

## **NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES**

**Subject: Agenda Notes for the meeting of the Commission scheduled to be held on 26-03-2008 at 12.00 noon.**

### **Agenda Item I: Second Annual Report of the Commission for 2006-07**

Article 338A of the Constitution of India, inter-alia, provides that it shall be the duty of the Commission to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of the safeguards available to the members of Scheduled Tribes and to make in such reports recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes presented its first Report upon the working of the safeguards during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 to the Hon'ble President of India on 8 August, 2006. The Chairperson of the first Commission resigned from his office on 13 February, 2007 and the Members also demitted office in the month of March, 2007 on completion of their tenure.

2. The second Report of the Commission for the year 2006-07 became due after 1 April, 2007 and drafting of the report on the working of the safeguards was initiated accordingly on the basis of the guidelines given by the first Commission from time to time, and material collected from various sources including the State Governments. Since the report broadly covers the working of the safeguards by the Central and the State Governments during the period 2006-07 (and not about the work done by the Commission during the period), the report is to be submitted to the President of India by the present Commission. The draft of the second report of the Commission for the year 2006-07 is now ready and is placed before the present Commission for its consideration and approval.

3. The draft second report mainly has 8 Chapters covering **(i) Organizational set-up & Functioning of the Commission, (ii) Service Safeguards, (iii) Specification of Communities as Scheduled Tribes and Subsequent Revision of the lists of Scheduled Tribes, (iv) Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), (v) Educational Development of Scheduled Tribes, (vi) Health & Nutrition, (vii) Land Alienation, and (viii) Case Studies.** Summary of Recommendations made in each Chapter of the Report has been given in last Chapter (9) at the end of the Report. Specific information was called from the State Governments in respect of matters covered in Chapters mentioned in (iv) to (vii) above. However, information has been furnished by 11 States only in respect of the matters relating to Educational Development, Health & Nutrition and Land Alienation. Accordingly, Chapter 5, 6 and 7 of the draft report covers the information received from those 11 States only. Remaining States are being followed up for furnishing the requisite Information and the same, after due processing and analysis will be included in the next report of the Commission.

### **Agenda Item II Outline of the third Report of the Commission for the year 2007-08**

4. Third Report of the Commission for the year 2007-08 which will become due after 1 April, 2008. Besides reporting on the working of the safeguards in service

matters and advice rendered by the Commission in policy matters, it is proposed to give focused attention to complete the study of the following areas related to socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes:

- (a) Educational development of Scheduled Tribes in relation to States/UTs which are not covered in the second report of the Commission due to non-availability of record information from them.
- (b) Land alienation laws/regulations enacted by the State Governments which are not covered in the second report of the Commission due to non-availability of required information from them.
- (c) Measures taken by the State Governments for improving the health conditions and nutrition level of Scheduled Tribes in relation to States which are not covered in the second report due to non-availability of required information from them.
- (d) Action taken by the State Governments to curb the menace of availing benefits on the basis of false caste certificates as also action taken by them in respect of cases in which it was prove through investigation that false community certificates were obtained to get benefits available to Scheduled Tribes.

5. It is therefore, proposed to include, in the Third Report of the Commission, Chapters on four issues mentioned in (a) to (d) above based upon holistic assessment of the prevailing situation. Besides, one chapter will be devoted to Working of the Safeguards for Scheduled Tribes with particular reference to the policy matters received from the Union and the State Governments in terms of Article 338A (9) of the Constitution. It will also take into the consideration broadly the cases and the matters dealt at length in the Commission that have impact on the conditions and development of Scheduled Tribes in the country.

**Agenda Item III Thrust areas /Action plan for the fourth report of the Commission for the year 2008-09.**

6. For finalization of the thrust areas /Action plan for the fourth report of the Commission for the year 2008-09, a suggestive list of areas is placed before the Commission for deciding the priority areas which may be taken up, one each by the three Officers at the level of Director/ Dy. Secretary in the Hq. Office of the Commission during the year 2008-09.