numbers; (d) Ecology & Environment including development forests in hectares of quantum of MFP procured; (e) Development of forests villages; (f) Development of entrepreneurship- number of persons assisted. (g) Percentage of women covered in all the components. The targets and outcomes would depend on the type of projects taken by the States and outcome can be determined only after sanction / implementation of all the projects. | The project are approved and sanctioned to implementing agencies with the condition to expend 50% of the funds for female beneficiaries. Project proposals are examined and prioritised from gender lens while examining it. As on 31.12.2014, Rs. 760.74 Crore have been released/ sanctioned under SCA to TSP. |

| Sl. No | Name of the Scheme/ Programmes | Details of Sub-Schemes | Budgets Estimates 2014-15 | Identifiable, Measurable and Monitorable Outputs/ Outcomes | Target Achieved up to 31-12-2014 |
|--------|---|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| 3 | Programme of Grant Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill Development Programmes • Construction of Coed / Ashram Schools/Hostel • Health mapping of tribal people and sanitation measures including toilets • Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) | 1317.00 | Since funding is to bridge the gaps in infrastructure and to improve the level of administration in tribal areas, this would lead to overall improvement of lives in tribal areas. Project-wise quantification is not possible. The guidelines provide that the concern/ issues effecting women should occupy central position in preparation of the projects/ schemes including the involvement in women right from planning to the implementation stage. The projects should be so planned that substantial benefits are targeted for women. | The project are approved and sanctioned to implementing agencies with the condition to expend 50% of the funds for female beneficiaries. Project proposals are examined and prioritised from gender lens while examining it. As on 31.12.2014Rs.924.65 Crore have been released under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India. |
| 4 | Schemes of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS), Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit of ST Students | Schemes of PMS, Book Bank for ST Students | 646.90 | No. of students who have completed (a) Group I; (b) Group II; (c) Group III; (d) Group IV; | Grants to the tune of Rs. 587.84 crore have been released to the various State Governments/UT Administrations for 2106403 beneficiaries which includes Rs. 184.33 crore for 514420 Scheduled Tribe girls beneficiaries in all group of studies. |
| 5 | Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy ST Students studying in Classes IX&X. | Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy ST Students studying in Classes IX&X. | 258.82 | No. of Students who have completed Classes IX&X. | Grants to the tune of Rs. 193.06 Crore have been released to the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tripura for 1118608 Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries, which includes Rs. 3.11 crore for 536911 Scheduled Tribe girl beneficiaries. |
| 6 | | Grant-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes | 7.00 | The sub scheme of exchange of visits by tribal provides for inclusion of atleast 5 women in each group of 10 persons. TRIs of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura have been released funds up tp 31.12.2014 for exchange of visits by tribals. | Targets are not fixed as States are to submit proposals. |

| Sl. No | Name of the Scheme/ Programmes | Details of Sub-Schemes | Budgets Estimates 2014-15 | Identifiable, Measurable and Monitorable Outputs/ Outcomes | Target Achieved up to 31-12-2014 |
|--------|--|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| 7 | Scheme of Hostels for ST Girls and Boys | Scheme of Hostels for ST Girls and Boys | 65.66 | (i) Capacity of hostels constructed; (ii) Occupancy rate | Grants to the tune of Rs. 47.86 crore have been released to the various State Governments/ UT Administrations for construction of 6 Hostels which includes Rs. 13.81 crore for 500 Scheduled Tribe Girls Hostels. Apart from the above, an amount of Rs. 5.75 crores has also been released to Mizoram for construction of 3 ST Girls Hostels to benefit 150 ST girls students under the scheme of Article 275 (1) of the Constitution. |
| 8 | Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe (ST) Girls in Low Literacy Districts | Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe (ST) Girls in Low Literacy Districts | 40.00 | Number of Educational Complexes funded and scheduled tribe girls benefited | Scheme is meant exclusively for ST girls. During 2014-15 (till 31.12.2014), 74 Educational Complexes funded covering 21355 number of scheduled tribe girls and Rs.30.55 crore was released. |
| 9. | Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe (ST) Girls in Low Literacy Districts | Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe (ST) Girls in Low Literacy Districts | 40.00 | Number of Educational Complexes funded and scheduled tribe girls benefited | Scheme is meant exclusively for ST girls. During 2014-15 (till 31.12.2014), 74 Educational Complexes funded covering 21355 number scheduled tribe girls and Rs. 30.55 crores was released. |