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## CHAPTER 2

# ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS – AN OVERVIEW

**2.1** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for the development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). The programmes and schemes of the Ministry are intended to support and supplement, through financial assistance, the State Governments and voluntary organizations, and to fill critical gaps taking into account the needs of ST. Though the primary responsibility for promotion of interests of Scheduled Tribes rests with all the Central Ministries, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs complements their efforts by way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes. These schemes which are for the economic, educational and social development are administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and implemented through the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and voluntary organizations.

**2.2** An overview in respect of various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry is given below while the details are given in the subsequent Chapters.

**2.3** As educational development is a stepping-stone to economic and social development, and is also the most effective instrument for empowering the tribals, efforts were made during the year by implementing the schemes with the objective of enhancing access to education through provision of infrastructure by way of construction of hostels for ST students, Establishment of Ashram Schools, Vocational Training Centre as well as to maximise retention of ST students within the various stages of school education and promoting higher learning by providing monetary incentives in the form of scholarships such as Pre Matric Scholarship, Post

Matric Scholarship (PMS), Scholarship for Top Class Education, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship and National Overseas Scholarship for ST students.

**2.4** The scheme of ‘Hostels for ST Boys and Girls’, aims at augmenting the availability of educational facilities to ST students, thereby reducing drop-out rates at the middle/higher level education. **States were sanctioned 6 new Hostels and an expenditure of Rs.46.86 crore was incurred under the Scheme, till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014.** The scheme of Ashram Schools is yet another scheme to extend educational facilities and to provide an environment conducive to the education of ST boys and girls through dedicated residential schools. An amount of Rs.35.69 crore was **released as arrear grant for completion of construction of Ashram Schools in various States till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 for the year 2014-15.**

**2.5** The aim of the scheme of Vocational Training is imparting vocational training to ST youth to increase their employability. The scheme has been revised with effect from 1.4.2009 and a maximum assistance of Rs.30,000/- per annum per ST trainee as per norms will be provided to the State Governments/ UT Administrations, Institutions or Organizations. **Under the scheme, till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014, an amount of Rs. 4.86 crore (States component) has been spent.** The provisions of the revised scheme are equally applicable to State run Vocational Training Centres as well as those run by NGOs.

**2.6** The scheme of ‘Pre Matric Scholarship for needy Scheduled Tribes children studying in classes IX and X’ was introduced with effect from 1.7.2012. It has the twin objectives of supporting parents of

Scheduled Tribes students for education of their wards studying in classes IX and X so that the incidence of drop out, specially in transition from the elementary to secondary and during secondary stage of education is minimized, and to improve participation of ST students in classes IX and X of Pre-Matric stage, so that they perform well and have a better chance of progressing to Post-Matric stages of education. **Under the scheme, till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014, an amount of Rs. 193.06 crore has been spent for 1118608 ST students.**

**2.7** The scheme of Post Matric Scholarship has been revised w.e.f. 1.7.2010 with modifications in rate of scholarship, income ceiling and grouping of the subjects and continues as an important centrally sponsored scheme to promote higher education among STs. **Under the scheme, till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014, an amount of Rs. 587.84 crore has been spent to cover 2106403 ST students during 2014-15.**

**2.9** Under the scheme of “**Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**”, during 2014-15 (up to 31.12.2014) the Ministry released Rs.134.45 crore to 10 States/ UT with PVTG population, for implementation of prioritized activities for PVTGs as per approved “Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plans”.

**2.10** Under the scheme of “**Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes**”, during 2014-15 (up to 31.12.2014) the Ministry has funded about 326 projects covering residential schools, non-residential schools, hostels, libraries, mobile dispensaries, ten or more bedded hospitals, computer training centres, rural night school, agricultural training, etc. by extending a grant of Rs. 34.14 crore benefiting about 6,13,895 scheduled tribes.

**2.11** The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) continued to function as a catalytic agent for promoting economic developmental activities of STs. This Corporation provides financial assistance at concessional rates of interest. During the year 2014-15, the Corporation

has fixed a target of Rs 190 crore for sanction under Income Generating Activities. Against this, NSTFDC has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs 202.09 crore for 31,978 beneficiaries as on 31.12.2014. This include sanction of Rs 2.78 crore under Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) for 687 women beneficiaries, Rs 53.45 crore under Micro Credit Scheme for 12,253 beneficiaries and Rs 0.38 crore for 16 ST students under Adivasi Shiksha Rin Yojana.

The Corporation has also released **Rs 44.99 crore** for implementation of various sanctioned schemes, as on **31.12.2014**.

**2.12** Broadly, the mandate of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is :

- Welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes.
- Protection of legal rights.
- Protection and promotion of tribal culture and heritage.

**2.13** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is dedicated for achieving inclusive growth of tribal population in the country. The role of the Ministry is to participate and advocate for formulation of appropriate policies, planning and coordination of programmes meant for development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). A multi-pronged strategy has been adopted for overall development of tribal people across the country which includes support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood, preservation of cultural heritage, etc. The major part of infrastructural development activities is carried out through various schemes/programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments, while the Ministry provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps. As on date the Ministry administers various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes besides two special Area Programmes under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to contribute the overall efforts for development of tribal people in the country. A list of Schemes / Programmes of the Ministry is given below:

S. No.	Name of the Scheme / Programme
1	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP)
2	Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India
3	Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Corporative Corporations (STDCCs) etc. for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations
4	Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP
5	Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisation working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes
6	Coaching for Scheduled Tribes
7	Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts
8	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas (NGO component)
9	Girls/Boys Hostels for STs
10	Establishment of Ashram Schools for STs in TSP Area
11	Post Matric Scholarship for ST students
12	Upgradation of Merit
13	Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy ST students studying in Classes IX & X
14	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
15	Top Class Education for STs
16	National Overseas Scholarship for ST students
17	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship
18	Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs)
19	Research information & Mass Education, Tribal Festival and Others

**2.14** Issues and activities prioritized by the Ministry to give attention to is as under:

- (i) Protection of rights
- (ii) Livelihood and Housing
- (iii) Skill Development and Employment
- (iv) Education
- (iv) Economic Development
- (v) Health
- (vi) Drinking Water and Sanitation
- (vii) Promotion of Culture, Craft, Cuisine, Crop.
- (viii) Electricity
- (ix) Connectivity including Telephone Connectivity
- (x) Irrigation Facilities
- (xi) Market Development
- (xii) Strengthening of Institutions