

CHAPTER 3

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014-15

3.1 In terms of the provisions contained in the Guideline for Formulation, Implementation and Monitoring of TSP Funds and Article 275(1), the mechanism of Project Appraisal Committee has been introduced in 2014. The Committee is headed by Secretary (Tribal Affairs) with representatives of State Governments, Financial Advisor, Planning Commission, etc. which appraises and approves the proposals for allocation under various schemes of the

Ministry. This has helped in ensuring consultation with the States, convergence of various schemes of the Ministry, transparency in the process of appraisal and fund releases and ensuring optimal utilization of limited financial resources.

As many as 18 meetings of Project Appraisal Committee were held in the Financial Year 2014-15 as detailed below:



Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs at a meeting with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Date of PAC meeting	Name of States
11.08.2014	(i) Madhya Pradesh (ii) Odisha
12/08/2014	(i) Gujarat (ii) Rajasthan
13/08/2014	(i) West Bengal (ii) Tripura
14/08/2014	Chhattisgarh
19/08/2014	(i) Uttar Pradesh (ii) Mizoram (iii) Himachal Pradesh
20/08/2014	Sikkim
26/08/2014	Andhra Pradesh
27/08/2014	(i) Assam (ii) Nagaland
01/09/2014	(i) Kerala (ii) Tamil Nadu
03/09/2014	Karnataka
04/09/2014	Maharashtra
05/09/2014	(i) Manipur (ii) Bihar
11/09/2014	Jharkhand
16/09/2014	(i) Uttar Pradesh (ii) Madhya Pradesh
15/10/2014	(i) Mizoram (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Assam
16/10/2014	Telangana
17/12/2014	(i) Rajasthan (ii) Nagaland
22/12/2014	(i) Assam (ii) Jammu & Kashmir (iii) Meghalaya

3.2 During the Project Appraisal Committee meetings, besides other things, State Governments were sensitized for promotion of need based integrated livelihood initiatives. In order to create enabling environment for tribals to earn their livelihood at doorsteps with backward and forward linkages. These included dairy development with State cooperative, horticulture, floriculture, vegetable production, apiculture, sericulture, fisheries, backyard poultries etc. without in any way disturbing the traditional agricultural practices. The State Governments were impressed upon the need for cultivation of traditional crops and promotion of traditional food like minor millets, green leafy

vegetables and effective implementation of ongoing folic acid supplement efforts in respect of tribe population. Further, attention were drawn to harp on the need of job oriented skill development of tribals while ensuring due share to female population by including women centric trades. Promotion of co-education and curb on drop outs of students were also among the thrust areas. Strengthening of health institutions, measures to improve overall health of tribals including immunization were rigorously advocated by the Ministry. Diseases like Sickle Cell Anemia, Malaria, leprosy etc. have been given attention to. Sanitation measures especially facilities of toilets with running water and electricity in residential schools was emphasized upon. Need to encourage people to develop kitchen garden was emphasized to address issue of malnutrition.

3.2.1 Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Micro Projects etc. were created in 1970s and 1980s as additional institutions for delivery of public goods and services to Scheduled Tribes. Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) which were to be knowledge institutions and helpful in building capacities of tribal people and officials concerned amongst other things. These institutions got weakened over a period of time. As matter of policy, Ministry has decided to encourage the States to strengthen these institutions with adequate skilled manpower and infrastructure to improve service delivery and to create new ITDAs where census data suggests tribal concentration. States have also been encouraged to create new Micro Project Agencies for addressing development of specific tribal groups in both ITDA and Non-ITDA areas as well as administrative structure in urban areas to facilitate tribals in these areas for protecting their rights and accessing various benefits to which they are entitled for. Arrangements have been made for providing upto 20% of grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution as and when asked for by the States for the purpose. A statement showing allocation of funds made to the States for strengthening of institutions is tabulated below:

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	Name of State	Amount released for strengthening of ITDPs/ITDAs/ TRIs
1	Assam	147.60
2	Andhra Pradesh	100.00
3	Chhattisgarh	1259.24
4	Gujarat	773.97
5	Jharkhand	2200.00
6	Karnataka	1600.00
7	Kerala	2500.00
8	Maharashtra	2798.11
9	Madhya Pradesh	3000.00
10	Manipur	900.00
11	Odisha	3000.00
12	Rajasthan	1226.34
13	Telangana	500.00
14	Uttar Pradesh	300.00
15	West Bengal	45.00
	Total	20350.26

3.3 Utilization of Tribal Sub-Plan funds lying with Central Ministries / Departments as well as with the line Ministries / Departments in the States, in a unified manner, has remained challenge for the Government over the years. Lack of proper institutional mechanism for ensuring convergence of these financial resources resulted in expenditure of funds in a scattered manner thereby deluding the desired results. In order to ensure effective utilization of available financial resources under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), the Government has decided

to implement a Central Sector Scheme 'Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY)' based on the Gujarat Model. Through VKY, it is envisaged to effect convergence of financial resources under TSP effectively. Besides, with a view to optimize the results and to peg judicious balance between priorities set by the Ministry vis-à-vis requirements of tribal people on ground, the Ministry stresses on convergence of resources by using funds under various schemes / programmes of the Ministry as a unified kit.



Minister for Tribal Affairs addressing Ministers in charge of Tribal Affairs of various States/UTs on 28.10.2014 at New Delhi

3.4 In sync with the need for consultation with the stakeholders particularly the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations, Central Government Ministries / Departments, the Ministry had been regularly interacting on various facets facilitating tribal development. During the current year, the Ministry organized several consultations /

meetings to have in-depth discussions on the issues confronting speedy development of tribal people and to deliberate upon the possible ways and means to utilize the Tribal Sub-Plan Funds effectively to translate the financial resources into tangible outcomes. Brief outline of the said consultations is tabulated below:

Date of Consultation	Participation of representatives of State Governments / Central Ministries	UN Organisations and other Agencies	Issues of discussion
May, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States having Schedule V areas Jammu & Kashmir 	DFID	(i) Strengthening of Institutions ITDAs / ITDPs / Micro Projects (ii) Education
June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rajasthan Karnataka Maharashtra Gujarat Madhya Pradesh Daman & Diu 	DFID	(i) (ii) Strengthening of TRIs (iii) Educational Development (iv) NGO & Livelihood
August, 2014	Members of Parliament	-	Various Tribal Issues.
September, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karnataka Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh Telangana Kerala A&N islands Lakshadweep 	UNDP Local NGOs	(i) Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (ii) Strengthening of Institutions in Tribal Areas (iii) Education (iv) Skill Development & Livelihood
October, 2014	State Ministers	-	Various Tribal Issues.
October, 2014	States having Schedule V areas	UNDP	Implementation of Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana
November, 2014	-	Tribal Research Institutes, Universities, institutions recognized as Centres of Excellence by the Ministry.	Research matters
October, 2014 November, 2014 February, 2015	All States & UTs	UNDP	Preparation of Tribal HDR on the following sectors: (i) Health (ii) Education (iii) Land Rights & Land Alienation (iv) Sustainable Livelihood (v) Access to justice (vi) Connectivity & energization
January, 2015	-	ICMR	Health issues at Delhi.

3.5 One more Brainstorming session was held in New Delhi on 13.12.2014 wherein former Secretaries (Tribal Affairs), Principal Secretaries of various States Governments, experts, and representatives of established voluntary organization representatives

besides Officers of Government participated. This was structured in way to deliberate upon five major themes of immense relevance to the tribal development scenario viz education, health, livelihood, cultural heritage & legal perspectives.



Minister of Tribal Affairs during a meeting with Hon'ble Members of Parliament on 05.08.2014 at New Delhi.

3.6 Discussions, deliberations made during various consultations enabled the Ministry to understand the issues & challenges affecting development of tribals alongwith the recommendations / views to address the same. This has also helped in better understanding

of priorities of development and welfare by the State/UT Government representatives, resulting in improved quality of plans / projects as well as their implementation.

3.6.1 Issues & Fallouts

Sectors	Issues	Fallouts
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remoteness ➤ Poor livelihood means ➤ Inadequate quality schools ➤ Language and cultural barriers ➤ Non-availability of teachers ➤ Unwillingness of teachers due to remoteness ➤ Lack of vocational training ➤ Vacations do not match tribal festivals. 	<p>Low enrolment</p> <p>High Drop out</p> <p>Gap persists between STs and other Groups</p>

Sectors	Issues	Fallouts
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inadequate infrastructure ➤ Lower immunization ➤ Malnutrition ➤ Loss of traditional food ➤ Inadequate coverage of pregnant mothers ➤ Unwillingness of doctors / medical staff in remote areas and difficult terrain ➤ Lack of ANM/ doctors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High IMR, MMR among tribals • Non-availability of safe drinking water • High incidence of Malaria • Major diseases such as malaria, sickle cell anemia, GED, URTI • Fluorosis, Skeletal Fluorosis
Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of skills, training opportunities ➤ Inadequate connectivity ➤ Lack of backward and forward linkages- agriculture activities ➤ Forest degradation ➤ Lack of irrigation ➤ Lack of Market Linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment • Low income from traditional occupations • Lack of Food Diversity

Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of awareness and preservation of tribal culture ➤ Lack of interface with academic fraternity ➤ Lack of infrastructure or mechanism ➤ Lack of market linkage to promote tribal craft ➤ Tribal museums not on the tourist maps of the states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of traditional sports, crafts, medicines, medicinal practices • Sense of alienation • Losing sense of ownership over tribal culture • Loss of heritage, cuisine, traditional foods
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3.6.2 SUGGESTED OUTCOME BASED INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS ISSUES

Sector	Suggested initiatives / Measures	Outcomes
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adequate provision of Science, Maths & Language teachers. ➤ Placement in Vocational education. ➤ Portal for scholarships for higher education. ➤ Training to promote sport talent. ➤ Providing quality library. ➤ Education in tribal culture, crafts, cuisine. ➤ Revision of holidays. ➤ Primers in tribal language and local script. ➤ Residential school facilities. ➤ Transit hostels/ Residential facilities for teaching staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% enrolment at primary school level for four years. • 100% pass rate where enrolment is high • First Division / Distinctions where enrolment is high • Reduction in girls drop out

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Separate norms for Tribal areas in National Health Mission. ➤ Untied funds. ➤ Local students to be trained for paramedics. ➤ Special focus for the tribal areas in the NMCP, immunisation programme. ➤ Interaction between Tribal Development and ICMR. ➤ Traditional foods. ➤ Monitoring IFA scheme in schools. ➤ Functional toilets separately for boys and girls in schools. ➤ Construction of AWC, ANM centers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% immunisation of left out pregnant mothers. • Improve the percentage of immunisation of children by 50%. • Change in food practices in hostels, schools and Anganwadi Centres. • 100% IFA tablets in schools on Mondays. • 100% survey of SCT – MoHFW has to make available the technology
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- Financing under line department schemes like milk cooperatives.
- Marketable traditional skills like paintings.
- Entrepreneurship.
- Technical and higher education.
- Modern skills: solar cell assembly and electrician, mobile phone repair.
- Eco tourism in Tribal areas.
- Handlooms, handicrafts, artisans, skilled employment.
- Skills for women: Computer training hospitality, paramedics, ayurvedic and tribal medicines & medical practices.
- Providing integrated Irrigation facilities.
- Market linkages for MFP

3.6.5 Suggested initiatives for Strengthening of market linkages for tribal products

3.6.3 Approach to fight malnutrition in Tribal Communities:

- ✓ Advocacy for traditional millets and green vegetables
- ✓ Minor Millets in school ICDS menu
- ✓ Drinking water supplementary schemes supported (like open wells in case of fluoride contamination in hand pumps)
- ✓ Dairy Development, Fish cultivation and Poultry farming
- ✓ Kitchen gardens in residential schools
- ✓ Under cash crop schemes (like wadi) backyard green leafy vegetables to be encouraged

3.6.4 Suggested Employment Initiatives

- Diversified crops, horticulture, dairy, poultry, fishery: also to provide nutrition.

- A web- based portal ‘MFPNET’, for price updates of MFP across important mandis launched
- MFPNET linked with 400 Kisan Call Centres for updated prices of agricultural commodities in addition to MFP prices
- E commerce Portal by TRIFED to sell tribal products, tie up with ‘flipcart.com’, ‘snapdeal.com’ etc.
- Branding of
 - Product traditional or contemporary tribal art and craft
 - Made by Tribes of India
 - Remunerative price paid to artisans

3.6.6 Suggested initiatives for Culture, Craft and Sports

- Documentation of language in Devnagari script because of phonetic inaccuracy of Roman scripts.

- Written documentation of songs (with notation), dance (with steps), cultural practices
- Transformation of the medium for marketing e.g Dokra Metal ware for auspicious items like tortoise.
- Convert functional items- baskets to bags.
- Marketing support to Central / State PSUs- crafts; Skill upgradation.
- National Tribal festival in February.
- Tribal food festival in January.
- Tribal Food counter at TRI, Odisha.
- Documentation of tribal sports.
- Tribal Research Institutes to map tribal sports.
- In elite EMRS one sport suitable to the local population.
- Tribals who take the modern sports naturally to be included in most scholarship program.

3.6.7 Issues in North East

- Absence of elected Gram Panchayat like bodies in Nagaland, hilly areas of Manipur, Sixth Schedule areas of Assam and Meghalaya
- Tradition of a hereditary village chiefs who also owns the land and implements socio-economic programs
- Government of Assam constituted tribes specific Autonomous District Councils, which has increased ethnic conflict



Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs visiting a high school run by SFRD , an NGO at Jamnamarathur, Thiruvananthapuram districts, Tamilnadu

- Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh are the places where elected Panchayats / village Councils exist and are also the most peaceful States

3.6.8 Good Practices from States

- Ragi served in the menu of Karnataka schools.
- ITDAs of Andhra Pradesh.
- Primers for schools in Odisha which have now been extended to other States.
- Flourosis control in Madhya Pradesh (Mandala and Sioni Districts).
- Malaria control in Madhya Pradesh (Baiga Chhak).
- Traditional Forest Food in Dongria Community of Odisha.
- Tribal Research Institute, Odisha.
- Sickle Cell Anaemia Card from Gujarat.
- Tribal medicinal practice of Kerala.
- Wadi Scheme of Maharashtra.
- Tussar and Lac in Jharkhand.
- Eco-tourism in Kerala, Sikkim and Maharashtra.
- Planning and fund flow process in Gujarat.

3.7 One of the functions of the Ministry is the scheduling/de-scheduling of the communities. The Constitution enjoins on the State a special responsibility for the protection and development of Scheduled Tribes. The Scheduled Tribes are notified under Article 342 of the Constitution. Over the years, there have been a large number of proposals for scheduling of communities as Scheduled Tribes. The proposals have been processed according to the approved modalities. However, a final conclusion could not be reached on many of the proposals on account of complex issues like spelling differences, phonetic variations, migration, ethnography and the problem of trying to apply archaic norms in scheduling of tribes. Therefore, a Task Force was

constituted in February, 2014, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Tribal Affairs, to address the issues regarding scheduling of communities, and make a report on its findings. After consideration of the inputs provided by the States, the Task Force submitted its Report which contains recommendations for revision of criteria for scheduling of communities as Scheduled Tribes, and streamlining of procedure. The recommendations of the Task Force have been examined in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and also by Committee of Secretaries. The issue is under consideration of the Government.

3.8 A High Level Committee (HLC) was entrusted to prepare a report on the socio-economic, health and educational status of the tribal communities of India. The HLC was also to suggest policy initiatives as well as effective outcome-oriented measures to improve development indicators and strengthen public service delivery to STs and other tribal populations. The Committee has since submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government.

3.9 A Scheme “Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP” was introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the year 2013-14, to provide much needed safety net and support to people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers whose very livelihood depends on



Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs interacting with dairy farmers in Ambabari village of Dudhani Panchayat, Silvassa District, Dadra & Nagar Haveli

collection and selling of MFP. To start with, the scheme is being implemented in eight States having Fifth Schedule areas.

3.10 As part of implementation of the Scheme of “Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP” introduced, Minimum Support Price for 10 MFPs namely Tamarind, Honey, Gum karaya, Karanj seed, Sal seed, Mahua seed, Sal leaves, Chironjee pods, Myrobalan, Lac (Ranginee and Kusumsi) has been announced.

3.11 In order to plan holistically for education of tribal children, optimize the use of Ministry’s limited resources, convergence with Ministry of Human Resource Development, Education Departments of the State and to align and reorient the existing schemes of this Ministry with Right to Education, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, etc., an Umbrella Scheme will be introduced. The following existing schemes for education of Tribal population are proposed to be subsumed under this Umbrella Scheme:

- i. Ashram Schools
- ii. Hostels for the Scheduled Tribe Boys and Girls
- iii. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
- iv. Pre Matric Scholarship
- v. Post Matric Scholarship

3.12 The Ministry is undertaking continuous / regular activities to ensure cleanliness under the “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” since 02nd October 2014. The other offices of the Ministry have also launched similar campaigns for an intensive cleanliness and awareness. The momentum gathered is being carried forward in letter and spirit of the campaign.

3.13 A Coordination Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Tribal Affairs) with representatives of Ministries/Departments of Health and Family Welfare, School Education & Literacy, Drinking Water Supply, Power, Labour & Employment, Rural Development and Women &

Child Development, besides Planning Commission as members, to ensure adequate investment in various schemes/programmes being implemented by them, particularly relating to basic amenities for overall development of Scheduled Tribes. The Committee met on 30/04/2014, 25/06/2014, 28/08/2014 and 07/11/2014 during the year on the subjects relating to education, health, agriculture and other development issues.

3.14 A meeting on effective use of Space Technology based tools in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (TA) on 18.11.2014 with representatives of Department of Space.

3.15 In a sequel to the consultation process, a meeting with representatives of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), Centres of Excellence (COEs) and Tribal Chairs of five Central Universities was convened on 11th November, 2014 in New Delhi to review the research activities supported by the Ministry and ensure broader co-operation among them.

3.16 The Ministry conducted another meeting on 10.11.2014 in the New Delhi to discuss the implementation of the scheme “Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of Value Chain for MFP” and challenges therein with the States concerned.

3.17 A consultation with the Ministry of SC/ST/OBC/Minority Affairs, the Government of NCT of Delhi was done to frame out establishment of an institution, which would provide one stop solution to various issues faced by the ST students and migrant living in Delhi.

3.18 The Schemes of (i) Grant-in-Aid to STDCCs for MFP Operations and (ii) Market Development of Tribal Products/Produce have been reviewed. Accordingly, a redesigned Scheme of “Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Produce” has been introduced from the financial year 2014-15. The objective of the Scheme is to create institutions for the Scheduled Tribes to support marketing and development of activities they depend on for their livelihood. These

are sought to be achieved by specific measures like (i) market intervention (ii) training and skill up-gradation of tribal Artisans, Craftsmen, MFP gatherers etc. (iii) R&D/IPR activity and (iv) Supply chain infrastructure development.

3.19 Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) continued to market tribal products through the network of its retail outlets “TRIBES INDIA” in the country and during the year sold products worth Rs.**1065.44 lakhs** (as on **31.12.2014**).

3.20 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted its Revised Memorandum to the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) in April, 2014. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recommended Areas Specific Grants to all States having tribal population, on the following grounds: -

- (i) Strengthening of all institutions- institutions that are repositories of knowledge and can function as capacity building institutions as well as those that are responsible for delivery of goods and services to tribals; (ii) Grants for meeting recurring costs and expenditure on maintenance of infrastructure created for education; (iii) Grants for development of PVTGs; (iv) Consideration of ST population as a criteria for distribution of resources between States; (v) Imposing a condition to ensure non-divert ability of TSP funds.
- (ii) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has suggested to increase the budgetary outlay for grants under Article 275 (1) to this Ministry. From the enhanced grants under Article 275 (1), the Ministry would consider grants to States for (i) Strengthening of institutions–ITDAs and TRIs; (ii) Creation of new ITDAs; (iii) Creation of micro project agencies in rural areas; (iv) Creation of micro projects in urban areas; (iv) Capital and recurring grants for EMRS; (v) Performance grants on parameters to be developed by the Ministry.



Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs interacting with the primary school at upper Saikat village, Lawngthlai District, Mizoram

3.21 A decision has been taken to continue the scheme “Grants-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes” as a component of the scheme “Research Information Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and others” with revised financial norms and identified interventions. Identifying challenges in the field of Socio-economic development of tribal and understanding, promoting and preserving their culture have become important while formulating various developmental programmes for the tribal and there is need for knowledge advocacy, which in return would help formulate evidence based policy and planning. The basic objective of the scheme is to strengthen the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in the areas of Research & Documentations (preservation of tribal culture), Training and capacity building (on laws/constitutional provision) and capacity building of functionaries and tribal representatives (on socio-economic programs). Financial assistance in the form of Grant in aid is extended to the Tribal Research Institute (TRIs) set up by various State Governments/UTs.

3.22 Under the scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), as a mid-term review, during the Project Appraisal Committee meetings held with the States in 2014, the Conservation cum Development (CCD) plans were reviewed and activities thereunder redesigned wherever required, so as to make them more relevant and responsive to the needs of the PVTGs.

3.23 The schemes of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” and “Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes” are under revision, for continuation during the 12th Plan Period. Existing schemes of “Strengthening Education of tribal girls in low literacy districts”, “Coaching for Scheduled Tribes”, and “Vocational Training for Scheduled Tribes” have been subsumed into a single-window scheme of “Grants-in-aid to VOs working for the welfare of STs”.

3.24 Under the NGO schemes, process of release of grants to EVAs have been simplified. EVAs have been identified as such due to their proven capability, credibility and past performance in the area of welfare of STs and should not have to suffer delay in funding due to the delay in receipt of recommendations from the State Government. Hence it was decided that for release of grants to EVAs, the recommendations of State Governments would not be required.

3.25 A Coordination Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Tribal Affairs) with representatives of Ministries/ Departments of Health and Family Welfare, School Education & Literacy, Drinking Water Supply, Power, Labour & Employment, Rural Development and Women & Child Development, besides Planning Commission as members, to ensure adequate investment in various schemes/ programmes being implemented by them, particularly relating to basic amenities for overall development of Scheduled Tribes. The Committee met on 30/04/2014, 25/06/2014, 28/08/2014 and 07/11/2014 during the year on the subjects relating to education, health, agriculture and other development issues.

3.26 Recommendations to 14th Finance Commission

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted its Revised Memorandum to the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) in April, 2014. The Ministry

of Tribal Affairs has recommended Areas Specific Grants to all States having tribal population, on the following grounds:

- (i) Strengthening of all institutions- institutions that are repositories of knowledge and can function as capacity building institutions as well as those that are responsible for delivery of goods and services to tribals; (ii) Grants for meeting recurring costs and expenditure on maintenance of infrastructure created for education; (iii) Grants for development of PVTGs; (iv) Consideration of ST population as a criteria for distribution of resources between States; (v) Imposing a condition to ensure non-divert ability of TSP funds.

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3.27 A meeting on effective use of Space Technology based tools in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (TA) on 18.11.2014 with representatives of Department of Space.

3.28 Under the scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), as a mid-term review, during the Project Appraisal Committee meetings held with the States in 2014, the CCD plans were reviewed and activities there under redesigned wherever required, so as to make them more relevant and responsive to the needs of the PVTGs.

3.29 The schemes of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups(PVTGs)” and “Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes” are under revision, for continuation during the 12th Plan Period. Existing schemes of “Strengthening Education of tribal girls in low literacy districts”, “Coaching for Scheduled Tribes”, and “Vocational Training for Scheduled Tribes” have been subsumed the into a single-window scheme of “Grants-in-aid to VOs working for the welfare of STs”.

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3.31 For strengthening research and promotion of tribal languages and literature, the Department of Odia, Viswa Bharati, Shanti Niketan have been recognized as Centre of Excellence by the Ministry.