



Speed Post

Government of India
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
(A Constitutional Commission set up under Art. 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No. 11/2/2016/Karnataka/RU-IV

Dated: 08.11.2016

1. The Chief Secretary,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.
2. The Principal Secretary,
Social Welfare Department,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.
3. The Director,
Tribal Welfare Department,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Sub: Tour Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to the State of Karnataka from 16.09.2016 to 21.09.2016 – follow up action.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited above and to say that Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes along with Officers visited the State of Karnataka to assess the Development programmes/schemes run by the State Government and Central Government for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, in the state, a copy of the Tour Report is enclosed. It is requested to take necessary action and action taken in the matter may please be communicated to the Commission.

Yours faithfully

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08/11/16
JIKI
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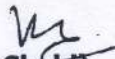
(V.P. Shahi)
Assistant Director

o/c
Copy for information and necessary action to:

1. The Deputy Commissioner,
Distt-Uttara Karnataka,
Karwar,
(Karnataka)
2. The Deputy Commissioner,
Distt – Udupi
(Karnataka).
3. The Deputy Commissioner,
Distt- Dakshin Kannada,
Mangalore
(Karnataka)
4. The Deputy Commissioner,
Distt- Kodagu (Medikeri)
(Karnataka)

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5. The Deputy Commissioner,
Distt- Mysuru,
Karnataka
6. The Deputy Commissioner,
Distt- Chamrajnagar,
(Karnataka)
7. The Secretary,
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi
8. The Executive Director,
National Scheduled Tribes Finance &
Development Corporation (NSTFDC),
NBCC Tower 5th Floor,
15 Bhikaji Cama Place
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9. The Managing Director,
Tribal Co-Operative Marketing
Development Federation of India
Limited (TRIFED),
Khel Gaon Marg,
Siri Institutional Area,
Block A,
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Hauz Khas,
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Assistant Director

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(File No. 11/2/2016/Karnataka/RU-IV)

Subject: Visit report of the Commission to the State of Karnataka from
16/9/2016 to 21/9/2016

Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes visited State of Karnataka State from 16th September, 2016 to 21st September, 2016 as per tour programme communicated to Government of Karnataka, vide wireless message no. 11/2/2016/Karnataka/RU-IV, dated 08.09.2016. He was accompanied by Shri Ashok Pai, Joint Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Shri T.D. Kukreja, PS to Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and Shri R.K. Dubey, Assistant Director in the Commission.

16.09.2016 (Friday)

On arrival at Goa Airport, Commission straight away proceeded for Karwar, District Uttara Kannada.

Visit to Ramannagudi Village to interact with Siddi Community people

Commission visited Ramannagudi village under Sunksala Gram Panchayat, Uttara Kannada district in the evening and discussed in detail, status of implementation of various development programmes for tribals with the representatives of Siddi Community. The Commission was informed as under:

3.1) Implementation of Forest Rights Act : Under the Forest Rights Act, (FRA) in total 111 Siddi families of Gram Panchayat have been given pattas by the administration and some were not given or their cases were rejected. District authorities informed that 1661 forest right pattas have been issued to the tribals in the district, 243 pattas have been issued to OTFDs, 321 Community rights have also been recognised. It was reported that many claims were rejected on the ground of lack of evidence. Commission clarified that the statements of elders of the community is also an evidence for recognition of claims. Hence, in such cases they should follow the above method of evidence. The Commission further advised the District authorities that since Siddi Community is forest dwelling Community, hence all the eligible families who were not yet given pattas, should also be given individual and also community rights as per provisions under the FRA . The Commission advised the district administration

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to convene special drive to obtain claims from the left out families of the Community. For claims rejected earlier by the village level committee/Sub Divisional Committees, the same should be reviewed by the District Level Committee headed by Deputy Commissioner.

3.2) Forest Rights issue of displaced families : The representatives of Siddi Community informed that many families were displaced for the project of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited but before their displacement, forest rights were not recognised by the Government. At the place of their resettlement also, these rights were not recognised. The Commission advised the DLC to review these cases and reasons of rejection of their forest right claims may be intimated to the Commission. District administration need to build collateral evidence if need be so that bonafide claimants' rights are vested with their legitimate rights.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs may take note of above issues concerning Forest Rights Act and review the progress periodically.

3.3. Health :

(I) Commission discussed the issue of their health condition with the concerned officers. It was informed that no specific disease has been noticed in the Siddi Community. The Joint Secretary of the Commission asked whether, Sickle Cell Anaemia screening has been conducted for the persons of this Community or not. It was informed that so far, this has not been done. The Commission emphasized the need for Sickle Cell Screening of the whole Community as per the directives of Government of India as they are of African Origin which may have unique health issues.

II) The representatives of Siddi Community informed that there is shortage of doctors in the medical institutions in the area. The District Authorities confirmed that the qualified MBBS doctors do not prefer to work in the remote areas even on contract basis. The Commission advised that the State Government should make such policy so as to attract the doctors to work in the tribal areas by providing them special incentives for the purpose.

III) About availability of ANMs / Asha Workers, it was reported that they are also not willing to serve in the area. The Commission advised that the qualified girls of Siddi Community may be trained and appointed as ANMs / Asha workers to meet the shortage as they will be ready to work in their own village and for their Community.

IV) The Commission was informed that many cases of Malnutrition have been reported in the Community. Hypertension is also reported in the Community. In

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the year 2009, some cases of chikungunya and dengue were also reported. Alcoholism is prevailing in them. The District Authorities informed that special attention is being given to address the issues of Malnutrition in Siddi Community by providing them nutritious food supplements and the situation is improving.

V) 108 ambulance services do not cover their villages as they are remotely located in the forest and road is un-metalled. Their villages should also be covered by this service.

VI) **There was no electricity in the Primary Health Centre** of Ramannagudi. There was transformer but due to lack of maintenance, it was not operational. The Commission directed the concerned authorities to take immediate action for providing 24x7 electric supply in the Centre.

3.4) **MGNAREGA:** As the persons of Siddi Community mainly work as agricultural labourer, they demanded for providing employment under MG NAREGA particularly, during the lean period. It was noticed that the works undertaken in this scheme were not commensurate to the demand. The Commission advised to provide them employment under this scheme as per the demand particularly during the lean period when there is no work in the fields related to agriculture.

3.5) **FOOD/GAS CONNECTION /KEROSENE OIL:**

i)The representatives of the Community confirmed that they have been issued BPL Ration Card by District Administration. They are being provided 3 kg. rice per person in the family and additional package for providing nutritious food is also being run for the Siddi's. It includes 15 kg. rice, 5 kg. tur dal, 5 kg. mung dal, oil 2 litres, 2 kg. Pea dal, 2 kg. Sugar, 2 kg Gur, 45 eggs and 1 kg. Nandini Ghee every month.

ii)The Commission was informed that Gas Cylinders have been provided to the Siddi families but it is not sufficient to cater their all energy requirements. Gas Cylinders were provided to them by the administration to save the environment as earlier they used to cut trees for firewood requirements. Kerosene oil was required for lighting in the houses because electricity has not been provided by the Government in their villages, the Commission found their demand to be genuine and advised the District Authorities to provide kerosene oil to them.

3.6) **Education:** The members of the Siddi Community informed that primary schools are located in or around their villages but at many places, the students and villagers find it difficult to go to the schools and nearby places as there is no bridge constructed on the rivulets which overflow during the monsoon. The high schools are located about 8-10 kms. away from their villages and the administration has provided bicycles to them. However, as most of the roads

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3

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from their habitations are un-metalled and without bridges, the movement in the area becomes difficult as there is no public transport. They demanded for construction of metalled roads, bridges for connecting their villages along with public transport to the schools, adjoining villages and taluka headquarters.

3.7) **Housing: Commission** was informed that they were provided assistance, under the Ashray Housing Scheme 15 years ago which requires repairing and re-construction. At that time, they were provided Rs. 20,000/- for construction of house with the help of which only very small houses and huts could be constructed. As their family size has increased and new adult members have been added, the present house is too small to fulfil their requirements. They demanded that pukka houses should be provided to the adult families of the Community. Earlier they were provided three Gunta land for construction of house and about 3 acre FRA pattas were given to some families, it is not sufficient due to increase in family size. The Deputy Commissioner, Uttara Kannada informed that presently, ST Development Department of the State provides Rs. 25,000/- for repairing the houses of Scheduled Tribes and in Valmiki Yojana, the landless Scheduled Tribes are provided Rs. 50,000/- for construction of house. However, the Siddi Community representatives demanded that they should be provided constructed pukka house instead of money as it will not be sufficient to construct the house in that much amount. It was mentioned that it is not possible to give benefit of IAY to a person twice, it was suggested that adult son of the family be treated as a separate unit for the purpose of IAY.

3.8) **Drinking water:** Shortage of drinking water in some of the villages of the Siddi Community was reported. Tap water is being provided in their houses for half an hour once in a day which is not sufficient as per the requirement. For this, they have to pay Rs. 60 per month as charges. They demanded to augment the water supply from present half an hour to 1 hour to cater their needs.

3.9) **Employment:** There are 150 PUC-II, 12 ITI, 22 Diploma Holders and 121-degree holder among Siddi Community in Uttara Kannada District. However, their representation in Government Services is negligible. Educated unemployed youth of this community should be given preference in employment to encourage literacy and professional education.

3.10) **Transport:** Many villagers are facing problem in coming to taluka Headquarters Ankola due to lack of transport facilities, which is 50 kms. away from their villages. State transport busses do not ply as there are no bridges on the roads. TSP funds should be utilised for construction of bridges in the area. At some places, hanging bridges are required to be constructed on rivulets to facilitate a movement of villagers.

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3.11) **Irrigation facilities:** There is a need for providing irrigation facilities for agriculture. As most of the Siddi families are having 1 to 2 acres of land, the Director Tribal Welfare Department agreed to provide community borewells for irrigation purpose to those who apply for the same.

3.12) **Community Centre:** Some villagers demanded for construction of Community Hall in Adardi Village where they require some space for teaching the girls and other Community activities.

4. Meeting with Tribal Delegates

Several tribal delegates met the Commission and narrated their problems /difficulties concerning tribals of the State. The main issues raised by them are as under:

4.1) **Fake Caste Certificates:** Many persons belonging to Gonda Community are fraudulently obtaining ST Community Certificate despite the fact that they belong to Vokkaliga Community which is listed in the OBC list of the State and not as ST. These people misuse Gonda surname for this purpose. All the benefits meant for Scheduled Tribes are usurped by these fake ST Certificate holders. The Tourism Department provides vehicles to the Scheduled Tribes for promotion of tourism and to provide them self-employment but these fake certificate holders have taken all the benefits under the scheme and Siddi's and other Scheduled Tribes could not get any benefit under various schemes.

Civil Rights Enforcement Directorate, which conducts investigation into cases of false caste certificate is not functioning properly as a result of which action against such fake certificate holders is not taken timely.

4.2) **Obstructions from Forest Department:** Forest rights pattas were provided to the tribals in the year 2009 but the forest department officials are not allowing construction of house and agricultural work in the allotted land.

4.3) Siddi Community is mainly engaged in collection and processing of "Supari" (areca nut) which is a very laborious work. They are not paid properly and many of them are given two times meal and cloths once in a year for their work.

4.4) 34 fisherman Communities are trying to get the status of Scheduled Tribes for the Karnataka State. They do not deserve to be included in ST list. Hence, they should not be included as ST in the state.

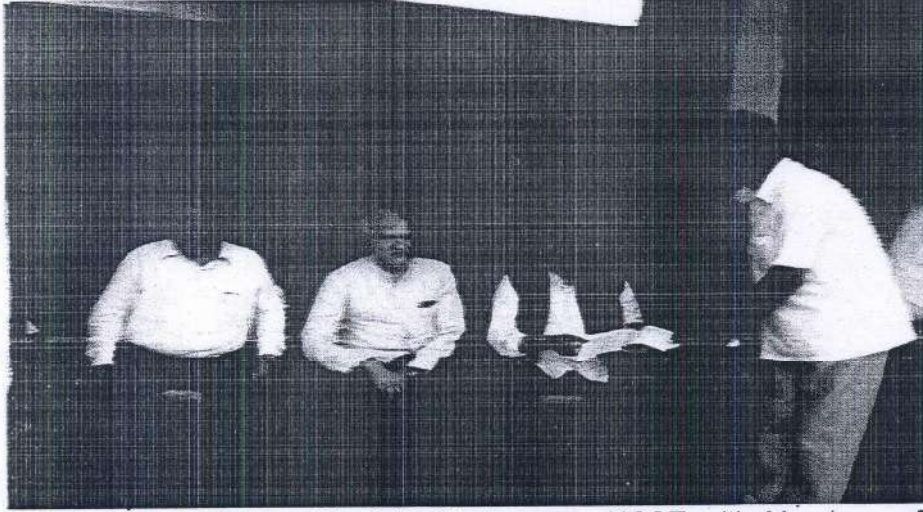
4.5) Halakki Vokkal Community, which has not been included in the ST list of the state deserves ST status as they are actually tribals but left out in inclusion

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as ST. This Community has not been provided any benefit as OTFD under FRA and also in other development schemes.

4.6) Due to biometric system, many tribals are facing problem in procuring their ration from the fair price shops. Instead of this, token system should be started to address this problem.



Dr.Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST with Members of HalakkiVokkal Community receiving memorandum for inclusion in ST list of Karnataka

5) 17.09.2016 (Saturday) -Meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Uttara Kannada District at Karwar

The Commission held a meeting with Deputy Commissioner, and other district level officers of Uttara Kannada District at Karwar and discussed about issues raised before the Commission by Tribal Representatives. In the meeting, Director Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka was also present. Commission observed /advised/recommended the following ;

5.1) Action should be taken by the District Administration to provide forest rights, -both individual as well as Community rights, to the uncovered Siddi's for want of documents. Such cases should be reviewed and special camps should be organized to educate them about various provisions of FRA and rules framed under it.

5.2) The Forest Department should engage the Siddi's in various activities related to the department to provide them employment as and when available.

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5.3) The shortage of doctors and paramedical staff should be addressed at the earliest. The educated girls from the Community should be trained and appointed as ANM and Asha Worker in the Siddi Villages.

5.4) There is no mention of Community of land holders in their land records in the State.

5.5) The Directorate of Civil rights enforcement should scrutinize the complaints of false caste certificate particularly taken in the name of Gond (ST) by Gonda Vokkaligas. The Tehsildar's who are issuing caste certificates should be properly trained and educated to issue such certificate carefully so that this problem is addressed at the initial level.

5.6) Commission directed the Director, Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka to provide orders/instructions of the state government for issuance of ST caste certificates and their verification procedure. It was also directed that a report regarding issuance of Gond ST Certificates to the Gonda Vokkaligas stating number of certificates issued since 1976 onwards and action taken for verification of such certificates should be provided to the Commission with-in two weeks.

5.7) Siddi's are mainly producing paddy, maize and ginger. Training in horticulture may be imparted to them to enhance their income. Besides marketing facilities, transport linkages and cold storage chain facilities are also needed. These should also be arranged at the earliest.

5.8) Presently as Siddi's are getting only half an hour tap water supply per day, the same should be increased to at least one hour.

5.9) The Scheduled Tribes who have been provided LPG connection to promote clean energy are not being provided kerosene oil by the administration. Only BPL card holders are being provided 3 litres of kerosene oil per month. As kerosene oil was used by the tribals for lighting their houses, this decision has adversely affected them. As there is not electric supply in the villages, they should be provided kerosene oil as per their requirement.

5.10) State Tribal Development Corporation is not providing any training for skill development of the tribals in the district. District Manager mentioned that there were no funds for the same. It was pointed out that National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) is providing grant for skill development programmes for self-employment / employment through State ST Development Corporation but the District Manager of State corporation stated that he was not aware of NSTFDC programme. Commission noted that it was due to lack of awareness of programmes of NSTFDC. Hence, NSTFDC should

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take steps to convene periodic awareness programmes for the economic development of STs. (Action NSTFDC/ State ST Dev. Corporation).

5.11) The projects which are being run under TSP should essentially include component of skill development of the Tribal Community. They should be provided training in poultry, dairying, paramedics, borewell repairing etc. The Deputy Commissioner, UK District should come up with a proposal in this regard so that the income of the tribals can be increased by way of enhancing their skills. (Action: District Welfare department/ Ministry of Tribal Affairs)

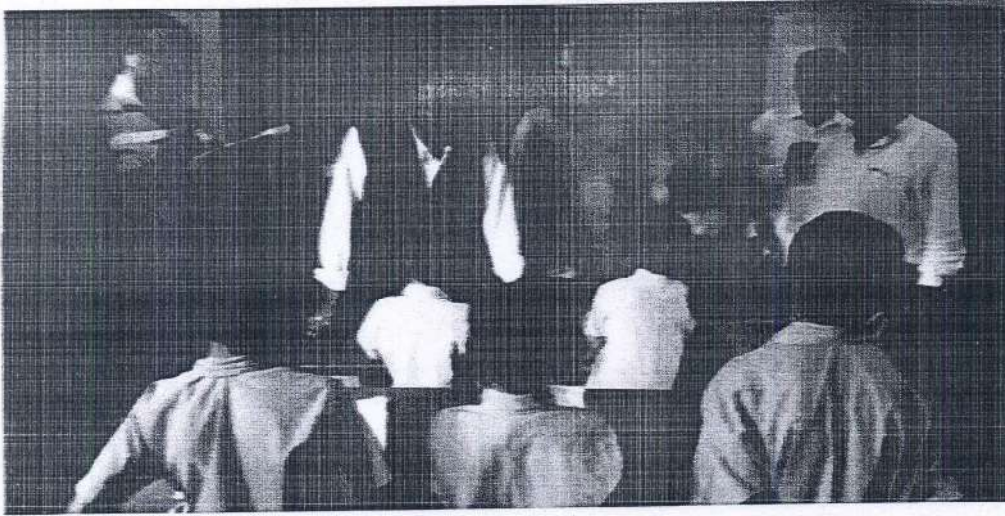
6) Visit to Ashram School at Byndor, District Udipi run by Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka

6.1) For monitoring the conditions of tribal children and facilities provided to the students in the Ashram school, Commission visited Ashram School at Byndor run by Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka

6.2) Commission was informed that this Ashram School was started in the year 1992 and students of class 1st to 5th have been admitted in the Ashram School. Presently, the strength of Ashram School is for accommodating 104 students out of which 89 students belongs to ST Community. There are 58 boys and 31 girls of ST Community staying in the Ashram School. It was informed that after passing out class 5, the students take admission in Morarji Desai Residential school and other nearby schools. It was also informed that some students of this Ashram School have completed graduation and some others have completed their ITI and are working in software industry in Bengaluru. 3 girls have completed nursing course and are working in private institutions. The Commission was informed that health check-up of students is conducted regularly in the school and a diet chart has been prepared to provide nutritious meal to the students. There are 5 staff members working in the kitchen and for providing safe drinking water, aquagaurd has also been installed. During rainy season, the students are provided boiled water for safe consumption. There is solar power provided in the Ashram School. An amount of Rs. 1100 per student per month was provided to the Ashram School. Uniforms, Textbooks and notebooks are also provided to them.

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Dr.Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST having discussion with tribal students

7.) Visit to Dr.Ambedkar Colony of Koraga Community at Kundapur, District Udupi

7.1 Commission was informed that 28 families have been settled on the Government land since 1994 but till now, they do not have ownership right of the land. Many of them are working as Safai Karamchari in the Kundapur Municipality. Water, electricity, health and school facilities etc. have been provided in their colony. The Chief Officer, Kundapur Municipality informed the Commission that four families have been given ownership rights, rest of the families would also be provided the rights shortly as the Municipality has already initiated the process.

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Dr.Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST having discussion with Koragatribals at Ambedkar Nagar, Kundapur

8.) Visit to Kumbashi Gram Panchayat

Issues emerged during interaction with tribals/ tribal delegates are as under:

8.1) Tribals demanded that financial assistance by the Government should be given to them for construction and repair of their houses.

8.2) Community Hall was constructed with the ITDP support where 12 girls of the Community were provided training of stitching of cloths. They informed that such skill development training should also be provided to the other unemployed youth.

8.3) For the last two years, there is no reimbursement of their medical expenses as no budget was available with the ITDP for the purpose. They are facing hardship due to the non-availability of funds under this scheme.

On the above, Director, Tribal Welfare Department of the State ensured that funds will be released shortly under this scheme.

8.4) The State Government is providing full reimbursement of expenditure of higher education but due to shortage of funds, there is delay in payment. In some cases, some families of this PVTG Community were not provided reimbursement of expenditure incurred on higher education despite the rules. Director Tribal welfare assured he would look into such cases.

8.5) There were about 50 houses under-construction and assistance of Rs. 1.75 lacs for construction of their house was provided but keeping the present cost of construction the above amount was not adequate. It was informed by the State Govt. Officials, that now the Government has increased the amount to Rs.

Rameshwar Oraon

2.50 lacs. These houses should also be included in the revised scheme and additional amount of Rs. 75,000/- should be sanctioned for completion of these houses.

8.6) There was no regular officer posted in ITDP, Udipi which is adversely affecting the works related to implementation of various development schemes for tribals. Hence, a regular officer should be posted in the above ITDP.

8.7) The tribals are engaged in making baskets, vases and other various utility items from bamboos but they do not have working capital for this purpose. Hence, working capital should be made available to them through some government agency and also marketing linkages be provided. District authorities were advised to contact State ST Dev Corp for NSTFDC working capital loan and TRIFED for marketing linkages and or other economical institutional arrangements may be made.

9) 18.09.2016 (Sunday) -Meeting Deputy Commissioner, and IGP Dakshin Kannada at Mangalore and other officers

Issues /observations / recommendations.

- 9.1) Presently, amount provided under IAY for construction of houses is inadequate and hence the same may be enhanced to 3 lacs.
- 9.2) Due to non-allocation of funds for medical reimbursement of PVTGs, they are facing problem in their treatment. This issue should be sorted out at the earliest.
- 9.3) PVTGs requested for reservation in State Government job and they do not get employment as they have to compete with other dominant tribal Communities. As provided in some other states like MP and Chhattisgarh, special provision for reservation for PVTGs in services could be considered by the State Government of Karnataka.
- 9.4) There is shortage of doctors in the medical institutions in tribal and rural areas. It was informed to the Commission by district authorities that they do not prefer to work there. Commission advised that State Government should take appropriate measures such as providing incentives /special allowances to fulfil the gap in tribal areas and similar action is required for posting of paramedical staff.
- 9.5) For increase in self-employment and better remuneration of produce of tribals, adequate arrangements for working capital, marketing tie ups, transportation linkages, cold storage facilities should be provided. It was

Rameshwar Oraon

advised for availing NSTFDC concessional financial assistance through the State ST Corporation and for marketing tie ups TRIFED may be contacted or some other institutional arrangements can be made. Services of E-commerce portals can also be taken in this regard. (Action: NSTFDC/TRIFED/State ST Corp).

- 9.6) There was complaint from the tribals regarding non-payment of post metric scholarship to the students perusing higher studies. Action should be taken for sanctioning scholarship to the students in time so that their education is not adversely affected.
- 9.7) **MG NAREGA** : Efforts should be made to provide employment to tribals in the nearby areas of their respective villages under this scheme and arrangements for timely payment of wages should be made.
- 9.8) **Atrocities**: Commission was informed there were 76 cases of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes reported during 01.01.2016 to 31.08.2016 and compensation was paid in respect of 16 cases. The Commission directed that for remaining cases also compensation should be paid to the victims or their families as per provisions made under amended SC/ST (PoA) Act.

10. Meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Udipi District

On the basis of feedback /inputs received during the visit of the Commission and interaction with tribals of the area, following is the gist of discussion held with the Deputy Commissioner, Udipi District.

- 10.1) The present incumbent posted as Headmaster of the Ashram School at Byndor was only SSC passed employee whereas other teachers posted in the Ashram School were MSc/. B.Ed. qualified hence, one of the qualified teacher should be made Headmaster of the institution.
- 10.2) There was no lady warden for the girl's hostel.
- 10.3) The girls and boy toilets were functional but lighting was not provided inside of each of toilet. The passage for entry towards girl toilets was through the boys toilets which needs to be altered for providing independent entry ensuring safety of the girls.
- 10.4) Cots or bed were not provided to the students in the Ashram School. It was informed that action has been taken to provide the same this year.
- 10.5) Health card has not been provided to the students. As per the instructions of Ministry of Tribal Affairs each student should be provided individual health

Rameshwar Oraon

card so that after leaving the school, they can carry the history of medical records with them for future reference.

10.6) Folic Acid supplement was not given to the students in the Ashram School.

10.7) Many posts of teachers and other categories were lying vacant including ITDP.

10.8) There are four Ashram Schools in the district. In order to provide required infrastructure and improve quality of education, all of them need to be periodically inspected by the Deputy Commissioner.

10.9) Ownership rights of land in Ambedkar Colony, Kundapur were not provided to some of the Koraga Tribals which should be provided to them at the earliest.

10.10) There was complaint related to delay in payment of post metric scholarships to the students pursuing higher education particularly MBBS. Timely payment of scholarship to the ST students should be ensured by the Deputy Commissioner.

10.11) Some of the families were reportedly not provided pattas under Forest Rights Act. The eligible tribals should be provided Forest Rights Pattas and cases of rejected claims of tribals and OTFDs should be reviewed by him. **It was advised that District authorities should take required steps /action and Commission may be informed of the same.**



Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST having discussion with Deputy Commissioner, Udupi at Mangalore

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National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

11. Visit to Madhya Padhav Ashram School



Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST inspecting the hostel

11.1) The Commission visited Madhya Padhav Ashram School in Dakshin Kannada district and observed that the kitchen of the Ashram School was neat and clean, diet chart was maintained and students were being served food according to the diet chart. There were no chairs and tables in the dining hall and the students used to take their meals sitting on the floor. The Commission advised the concerned authorities to make arrangement of chairs and tables in the dining hall of the Ashram School.

11.2) The Commission was informed that the total sanctioned strength of the Ashram school was 144 and presently 125 girls and boys were staying there. Classes 1 to 10 were being run with the help of 11 teachers. The Headmaster and the other teachers were also qualified.

11.3) The lady teachers who were appointed on contract basis informed that though they were given maternity leave but during their leave period, other teachers are appointed and after return from leave, they were not taken back in the same school.

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12. Visit to Madhya Padhav Koraga Colony

12.1) The Commission visited Madhya Padhav Koraga Colony in Dakshin Kannada District where large number of tribals of Koraga Community had assembled discussion. The Commission was welcomed with traditional dance of the tribal Community. During discussion, the tribals informed the Commission about various issues concerning their living conditions. Gist of issues of interaction is as under:

12.2) In the Dakshin Kannada District, rights of land have not been given to them so far despite the fact that they are living in the locality since 1993. They demanded for allotment of land pattas to regularized their occupation of land. As they are landless and are not having land records, the benefits of various developmental programmes for Scheduled Tribes is not reaching them. They requested for allotment of land by the Government of Karnataka at the earliest.

12.3) **Allotment of Land:** It was further submitted that report of Dr. Mohammad Peer Committee should be implemented by the Government where in it was recommended to provide 2.5 acres of land to each Koraga family and the said report also accepts the Koraga as aboriginal tribe and observes them to be landless living in pre-agricultural stage of development.

12.4) **Education:** It was reported that the quality of teachers in the Ashram Schools was not good resulting in poor results of students. There is high dropout rate in the students of the Koraga Community which also needs to be improved. As Koraga's lead a semi-nomadic life, the children do not get properly educated in the educational institutions.

12.5) **Employment:** There is un-employment among the educated youth and this Community is not able to compete with other tribal groups in reaping the benefit of various development programmes. Many of them are working as scavengers in municipality.

12.6) **Health Facilities:** No funds were available for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by Koraga's during last two years as the result of which they are facing problem in treatment of various ailments.

12.7) Life expectancy in the Community was also reported to be in the range of 40 - 45 years only. Alcoholism is very common among the Community and it is not only confined to males but also females and children. The population of the Community was also declining.

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12.8) Some tribals informed that they were allotted barren land by the Government on which no cultivation was possible. No assistance was provided for improving the land and making in cultivable.

13) 19.09.2016 (Monday)- Meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Kodagu District at Medikeri

13.1) The Commission held a meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Kodagu District and other officers of the district and ITDP to review the status of various development programmes being run by them for Scheduled Tribes. Following is gist of discussion:

13.2) The Commission was informed that the total population of the district was 5,54,519 which included 2,74,608 males and 2,79,911 females. Thus, the female population in the district was more than the male population. There are three talukas in the district namely Medikeri, Virajpet and Somvarpet. Total 9 tribal Communities are found in the district JenuKuruba, Soliga, Yarava, KaduKuruba, Melayekandi, Marati and Nayaka are the main tribal groups found in the district.

13.3) **Forest Rights Act Implementation:** Commission was informed that in the District total of 2695 individual claims were received from tribals and 853 claims were received OTFDs. 65 community claims were received in the district up to end of August, 2016. Out of total claims, 1392 STs were given title deeds and 45 Community claims were accepted. No OTFD claim was accepted or distributed. All together 27, 988.65 acres of land was involved in the distribution of title deeds which included 1752.01 acres as individual and 26,236.61 acres as Community right. Commission noted that 1206 individual claims were rejected which was considered as a large number and desired to know the grounds of rejection. It was informed that in many cases the rejection was made as the claimants were residing or in possession of revenue land. It was also informed that many applications were rejected as they were claiming for the land which is used for worship. Keeping in view the large number of rejection of claims, the Commission advised the district administration to convene special drive for creating awareness among the Communities and invite applications afresh. All the rejected cases of ST may be reviewed and as per provision of the Act, the title deeds be distributed to them. It was informed that no development work could be undertaken in the places where FRA claims have been settled due to orders issued by Hon'ble High Court and Supreme Court. The Commission advised the Deputy Commissioner to send the copy of Orders to the Commission at the earliest. The Commission emphasized the need for proper survey, demarcation and record of rights during the process of recognising the forest rights. The rights for the displaced persons should also

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16

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be ensured in the process. The Commission also advised to dispose the 128 pending cases which include 97 claims from STs, 23 claims from OT FDs and 8 Community claims.

13.4) The Commission was informed that about 1500 families of ST category were landless. The Commission desired to know about action plan to provide them land for agriculture and whether any land has been identified for the purpose. Commission was informed that as on date there was no programme in this regard. Deputy Commissioner was advised to take necessary action for providing them some land as many of the states have scheme to provide land for landless STs. Action also be taken for providing means of livelihood and their development. **The Deputy Commission was advised to send a brief note on it to the Commission.**

13.5) **Education:** The General Literacy rate in the district was about 87% and amongst ST it was 48%. It was admitted that the Scheduled Tribe students were weak in education and their attendance is also poor as during festivals students do not attend the school. The Commission advised to prepare the school calendar keeping in view their festivals and keeping in view huge gap, there is imperative need to take steps to promote education among the tribals and also arrangements to retain them in the educational institutions in the districts.

13.6) **Health:** Problem of malnutrition and anaemia and addiction to tobacco and liquor was reported. It was informed that in many cases tribal ladies do not come forward for institutional deliveries in Government run hospitals and depend of their traditional system. The Commission advised that the girls and educated ladies from the tribal community should be appointed as ANMs and Asha workers and they should be trained for the same. There is shortage of ANMs and Asha workers. They have stopped working as no payment has been sanctioned to them as honorarium/wages. It was reported that there is 50% shortage of doctors as most of them do not prefer to work in the rural and tribal areas. It was demanded that PHCs should be established in the tribal areas as they have to go far away for getting the treatment. The doctors suggested that blood component separation unit may be set up for the district.

13.7) Safe drinking water and sanitation being inadequate, steps should be taken to provide such facilities in the tribal colonies.

13.8) **Housing:** It was informed that 300 IAYs were sanctioned for the Jenu Kurubas and the construction work is in progress.

13.9) **Electricity:** Solar lights have been provided in many tribal hadis and some of them have been electrified by the State Power Corporation.

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13.10) **Road connectivity:** There are 154 habitations of tribals in the Districts and most of the hadis are connected with metalled road. The hadis which are located in wild life sanctuaries are not connected with such roads due to restrictions under Forest Conservation Act.

13.11) **Food Security:** It was informed that nutritious ration is provided in all the 154 hadis through fair price shops. It was noticed that many tribals were left out for want of ration card as they were not having Aadhar Card. The Commission advised to conduct a special drive to cover such left out families also.

13.12) **Skill development:** It was noticed that there is coffee plantation in vast areas in the District for which skilled manpower is required. If the tribals are given training for coffee plantation, operation of coffee pulping machine, bean trading information etc., it will help in enhancing their income as most of the tribal farmers are having small piece of land for cultivation.

13.13) The CEO, Zila Panchayat informed the Commission about new initiatives taken by the District Administrative and the State Govt. in the field of Education, Health and Child Welfare and submitted that it may take a few years in visible improvement in these sectors.



Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST having discussion with Deputy Commissioner, Kodagu CEO and other officers of the District

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