

The Role of Central Government in Empowering Scheduled Tribes of India through Tribal Sub-Plan (2014-2020)

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1. Abstract:

One of India's most remarkable characteristics is its unity amid variety. The world's second-largest tribal population originates in India. According to data from the 2011 Census, 8.9% of India's population is classified as tribal. The indigenous people of the nation have distinctive lives and customs along with rich traditions, cultures, and heritage. The government of India has an unwavering commitment towards the development of Tribal communities. While anticipating the tremendous challenges in developing them, and at the same time conserving their cultural heritage, for a population so diverse and unique in their ways with more than 705 different tribal communities spread across the country, the ministry has envisaged and implemented several initiatives. Funds are allotted by the central government for certain ST development initiatives. These programmes may concentrate on things like infrastructural improvements in tribal regions, skill development programmes, educational scholarships, and assistance for tribal enterprises. Affirmative action is granted to STs by the Indian Constitution under Articles 38, 46, and 275 (1). This ensures that they will have special rights and privileges in legislatures, the workplace, and education. The socio-economic development of STs is the primary focus of policy ideas and implementations by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. India would undoubtedly change if the Tribal Community, who are at the bottom of the hierarchy, were empowered.

2. Keywords: Empowerment, Tribal Sub-Plan, Central Government, Tribals,

3. Introduction:

Overview According to the 2011 Census, Scheduled Tribes make up 8.6% of India's overall population and occupy 15% of the country's land area, mostly in forested, mountainous, and border areas with varying ecological and climatic conditions. Schedules V and VI of the Indian Constitution grant the Scheduled Tribes particular protection. Article 342 of the Indian Constitution notifies of over 705 Scheduled Tribe groupings. 75 tribal groups across 18 States and the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been identified and classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) due to factors such as their low literacy rate, economic backwardness, declining or stagnating population, and pre-agricultural level of technology. Since independence, the government has been focused on the growth of the indigenous population formation of Scheduled Tribes through Community Development Programmes was the first of several actions taken for the welfare and development of tribal groups. The Tribal Sub Plan and the Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Block were then adopted. Established in 1999, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) seeks to give the

Scheduled Tribes a more integrated, well-coordinated, and planned approach to socioeconomic development. MoTA is the authorised ministry for coordination of general policy, planning, and programming about the development of Schedule Tribes. The Ministry's programmes and projects are intended to supplement and uplift the efforts of State Governments, Voluntary Organisations, and other Central Ministries/Departments by providing financial support. In addition, they address Scheduled Tribes' demands while completing critical gaps.

4. Objectives of the study

- To know the concept of Empowerment.
- To have a brief understanding of the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Concept.
- To analyse the budget allocation for the development of scheduled tribes during the last five years (2014-20).

5. Methodology of the Study

This study is based on the secondary data collected from different journals, magazines various books, and websites.

6. Concept and Meaning of Empowerment

Empowerment is a social action process that encourages individuals, groups, and communities to take control over their lives and societies. It involves balancing power and ideology, controlling physical, human, intellectual, financial, and financial resources. Empowerment allows individuals to act independently and participate in public activities without fear of favouritism. It involves equal access to knowledge, knowledge of one's group, and the creation of an information system. Empowerment empowers disempowered individuals to take charge of their lives and alter their situation. It is a method through which the 86 powerless can alter the balance of power, their way of life, and the inequalities they currently face. It is interesting to note this, the word empowerment was originally first used in the 17th century and can be used to "authorise," "delegate," or "enable." As a result, it is challenging to comprehend the idea of empowerment. In addition, it denotes a dynamic, gradual change in power. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Nelson Mandela oversaw many instances of political empowerment in numerous nations all over the world. Empowerment, in the eyes of the members of the low-power group, refers to activities taken to broaden their base of authority. Empowerment is defined differently depending on the sociocultural, economic, and political context. A comprehensive meaning is always included in an international analysis of local terminology related to empowerment. Some of these concepts include Independence, self-determination, self-control, self-power, self-reliance, personal choice, and the ability to stand up for one's rights.

7. The Concept of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

Balanced growth and economic development is the ultimate aim of every country and the strategic plans (Fifth five-year plans as in the case of India) are designed accordingly. After 25 years of independence, and the successful completion of four five-year and

three annual plans, it was realized by policy makers that the Scheduled Tribes are still way behind the mainstream development process. In addition, it was discovered that their socioeconomic situation was not significantly enhanced by the general plan plans and programmes intended for the overall development of the economy. Similarly, the benefit of such general welfare schemes did not percolate down towards the development of the ST population of the country in any significant manner. To eradicate these issues, the **“Tribal Sub-Plan was initiated during the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974–1979).**

The basic objective of the Tribal Sub-Plan is to channelise the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the Central Ministries/Departments for the development of Scheduled Castes and Schedules Tribes, both materially and financially, at least in proportion to their population. According to the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Plan, several Central Ministries and Departments have not allocated enough money to TSP concerning the population's share of STs.

The broad objectives of the Tribal Sub-Plans (TSP) are as follows:

- Substantial reduction in poverty and unemployment.
- The establishment of productive assets for Scheduled Tribes to maintain the growth that development initiatives are expected to bring about.
- Human resource development of the Scheduled Tribes by providing Provision of physical and financial security against all types of exploitation and oppression.
- adequate educational and health services, and

8. The Central Government allocated funds during the last 5 years for the development of Scheduled Tribes under the TSP

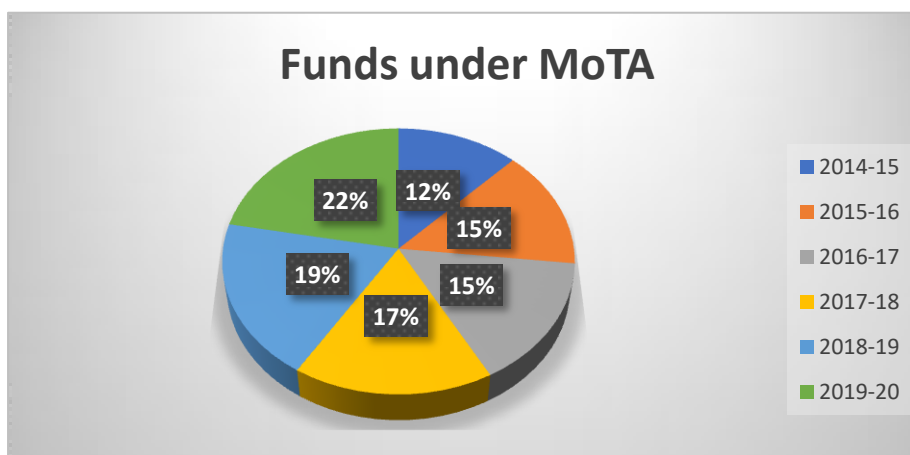
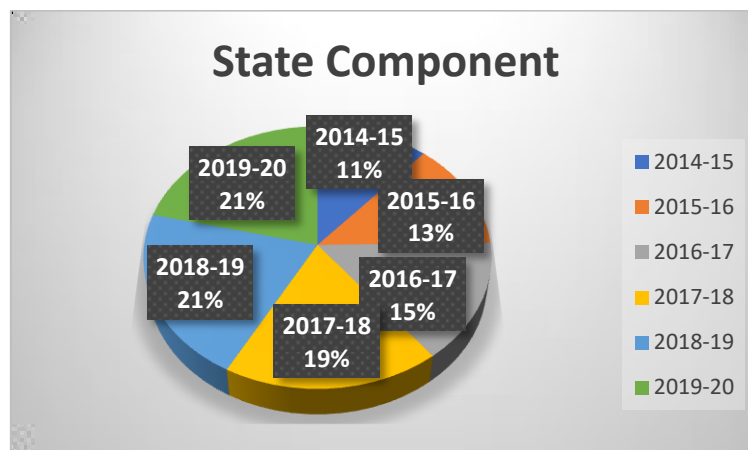
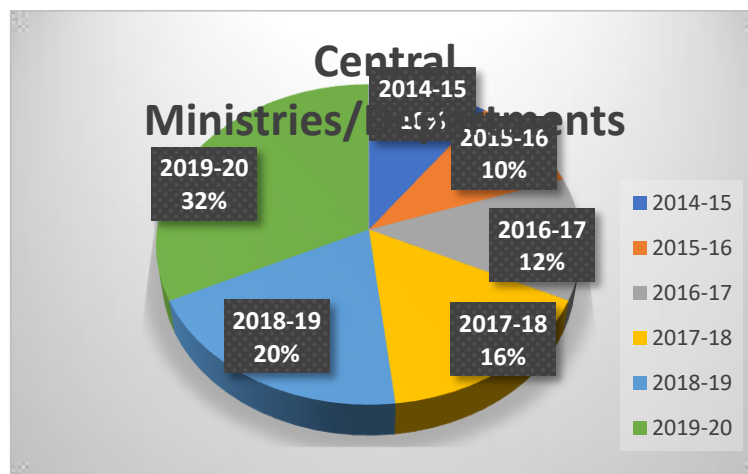
Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), now known as Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) came into existence in **1974-75** as a strategy for the development of areas with tribal concentration to channel the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors at both Central and State levels, for the

TSP Component	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Central Ministries / Departments	16,111	15,628	19,873	25,999	31,803	51,635
State Component*	86,075	1,00,558	1,11,295	1,39,710	1,57,531	1,60,000
Funds under MoTA	3,850	4,550	4,799	5,293	6,000	6,900
Total	1,06,036	1,20,736	1,35,967	1,71,002	1,95,334	2,18,535

development of Schedule Tribes at least in proportion to their population. The table below shows funds allocated for Tribal Welfare under State and Central TSP funds during the last 5 years.

❖ State figures are BE allocation figures. Actual RE and Expenditure figures need updation.

Source: (Minister of Tribale Affaires)



9. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various schemes for the development of Scheduled Tribes

1. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)/Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY): Under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) 100% grants were provided to the State Governments for activities related to education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood, skill development, Ashram Schools, Boys and Girls Hostels, minor infrastructure, etc. to bridge the gap between Scheduled Tribe (ST) population and others as a critical gap filling measure. The Scheme has been revamped as Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY).

2. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution: Under the Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Grants are released to 26 States, having ST population for raising the level of administration in Scheduled Areas and for the wellbeing of tribal people. This is a Special Area Programme and 100% grants are provided to States. Funds are released to the State Governments dependent on the felt needs of the ST population to bridge the gap in infrastructure activities in the fields of education, health, skill development, livelihood, drinking water, sanitation, etc.

3. Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): The scheme of Development of PVTGs covers 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes in 18 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for activities like education, housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security or any other innovative activity inevitable for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs.

4. Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes: Under the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry funds projects in the fields of education and health, covering residential schools, non-residential schools, hostels, mobile dispensaries, ten or more bedded hospitals, livelihood, etc.

5. Pre-Matric Scholarships to ST students: The scheme applies to students studying in Classes IX –X. The combined annual income of parents should not exceed Rs. 2.50 lakhs. For ten months out of the year, a scholarship worth Rs. 225 per month for day scholars and Rs. 525 per month for hostellers is awarded. The scholarship is disbursed through the State Government/UT Administration. The funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States except North East and Hills States/UT like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Central share.

6. Post-Matric Scholarship to ST students: The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education. Paternal income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. Compulsory fees charged by educational institutions are reimbursed subject to the limit fixed by the concerned State Fee fixation committee and the scholarship amount of Rs.230 to Rs.1200 per month, dependent

upon the course of study is paid. The Scheme is implemented through the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States except NE and Hilly States/UT of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Central share.

7. National Overseas Scholarships for ST Candidates: The Scheme provides financial assistance to selected students to pursue post-graduation, PhD & Post-Doctoral study abroad. Each year, twenty awards are given out. Of these, 17 awards are for STs and 3 awards for students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Parental/family income from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum.

8. National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students:

- **National Scholarship– (Top class) Scheme [Graduate level]:** The objective of the scheme is to encourage meritorious ST students to pursue studies in prescribed courses in any of the 246 institutions of excellence across the country like IITs, AIIMS, IIMs, NIITs, etc. identified by the Ministry. Family income from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum. The scholarship includes tuition fees, living expenses and allowances for books and computers.

- **National Fellowship for ST students:** 750 fellowships are provided to ST students each year for pursuing higher studies in India for MPhil and PhD. Fellowship is granted according to UGC norms.

9. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) were introduced in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education exclusively to ST children to provide quality middle and high-level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors. In the Union Budget of 2018-19, the Government announced that every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 ST persons will be eligible to have an Eklavya Model Residential School. There are plans to develop 740 EMRSs in total. Eklavya schools would offer sports and skill development instruction on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas, along with unique facilities for conserving regional art and culture.

10. Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a Scheme ‘Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and Development of Value Chain for MFP (MSP for MFP)’ through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), since 2011 to provide safety net to ST MFP gatherers. Ministry is implementing another scheme ‘Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products’ with a 100 % grant to TRIFED and State Forest Development Corporations (SDCs) for the development and marketing of tribal products. PMJVM has been conceptualized with the merger of the above two Schemes i.e. “MSP for MFP’ and ‘Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products’. PMJVM seeks to achieve livelihood-driven tribal development through quality input, technology, credit better marketing access etc. in the next five years.

11. Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs): The Ministry extends support to the State Governments through the Scheme to set up new TRIs where it didn't exist and to strengthen the functioning of existing TRIs to carry out its core responsibility towards Research & Documentation, Training and capacity building, promotion of rich tribal heritage etc. To preserve tribal art and culture, financial assistance is provided to TRI to carry out various activities to preserve and promote tribal culture and heritage across the country through research and documentation, maintenance and preservation of art & artefacts, setting up of tribal museums, exchange visits for the tribals to other parts of the State, organizing tribal festivals etc. Funding under this Scheme is 100% grant-in-aid by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the TRIs on a need base with the approval of the APEX Committee. TRIs prepare proposals and detailed action plans for the year along with budgetary requirements and submit them to the Ministry through the State Tribal Welfare Department. Within the set of TRIs, there are cultural museums, libraries, training centres, research wings etc.

12. Tribal Festivals, Research Information and Mass Education: Through the scheme, the promotion of rich tribal cultural heritage, dissemination of information and creation of awareness are given attention which includes organization of Tribal Craft & Food Festivals, Sports, Music, Dance & Photo Competitions, Science, Art & Craft Expos, Workshops, Seminars, Production of documentary films by the Ministry & States, Bringing out Publications thereby highlighting significant studies, documenting historical facets of tribal communities, achievements of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) & State Departments besides other advertisements etc. at regular intervals. Intending to fill the gap in research studies on tribal issues, MoTA recognizes renowned NGOs, Research Institutes, and Universities where expertise exists and which have already made a mark by carrying out revolutionary research in the field of tribal cultures as Centre of Excellences (CoEs). It is envisaged that CoEs should play an important role in building a knowledge bank to complement the dedicated Activities of the Ministry.

10. Conclusion

The central government acts as a key enabler, providing financial resources, formulating policies, and overseeing their implementation to bridge the gap between tribal communities and the rest of the country. This empowers STs through various initiatives and ensures their inclusion in India's growth story. However, successful development requires effective collaboration with state governments and active participation from tribal communities themselves.

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