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Government of India

**National Commission for Scheduled
Tribes**

**Visit report of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National
Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), New Delhi to the
Jangaon district of Telangana to review the implementation of
Constitutional safeguards, welfare and development schemes
for Scheduled Tribes on 02nd of August, 2024**

Visit report of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), New Delhi to the Jangaon district of Telangana to review the implementation of Constitutional safeguards, welfare and development schemes for Scheduled Tribes on 02nd of August, 2024

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is a constitutional body set up under Article 338A of the Constitution of India to investigate and monitor all matter relating to protection, welfare and socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes in the country. As per constitutional provisions, the Union and every State Govt. shall consult the Commission on all major policy of decisions affecting Scheduled Tribes. The Commission is required to present to the Hon'ble President of India reports upon working of those safeguards and all such reports are to be laid before each House of Parliament along with Memorandum explaining the Action Taken or propose to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for non- acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

In pursuance of the above constitutional mandate, Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and other Officials of the Commission took the meeting with the District Collector and other district officials of Jangaon district on 02.08.2024 to evaluate the working of constitutional safeguards available to the Scheduled Tribes in the Jangaon district and review implementation of various service safeguards and other developmental schemes/programmes for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes.

Meeting with the representatives of ST associations in the Jangaon district.

Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), convened a meeting with representatives of ST organisations and leaders at the Collectorate Office in Jangaon. The meeting addressed several significant issues affecting the tribal communities in the district.

One of the primary concerns raised was the problem with street lighting. The energy-efficient street lighting services responsible for the area have been unresponsive to complaints, leading to non-functional lights. This issue has particularly impacted the celebration of the Teej festival in August, as the lack of lighting prevents the community from celebrating the festival with full fervor.

Another issue discussed was the delay in the construction of Gram Panchayat Office buildings. Despite the elevation of many villages from thandas to Gram Panchayats over six years

ago, these office buildings remain incomplete. This delay has severely affected the functioning of the Gram Panchayats and impeded their administrative operations.



Figure 1:

The representatives also demanded the allocation of a mini-Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) for the tribal villages in Jangaon district. They emphasized the need for a permanent Tribal Welfare Officer to address the grievances of the tribal population effectively.

Additionally, concerns were raised about the inadequate facilities in tribal hostels for ST students. The hostels lack essential amenities such as kitchens, classrooms, clean drinking water, clean toilets, and nutritious diets. There is an urgent need for the concerned district and state authorities to enhance the infrastructure to meet basic facility standards.

The meeting also highlighted issues related to infrastructure, particularly the absence of Black Tarrred (BT) roads in many villages. This lack of proper road infrastructure leads to significant challenges, especially during the rainy season, compounded by the absence of an adequate drainage system.

During the meeting, a significant concern raised was the prevalent practice of issuing fake caste certificates in the state of Maharashtra. The commission was informed about the detrimental impact this fraudulent activity has on the genuine ST community members, affecting their access to reserved benefits in education, employment, and other welfare schemes. The Commission recommends compliance of the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court as stringent measures to curb this malpractice, including stricter verification processes and severe penalties for offenders.

The meeting underscored several pressing issues impacting the tribal communities in Jangaon district. These include inadequate street lighting, delays in administrative infrastructure, poor facilities in tribal hostels, and infrastructure deficiencies like unpaved roads and poor drainage. Immediate action is required to address these issues to improve the quality of life and governance for the tribal population.

Visit of Govt. Tribal Welfare Ashram High School for boys

Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, visited the school, which is located at Champak Hills, Jangaon district. There are 270 students (Class 3rd to 10th) studying there who are housed in 08 rooms with two additional rooms for dining and kitchen and also residing in the hostel. The total number of employees is 21 in the school and only four (04) permanent faculty for teaching and eight (08) contractual faculty for teaching. The total number of non-teaching faculty is Nine (09) in the school including four (04) are permanent and five (05) are contractual employees including one (01) ANM. The Commission observed that: -

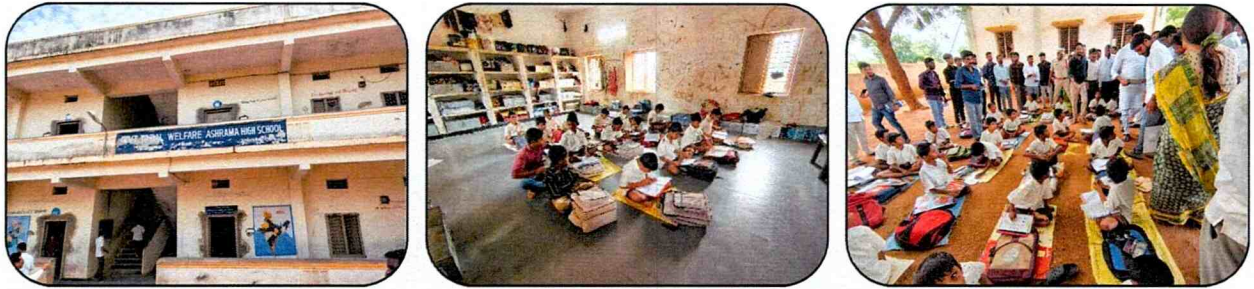


Figure 2: Govt. Tribal Welfare Ashram High School

● Observations:

1. Classroom Conditions:

- Students are taught in the same rooms where they sleep.
- Many students sit on the floor, with some sitting outside under trees due to insufficient seating arrangements.

2. Lack of Infrastructure:

- No chairs or tables are provided for the students.
- The diet provided is very frugal, leading to noticeable weakness among many students.
- There is a shortage of toilets and bathrooms.
- No facility for clean drinking water and inadequate water supply for other uses.
- There is no proper playground for physical activities.

3. Educational Resources:

- Ten PCs are available, but none are operational, and there is no faculty to teach computer skills.
- The school lacks a computer lab, science lab, and sports equipment.
- There is no library available for students.

Meeting with District Collector, Additional SP and other Officials of the District Collectorate, Jangaon District along with Tribal Leaders/Tribal association Leaders /Petitioners

On the afternoon of 2nd August 2024, Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), conducted a review meeting in Jangaon District. The meeting was attended by the District Collector, District Police Officers, and other officials from the Collectorate. The primary focus was to address the issues raised by tribal leaders and association representatives concerning the constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the region.

Key Issues Highlighted:

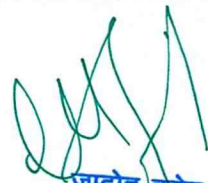
- 1. Job Security for Contractual Teachers:** Tribal welfare Ashram Schools employ around 2000 teachers on a contractual basis since 2003. These teachers face significant challenges including lack of job security, irregular salary payments, absence of minimum basic pay and time scale, no maternity leave, no health card, and insufficient pay. These conditions are contributing to an unstable work environment and dissatisfaction among the staff.
- 2. Delayed Payments of Scholarships/Stipends:** There are ongoing issues with delays in the payment of scholarships and stipends to tribal students. This delay impacts the educational progress and financial stability of students from tribal communities.
- 3. Atrocities and Harassment:** Reports of atrocities and harassment towards tribal individuals were discussed. It was noted that in some cases, police actions such as filing Rowdy Sheets and FIRs against tribals have been influenced by political affiliations, leading to further victimisation.
- 4. Land Allotment for Tribal Ashram School:** There is a pressing need for adequate land allotment for the tribal Ashram School in Jangaon. It is essential that a minimum of five acres be allocated to accommodate all students, ensuring adequate facilities and a conducive learning environment.
- 5. Temple Land Diversion:** Temple land in Lakavath Thanda Devuruppall Mandal, Jangaon District, which has been diverted for sand/granite quarry operations, may be reverted to the temple. This diversion is adversely affecting the tribal population's access to their place of worship, and corrective measures are necessary to restore the land.

6. **Land Alienation Cases:** Instances of land grabbing based on forged documents were reported, resulting in loss of land for many tribals. These cases highlight the need for urgent intervention to address land alienation and protect tribal land rights.
7. **Electrical Hazards:** The presence of live electrical wires hanging over farming and residential areas poses a severe risk of electrocution to tribal residents. Immediate action is required to rectify this dangerous situation and ensure the safety of the community.



The review meeting highlighted several issues affecting the Scheduled Tribes in Jangaon District. Immediate attention and intervention are required to address these concerns, including improving job security for teachers, ensuring timely payments of scholarships, addressing allegations of police misconduct, securing adequate land for educational institutions, restoring diverted temple land, combating land alienation, and resolving electrical safety hazards.

The NCST suggests the Jangaon district administration take prompt and effective action on the issues highlighted in this report. Ensuring that the constitutional safeguards for STs are upheld requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders. The NCST will continue to monitor the situation and provide support to the district administration in addressing these challenges.


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