



भारत सरकार

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

File No. 33/Pressclipping/4/2015/RU-III

6th floor, B Wing Loknayak Bhawan,
Khan Market, New Delhi-110003

Dated: 21.10.2015

To

1. The Secretary,
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Chief Secretary
Govt. of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
3. The Secretary,
Home Department,
Govt. of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
4. The Secretary,
Tribal Development Department,
Govt. of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
5. The Director General of Police,
Govt. of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
6. The Collector,
District Sundergarh,
Odisha

Sub: Tour report of the National Commission for Scheduled tribes (NCST) in State of Odisha from 02.09.2015 to 05.09.2015 for visits in tribal girls hostels in various Districts and review meeting with Sundergarh District Administration and Chief Secretary and other officers of States Government

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of Tour report of the National Commission for Scheduled tribes (NCST) in State of Odisha from 02.09.2015 to 05.09.2015 to the tribal girls hostels in various Districts regarding incident of teenage pregnancies/ sexual harassment to the girls students and review meeting with Sundergarh District Administration and Chief Secretary and other officers of States Government for necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


(Rajeshwar Kumar)
Assistant Director

Copy for information to

Private Secretary to Minister of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

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Copy to: - SSA, NIC.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Tour Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in State of Odisha from 2.9. to 5.9.2015 for visits in tribal girls hostels in various Districts and review meetings with Sundergarh District Administration and Chief Secretary and other officers of State Government.

1.0 NCST led by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, accompanied by Dr. Shyam S. Agarwal, Secretary and Shri R.K. Dubey, Assistant Director, NCST, Regional office, Bhopal visited State of Odisha from 2.9.2015 to 5.9.2015 for visit to Tribal girls hostels in Koraput, Rayagada, Kandhamal and Keonjhar Districts to inspect and monitor arrangements made by State Government for boarders in the background of teenage pregnancies of inmates leading to deliveries, District level review meeting to monitor status of development programmes and SC & ST (PoA) Act in respect of Scheduled tribes at Sundergarh and meeting with Chief Secretary and other officers of the State in accordance with programme communicated to the State Govt. vide Wireless message No. CP/NCST/2015/ODISHA/11-C Dated 19.8.2015. Shri Dwarka Karol, Director, NCST, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar coordinated the tour and participated in the meetings held at Bhubaneswar.

2.9.2015

2.0 Formal welcome by Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department, Govt. of Odisha.

The Commission reached Bhubaneswar Airport where it was welcomed by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department and other officers of the State Government. Thereafter, the Commission proceeded for State guest house, Bhubaneswar.

2.1 Meeting with District Collector, SP and District Welfare Officer of Cuttack District in respect of ST girls hostel of Athagarh Sub-division:

The Commission held meeting with District Collector, SP and District Welfare Officer of Cuttack District regarding the case of alleged sexual harassment of two ST girl students by a Sevaka (teacher) in Bhaliadiha Residential Ashram School of Cuttack District. Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department, Government of Odisha was also present in the meeting.

The Commission was informed that the incident had occurred in July, 2012 and the allegation petitions on alleged sexual harassment were given to Head

Rameshwar Oraon

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON
Chairperson
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
Bhubaneswar
Odisha

Sevika (I/C) Bhaliadiha Residential Ashram School by some girl borders on 13.9.2012. These petitions were forwarded by the HM to the BDO, Narsinghpur on the same day. BDO, Narsinghpur inquired into the matter and submitted a detailed report to the District Collector, Cuttack. After receipt of the inquiry report, the Culprit Dilip Kumar Prusty, Ex-Sevaka was placed under suspension vide order no. 1765 dated 15.9.2012 of District Collector, Cuttack. Departmental proceeding was drawn against him and the charge sheet was served to him on 26.2.2013. The Deputy Collector (Estt.) and DWO, Cuttack were appointed as Inquiring Officer and Marshalling Officer respectively. Inquiring Officer submitted her report on 24.9.2014. Now, the District Collector, Cuttack has ordered for *de novo* inquiry vide order no. 2017 dated 17.8.2015.

The Commission directed the District Administration to conclude the inquiry at the earliest as a period of 3 years has already passed and to take action against the accused on the basis of findings in the inquiry. As per the report submitted by the State Government to the Commission, no FIR has been registered in this case and Commission has taken it seriously. Safety and security of the girls in the Tribal Residential Ashram Schools should be ensured by the District Administration.

(Action: Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department,
Government of Odisha/ District Administration, Cuttack)

2.2 Meeting with office bearers/representatives of Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh:

The Commission held a meeting with representatives of Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh in the evening and discussed about the activities of the Sangh. It was informed that Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of our country was Chairman of this institution from the year 1948 to 1964. Altogether, 105 other institutions are affiliated with Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh. The main objective of this institution was to extend education among the Scheduled Tribes of the country. During the discussion, it was informed that the activities of the institution are coming down due to the Government schemes like EMRS and Tribal Residential Ashram Schools run by the State Government and the Governments approach of running these institutions by its own man power instead of running them through NGOs. Secondly, other NGOs are also there in the field and are competing with the Sangh. It was also informed that the properties of Sangh spread in different States were being encroached and there is need for collaboration of State Governments and the Sangh for utilization of the land available with it for construction of tribal hostels. The man power available with Sangh could also be

utilized for the purpose. In the meantime, the concerned State Governments should help in protection of these properties.

(Action: Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department,
Government of Odisha)

2.3 Meeting with Representatives of Association of STs and individuals:
Representatives and office bearers of various ST and SC employees Associations and individuals met the Commission and presented their issues/grievances before the Commission as under:

1. All Odisha SC and ST Bank Employees Confederation, Odisha, Bhubaneswar and SBI SC/ST Employees Welfare Council, Bhubaneswar circle, Odisha.

- (i) Deprivation of ST employees in benefits of housing loan facility in the Scheduled areas of the State due to restriction of homestead land mortgage.
- (ii) Declaration of 14th April (Ambedkar Jayanti) as national holiday.

2. Odisha Gramya Bank SC/ST Employees Welfare Council, Bhubaneswar

- (i) Discrimination and harassment of SC/ST employees and officers working in Odisha Gramya Bank in the matter of transfer and promotion.
- (ii) Non-maintenance of rosters in the bank as per the guidelines.
- (iii) SC/ST Employees Welfare Association/Council is not being provided facilities to run its activities in the interest of employees.
- (iv) Filling up of backlog of SC/ST employees in Odisha Gramya Bank through SRD.

(Action: Odisha Gramya Bank and Follow up by Govt. of Odisha)

3. Dalit/Adibasi Surakshya Mancha Odisha (DASMO), Bhubaneswar

- (i) Alleged deprivation of Shabar Tribes in allotment of Patta under FRA in Pithakhai, Kendupalli, Rakma Tingisahi, Bhapur, Salpada and other nearby tribal villages in Nayagarh District.
- (ii) Recording of tribal villages as revenue villages in the Nayagarh District.

- (iii) Alleged violation of Land Right Act for SC & ST in Nayagarh District.
- (iv) Inclusion of SA-A-RA Community as synonymous name of SAHAR in serial no. 59 of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) order, 1950.

(Action: District Administration, Nayagarh/Government of Odisha/MoTA)

4. Forest Right Campaign

- (i) About 3,50,000 Forest Right Claims have been accepted in the State and Pattas have been distributed in the State but this has been done without verification and demarcation of land. The size of Pattas provided to the Tribals and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) is very small and most of them have been given only 10 to 50 decimal lands which is inadequate for their survival.
- (ii) About 91,000 claims of OTFDs were disallowed despite being genuine. It was informed that these claims were rejected by the village level committees but the fact is that these committees had not rejected the claims.
- (iii) Community Rights are not being provided under FRA in general and the Forest Department of the State is obstructing in distribution of community rights to the beneficiaries.
- (iv) The villagers are not being allowed access on Minor Forest Produces. They are not being allowed to collect Tendu Patta and Bamboos from the nearby Forests by the Forest Department.
- (v) The Forest villages should have been converted to revenue villages by the State Government after convening Gram Sabha but it has not been done so far.
- (vi) The land of tribals and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers should be acquired for mining and other activities only after settlement of Rights under FRA, which is not being done in the State.

(Action: Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department/Revenue Department, Government of Odisha)

Rameshwar Oraon

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5. All India Confederation of SC/ST Organization, State unit, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- (i) Alleged discrimination and harassment against ST fishermen in Odisha by the Director of Fisheries, Odisha, Jobra, Cuttak by not issuing instruction to the District Fisheries Officers of all the District to help the SC fishermen (member of the Co-operative societies in Odisha) through both Central and State Government Schemes.
- (ii) Proper implementation of "Matsyajivi Unnayan Yojana" by Government of Odisha for ST fishermen dependent on dams / reservoirs in Mayurbhanj District of the State and providing them Low Cost House and Matsyajivi Basagraha.

(Action: Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department / Fisheries Department, Government of Odisha / District Administration, Mayurbhanj)

6. NALCO SC & ST Employees Welfare Association

- (i) Non-implementation of reservation policy by NALCO Management.
- (ii) No representation of ST Officers at E-7 and higher posts.
- (iii) No training or skill up-gradation being imparted to eligible ST Officers. Supersession of ST Officers in promotion by General candidates on plea of competency.
- (iv) No representation of ST Officers in Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs).
- (v) Poor appraisal rating of ACRs of ST Officers intentionally.
- (vi) Neglecting ST Officers in promotion.
- (vii) Non-implementation of reservation policy by NALCO Management in SVM and DPS School funded by NALCO Management.

(Action: NALCO Management and follow up by Govt. of Odisha)



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3.9.2015 and 4.9.2015

3.0 Visit to the Tribal girls hostels in various Districts to inspect and monitor the arrangements made by State Government for the boarders in the background of teenage pregnancies / sexual harassments of inmates:

The Commission visited following Tribal girls schools/hostels to inspect and monitor the arrangements made by the State Government for the boarders:

- (i) Umuri Ashram School, Koraput.
- (ii) Government (SSD) High School, Gupteswar, Koraput.
- (iii) Bhakurguda Ashram School, Rayagada.
- (iv) Lingargarh Govt. (SSD) Girls High School, Kandhamal.
- (v) Government Girls High School ST Girls Hostel, Kanjipani, Keonjhar.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department, Government of Odisha also accompanied the Commission. During course of visit to these tribal girls schools / hostels, Commission interacted with inmates, teaching staff, wardens and other employees posted in these institutions to have a feedback on facilities being provided to inmates. Observations of Commission in this regard are given below:

- (i) State Government has issued guidelines for ensuring safety and security of students in residential schools. Arrangements of safety and security of inmates were found satisfactory in schools / hostels visited by Commission. Hostel buildings were with boundary walls and arrangements of Chowkidar have been made to control movements of outsiders. In discussion, it was revealed that many tribal girls' hostels in the State do not have boundary walls for safety and security of inmates. Boundary walls should be made in all such hostels within a given a time frame.
- (ii) The Commission noticed that quality of education being provided to tribal children in Ashram Schools needs improvement. Though the children could read their English text books but could not understand meaning of words and sentences. More focus should be given on English, Mathematics and Science subjects so that children can be made employable in job market.

- (iii) During the discussion, it was revealed that there is shortage of teachers in educational institutions located in tribal areas. Main reason of this shortage was attributed to compulsion of passing CTET for being eligible for appointment as teacher in the State. The Commission advised to find out ways of filling of vacant posts of teachers without sacrificing quality.
- (iv) Quality of food provided to the inmates was good and the inmates were satisfied with it. A diet chart was being followed to provide them healthy and nutritious food.
- (v) Dampness was noticed in some roofs and walls of hostel buildings and classrooms of schools which should be repaired urgently.
- (vi) Toilets and bathrooms were neat and clean in hostels visited by Commission. However, there is a requirement of additional toilets and bathrooms in hostels as number of toilets and bathrooms are very less in comparison to number of inmates. This problem should be addressed in all residential hostels across the State.
- (vii) Supply of running water in toilets and bathrooms of all the hostels should be reviewed by the State Government as toilets are of no use without running water.
- (viii) Many hostels have installed Aqua guard for providing safe drinking water to inmates. This facility should be extended in all other hostels also across the State.
- (ix) Many classrooms and hostel rooms do not have ceiling fans and the children face problem in the summer season. Adequate number of ceiling fans should be provided for the children.
- (x) Supply of uninterrupted electricity is a big problem in hostels and schools located in tribal areas. Local employees in these hostels demanded for providing diesel generators in schools and hostels for running water pumps for supply of water during power cut. For proper lighting facility in the class rooms, solar lights were also demanded by school staff.
- (xi) The Commission noticed that some of the hostels have dining tables with chairs in their dining halls. Many other hostels do not have this facility. All such hostels should be provided dining tables with chairs in their dining halls where this facility is not available so far.

- (xii) The State Government should ensure that only, female wardens, teachers and supporting staff are posted in tribal girls hostels in the State.
- (xiii) Though, instructions regarding visit of Doctors and ANMs in Tribal Girls' Hostels have been issued by State Government, there is a necessity to closely monitor their regular visit to hostels. Frequency of visit of Doctors, which was reported to be bi-annually at present, should be increased to bi-monthly basis for effective health checkup of inmates. ANMs should also visit these hostels regularly to prevent re-occurrence of such incidents. The inmates should be provided iron and vitamin supplements for proper growth and de-worming medicines should also be given at appropriate interval as per advice of the Doctors.
- (xiv) Local Police Officers should visit tribal girls' hostels located in their jurisdiction at the time of daily patrolling to create sense of security among inmates and to check such incidences. Due to regular visit, inmates and staff posted in hostels will also become friendly with Police and take their help at the time of need.
- (xv) Telephone numbers and mobile numbers of District Collector, SP and District Welfare Officer of the District should be displayed prominently in the tribal residential hostels and schools in the State so that the inmates and the staff can approach them in case of any trouble.

(Action: Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department/Home/Health Department, Government of Odisha)

4.0 District level review meeting to monitor status of development programmes and SC & ST (PoA) Act in respect of Scheduled tribes at Sundergarh:

In the beginning of the meeting, the District Collector, Sundergarh welcomed the Commission. Chairperson, NCST appraised the officers present in the meeting about Constitutional Provisions for STs and NCST role therein. District Collector briefed the Commission about some recent development initiatives taken by State Government. Thereafter, a power point presentation was made by District Welfare Officer, Sundergarh depicting general and statistical information about the District. The Commission was informed that total District population was 20,93,437 out of which 10,62,649 (50.74%) belong to STs. District has 3 Sub-divisions, 18 Tehsils and 17 blocks. There are 3 ITDAs in the District namely Sundergarh, Panposh and Bonai. Besides above, there is 1 Micro- Project namely Paudibhuyan Development Agency, Khuntgaon. It was also informed that there are 1723 revenue villages coming under 260 Gram Panchayats. There is a 3-tier Panchayati Raj system in the District with all the rural development schemes

and programmes being implemented and monitored through PRIs viz. Zilla Parishad at District level, Panchayat Samitis at block level and Gram Panchayats at Panchayat level.

After Power Point Presentation, detailed discussion was held by the Commission with District Collector, SP and other officers of the District on the basis of reply to the questionnaire sent by the Commission and following points emerged for action:

- (i) Commission observed that General literacy in the District was 64.86% whereas among STs, it was only 52.75 %. Thus, there is a visible gap of 12% in literacy among STs vis-à-vis General population. Though figure of male and female literacy among STs related to 2011 census was not available, there is a need to focus on expanding literacy among tribal community particularly females. District Administration should take effective steps to promote education in tribal community.
- (ii) Enrolment at elementary level in general category was 100% and 99.88% in General category and ST category respectively. Dropouts in General category at Elementary School and Middle School level was Nil whereas, in ST category, it was 1.37% and 2.67% respectively. At High school level, dropouts in General category was 0.25% whereas it was 3.84% in ST category. Keeping in view increase in dropout among ST category, District Administration should take necessary steps to retain tribal students in schools and to minimize dropout.
- (iii) District Administration should focus to improve quality of education in schools. Immediate action is required to fill up vacant posts of teachers particularly in English, Maths and Science subject so that tribal students can be provided quality education.
- (iv) Landless agricultural labourers in the District number 1,06,235. These labourers were engaged in agricultural activities like transplanting, weeding, harvesting and thrashing of crops, which is a seasonal work. Keeping in view large number of agricultural labourers, District Administration should provide them work under MGNREGS during lean season when they do not have any other work to do. The Commission also desired to know the average number of man days of work generated in the District under MGNREGS and the number of man days of works generated for STs. As this information could not be provided instantly, the Commission directed to provide the same within 2 weeks time.
- (v) To improve agricultural output and increase income of tribals, District Administration should cover more areas under High Yielding Varieties

(HYV) of crops and increase irrigation potential through dug wells. It should also promote farmers for adopting farm mechanization and interchanging of various crops. For increasing agricultural production and horticultural activities, help of KVKs and Agricultural Research Centers / Universities should be taken with an aim of increasing income of farmers.

- (vi) The Commission observed that 7,407 male and 3,104 female ST educated un-employed persons had registered their names in employment exchange. Out of them there were 308 skilled, 8679 un-skilled, 867 Arts Graduates, 218 Science Graduate and 439 technically qualified individuals. There is no special scheme for providing employment to such individuals. It shall be proper to provide assistance for self employment to such skilled ST individuals and provide skilled development training to un-skilled individuals to make them employable or capable to earn their livelihood.
- (vii) The Commission noted that no targets were provided under the schemes of NSTFDC during last few years in the District. During 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 under High Cost Loan Scheme of NSTFDC, 5,8 and 1 beneficiary were provided loan amounting to Rs. 4,25,000/-, 6,80,000/- and 85,000/- respectively. Under Skill Development Training Programme/Placement Linked Employability Training Programme, 1102 and 858 ST candidates were trained in different trades during years 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. However, no information was provided regarding placement of such candidates. The Commission desired that details of placement of such candidates who were trained under this programme be provided within a period of 2 weeks.
- (viii) It was observed that 8,474 ST habitations in the District were without proper drainage facilities and toilets. The Commission suggested covering these habitations in a time bound manner and providing proper drainage facilities and toilets.
- (ix) As per information provided, 38 villages/habitations in District do not have link roads. The Commission advised to cover these villages under PMGSY or other scheme of the State and suggested that if these villages have not been declared Revenue villages, steps may be taken to declare them Revenue village so that link roads can be constructed to connect them from other parts of the District.
- (x) The Commission noted with concern that Sickle Cell Anemia and Thalassemia are prevailing among the tribal population of the district. Sickle Cell Anemia is the main disease in the district and there is a need for identification of persons suffering from this disease and spreading awareness among tribals for its prevention. This is being done in Jharkhand

State which can be followed in Odisha also. Assistance of RMRCT, Jabalpur can also be taken in this regard.

- (xi) The Commission found that many posts of Doctors particularly Medical Specialists were vacant in Govt. health institutions located in tribal areas. Paramedical Staff posts were also found vacant. The Commission advised District Administration to take necessary steps to fill up these vacant posts urgently.
- (xii) The Commission observed that during 2014 and 2015, 146 and 87 community certificates were received in Collector's Office for verification out of which 83 and 62 cases were disposed off. Another 63 and 25 cases were pending for verification. The Commission desired to know number of false community certificates out of the cases disposed off by Collector's Office. This information could not be provided immediately and it was assured that same shall be furnished separately in a fortnight.
- (xiii) Some of the tribal representatives had informed the Commission that they are facing problem in obtaining community certificates and it takes about a month to obtain same from competent district authorities. It was also informed that community certificates issued are valid for a period of only 6 months and they have to approach authorities again for getting new community certificates. The Commission wondered how and why this was being done and directed to remove such difficulties and issue permanent certificates to STs.
- (xiv) Reviewing status of cases registered under SC and ST (PoA) Act, 1989, the Commission observed that number of cases of atrocities were increasing every year. In 2012-13, 21 cases were booked which rose to 26 and 59 in 2013-14 and 2014-15. In 3 cases of 2013-14 and 8 cases of 2014-15, monetary relief was not paid. The Commission advised the District Administration to ensure payment of monetary relief to the victims at the earliest. Keeping in view incidents of encroachment of tribal land, the Commission stressed to register such cases under section 3 (1) (iv) or 3 (1) (v) of SC and ST (PoA) Act, 1989. Commission was also concerned about incidents of human trafficking from the district and suggested police authorities to be vigilant in this regard.
- (xv) As far as safety and security of inmates of Tribal Girls' Residential Schools was concerned, the Commission suggested SP to ensure that during routine patrolling, police personnel visit these institutions so that inmates feel protected and confident in hostels and become vocal in case of any untoward incident.

- (xvi) During discussion on implementation of FRA, the Commission was informed that 9390 beneficiaries have been allotted 18,338.05 acres of forest land patta. The Commission sought information about the number of individual and community claims received in the district and the number of claims rejected with reasons which could not be made available. District Administration was directed to provide this information to the Commission within 2 weeks.
- (xvii) Some of tribal representatives had informed the Commission about violation of provisions of ORV Act in filling posts reserved for STs and SCs in the district and the State. It was informed that reservation is being bypassed by making contract appointments in the Government Services and services of such appointed persons are regularized after a period of 6 years. No provision of reservation for STs and SCs has been provided in these contract appointments. The Commission opined that if this is being done, it is unfair and in such case, provision of reservation for STs and SCs in contract appointments should also be made compulsory.

(Action: Government of Odisha/District Administration, Sundergarh)

5.9.2015

5.0 Meeting with Chief Secretary and other Senior officers of Govt. of Odisha:

The Commission held a meeting with Chief Secretary and other Senior officers of Government of Odisha.

(1) to review progress/action taken on issues emerged during earlier State visit of the Commission from 7.2. to 15.2.2013.

(2) to discuss issues emerged in present visit of ST girls' hostels in various districts and

(3) issues related to review meeting of Sundergarh District. A power point presentation was made before the Commission about various initiatives taken by the State Government for development of tribal community of the State. Thereafter, Chairperson, NCST summarized issues presented before the Commission by tribals during visit and Secretary, NCST initiated detailed discussion on issues on which State Government should focus for betterment of tribal community. Following points emerged for action in this regard:

- (i) With regard to progress/action taken on issues that emerged during earlier State visit of the NCST from 7.2. to 15.2.2013, it was informed by

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST and SC Development Department, Government of Odisha that NCST recommendations were forwarded to concerned departments of State Government for action and after receiving reply, compiled information shall be sent to the Commission shortly. (Within 2 months positively i.e. by 5.11.2015)

- (ii) Quality of education, provided to tribal students needs improvement. English is being taught in Tribal Girls Residential Schools and girls were able to read their English text books but could not understand meaning of words and sentences. More focus should be given on English, Maths and Science subjects to make tribal students employable.
- (iii) Officers posted in Districts should come forward and adopt schools located in tribal areas for improving quality of education. This has been done in Gujarat State and the scheme has been named as "Gunotsav". Officers must visit adopted schools themselves and check performance of students and teachers under this scheme. Intensive coaching is provided to weak students before promoting them to higher class. This has improved quality of education in Gujarat and similar steps can be taken by in Odisha.
- (iv) The Commission advised the State Government that atleast one Tribal Residential School in a Block should be made a model school and the talented tribal students from rural areas should be selected by competition for admission to such model school. Such schools should have teaching facility in English medium of instruction as well (for this would ensure better employability) since job-opportunities with English speaking knowledge are far in abundance. This can be an optional basis, which students may be allowed to opt in private sector).
- (v) There should be regular voluntary talent search examination in lower classes, say class 3, 5, 7, and 9. This may cover Mathematics & General Science papers. Students who secure more than 90% (or say 95%) can be recognized with issues of scholar certificates and above 75% be given distinction certificates. Such examination :
 - (i) Can be conducted under the aegis of Universities (incl. private ones, in assigned district forms) as is done in USA, and
 - (ii) Would be helpful in evaluating school performance also.

An incentive structure can be outlined for tribal students, who are identified based on these voluntary examinations, consisting of following (to illustrate)

- (i) Scholarship,
- (ii) Admission to preferred educational institution. (May be under RTE Act) with initial shifting to Block Model School.
- (iii) Free-explanatory exposure visits to places in State, India ; and
- (iv) Preference for admission to professional courses like B.Ed, STC etc amongst others. Better performing students should be given scholar certificates to promote competition among them.
- (vi) Inspection setup of schools prevailing in State should be strengthened for improving quality of education. Proper analysis of result in Tribal Educational Institutions should be made by senior officers to see and evaluate their performance in comparison to State average. School wise review of result will help in identification of schools on which more focus has to be given.
- (vii) The talented tribal students should be given admission in their preferred famous public schools of the State under provisions of RTE Act so that they can get an opportunity to get the best education.
- (viii) Many posts of teachers particularly in English, Maths and Science subjects are lying vacant in tribal area, which is adversely affecting education. State Government should take necessary steps to fill up vacant posts of teachers. As many teachers are not willing to work in schools located in tribal areas, a strategy should be made to prepare teachers of these subjects focusing on students of tribal community.
- (ix) Quality of food being provided to inmates of Tribal Girls' Residential Schools was found satisfactory. During visit to Tribal Girls Residential Schools, students also reported that they are being provided proper food in hostels.
- (x) A need has been felt to construct more toilets and bathrooms with running water facility in many institutions as number of toilets and bathrooms is less in comparison to number of inmates.
- (xi) In many girls hostel, there is no boundary wall. Steps should be taken to construct boundary walls in all Tribal Girls Residential Schools/hostels for security of inmates.
- (xii) Facility of dining tables with chairs should also be provided. In many schools and hostel rooms, ceiling fans do not exist and there is a shortage of water during power cuts. Solar lights and generators (for running water

pump) should be provided in these institutions. There was seepage/dampness noticed in hostels and class rooms of some institutions which needs repair and maintenance.

- (xiii) Though guidelines have been issued by the State Government for ensuring regular visit of Doctors and ANMs in residential schools, there is a need for monitoring of visits as pregnancies of minor girl borders could not be identified timely.
- (xiv) For safety and security of inmates of Tribal Girls' Residential Schools, police personnel of concerned Police Station should visit these institutions during routine patrolling so that inmates feel protected and confident in hostels and become vocal in case of any untoward incident.
- (xv) Sickle Cell Anemia and Thalassemia are main diseases prevailing in tribal areas of the State. There is a need for identification of persons suffering from these diseases and spreading awareness among tribals for its prevention. For identification of carriers of Sickle Cell Anemia and to prevent carriers from marrying each other, cards have been distributed to tribals in some States (like Chhattisgarh) which can be followed in Odisha also. Assistance of RMRCT, Jabalpur can also be taken in this regard.
- (xvi) Tribal representatives had informed in Sundergarh and Kandhmal Districts that they are facing problem in obtaining community certificates and it takes about a month to obtain the same from the competent authorities in the district. It was also informed that the community certificates issued are valid for a period of only 6 months and they have to approach the authorities again for getting new community certificates. The Commission took it very seriously and directed to remove such difficulties and issue permanent certificates to the Scheduled Tribes across the State.
- (xvii) The Commission also discussed about alleged violation of provisions of ORV Act in filling posts reserved for STs and SCs. There were complaints that reservation is being bypassed by making contract appointments in Government Services and services of such appointed persons are regularized after a period of 6 years. No provision of reservation for STs and SCs exists in contract appointments. The Commission opined that if this is being done, it is unfair and in such case, provision of reservation for STs and SCs in the contract appointments should also be made compulsory.
- (xviii) Offences of human trafficking are being reported from tribal belt of the State and there is a need to make Anti-human Trafficking Act and Placement Agencies Regulation Act in the State. Government of Delhi has issued an executive order for this purpose and Government of Chhattisgarh

has also taken steps to curb this offence. Jharkhand Government is also in process of passing an Act in this regard. This will help in reducing exploitation and harassment of tribal girls who are taken to Metropolitan cities to work as domestic maid.

- (xix) Many tribals of Kandhamal District have sent complaints to the Commission that despite being eligible, they have been deprived of allotment of Forest Right Patta. Claims received under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Right) Act should be reviewed thoroughly to ensure that no genuine claim is rejected. There are complaints from other Districts also that Forest Right Pattas have been given without demarcation of land. The State Government should see that land should be demarcated before issuing Forest Right Pattas.

(Action: Government of Odisha)

Rameshwar Oraon

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