No. 560/51/C/15/2012-ES.2
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(BHARAT SARKAR)
Prime Minister's Office
(Pradhan Mantri Karyalaya)
New Delhi

Dated : 14th August, 2013

Notification

Sub: Constitution of a High Level Committee to prepare a report on the socio-economic, health and educational status of the tribal communities of India.

In keeping with the special status accorded to Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Constitution of India, the Union Government has affirmed its commitment to improving their socio-economic status and has taken initiatives that encompass policy, programmatic and legislative interventions.

2. The Government of India, in furtherance of its commitment and with a view to creating conditions that are conducive for the development of tribal communities, has decided to constitute a High Level Committee (HLC) to prepare a position paper on the present socio-economic, health and educational status of STs and suggest a way forward. The HLC shall suggest policy initiatives as well as effective outcome-oriented measures to improve development indicators and strengthen public service delivery to STs and other tribal populations.

3. The HLC has the following composition:
   (1) Prof. Virginius Xaxa Chairperson
   (2) Dr. Usha Ramanathan Member
   (3) Dr. Joseph Bara Member
   (4) Dr. K.K. Misra Member
   (5) Dr. Abhay Bang Member
   (6) Ms. Sunila Basant Member
   (7) Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs Member Secretary

4. The Terms of Reference of the above High Level Committee (HLC) are as follows:
   (1) The HLC will prepare a report on the overall socio-economic, health and educational status of the tribal communities of India. The HLC will finalise and present its report within nine months from the date of this notification.
   (2) More specifically, the HLC will:
(a) Obtain relevant information from departments/agencies of the Central and State Governments and also conduct an intensive survey of literature to identify published data, articles and research on relative social, economic, health and educational status of Scheduled Tribes in India at the State, regional and district levels, to address, *inter alia*, the following questions:

(i) In which States, Regions, Districts and Blocks do tribal communities of India mostly live? What changes have been visible in the wake of involuntary displacement and enforced migration?

(ii) What is the geographical pattern of their economic activity, i.e. what do they mostly do for a living in various States, Regions and Districts? In view of rapid urbanization of the country and consequent shrinking of their original habitats, what are the newer avenues of employment and livelihood available to them?

(iii) What is their asset base and income levels relative to other groups across various States and Regions? Have there been changes in the patterns of ownership and productivity of immovable assets of STs? What role do public policy and the legal framework play in facilitating/inhibiting such changes?

(iv) What is the level of their socio-economic development in terms of relevant indicators such as literacy rate, dropout rate, MMR, IMR etc.? How does this compare with other communities in various States and the causes of disparity, if any?

(v) What is their relative share in public and private sector employment? Does it vary across States and what is the pattern of such variation? Is the share in employment in proportion to their population in various States? If not, what are the reasons for their under-representation? What are the steps taken by States/UTs for capacity building and improving employability of Scheduled Tribes? Does this take into account their cultural diversity?

(vi) Do the tribal communities have adequate access to education and health services, municipal infrastructure, bank credit, and other services provided by Government/public sector entities? How does this compare to access enjoyed by other communities in various States? What is the level of social infrastructure (schools, health centers, ICDS centers etc.) located in areas of tribal concentration
in comparison to the general level of such infrastructure in various States? What are the causes for disparity, if any?

(vii) Are there adequate systems and structures for implementation of protective legislations such as Prevention of Atrocities Act, Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, Forest Rights Act and Food Security Ordinance, etc.? What steps are needed for more effective implementation of these legislations? Are the Constitutional safeguards guaranteed under Articles 244 and 371 of the Constitution and in Schedules V and VI of the Constitution being effectively implemented?

(b) Consolidate, collate and analyze the above information/literature to identify areas of intervention by Government to address relevant issues relating to the socio-economic, health and educational status of the tribal communities.

5. The above HLC will be provided all possible assistance by all Ministries/Departments and other bodies under the Government to ensure timely collection of data and information to facilitate their task. All pertinent reports available with Government on tribal and related issues including the reports of Bhuria Committee, Mungekar Committee and of the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes will be made available to HLC. All existing data (including RGI and NSSO data) and data collected by above mentioned Committees will also be made available to HLC.

6. Further, to facilitate the HLC in its work

(i) The Chairperson of the HLC may set up sub-groups, if necessary for undertaking in-depth studies, and

(ii) The HLC may co-opt or invite such person(s), non-officials/experts/representatives of other agencies, as it deems appropriate, to participate in any of its meeting as special invitee(s).

7. The HLC will be located under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and will be covered within the definition and explanation of High Level Committees as given in Cabinet Secretariat O.M. No.1/16/1/2000-Cab, dated 15.4.2002.

8. The Chairperson of the HLC shall work in an honorary capacity, but will continue to draw the salary, allowances and other perquisites, etc. as admissible to him in his capacity as the Member of the National Advisory Council. The Chairperson shall, while on tour within India, be entitled to travelling and other allowances and facilities as admissible to a Minister of State in the Government
of India. The Members of the Committee working in the Government will draw their travelling and other allowances, etc. as per their entitlement from the organization they are working. Other members who are not working in the Government, will be entitled to travelling and other allowances and facilities as admissible to a Secretary to the Government of India.

9. The HLC will be provided required office space, equipment and secretarial/other staff by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. An officer not below the rank of Director to Government of India will be attached to the HLC during its tenure.

10. On the recommendation of the HLC, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs may appoint Consultants for specific periods, in accordance with the prescribed guidelines, to carry out specific technical tasks such as data collection, collation and analysis.

11. Expenditure relating to the conveyance, travelling facilities and other allowances made available to the Chairperson and Members of the HLC for attending the meetings of the HLC; the functioning of its Secretariat; fees payable to Consultants, etc. will be borne by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(Pulok Chatterji)
Principal Secretary to PM

Copy to : All Members of the High Level Committee (as per list annexed)

(Anu Garg)
Joint Secretary to PM

Copy for necessary action to: Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Copy for information to :
1. Cabinet Secretary
2. Home Secretary
3. Secretary, Planning Commission
4. Secretary, Department of Expenditure
5. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
6. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
7. Secretary, Department of Higher Education
8. Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy
9. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
10. Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development
11. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development
12. Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
13. Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
14. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

(Anu Garg)
Joint Secretary to PM