

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT
TO
SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 / Phalgun 24, 1943 (Saka)

**DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF
TRIBAL AFFAIRS - *Contd.***

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I would like to say certain things about the grants allocated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2022-23. The Ministry administers various Centrally-sponsored schemes. But, the allocations made are not being properly utilized by Government. The Budget estimates were reduced in 2020-21 and 2021-22 at the revised stage. Even the revised estimates could not be spent during the period. Recent Budget has made an outlay of Rs. 8,451 crores for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2022-23 with an increase of 12.2 per cent. We appreciate this kind of measure. Hon. Prime Minister is very keen to see the development of tribal people. Yesterday, we discussed the development in the North-Eastern Region. In Tamil Nadu, we have two reserved Assembly constituency having high population of tribals. Our party and state leaders had written so many letters to the Central Government to include certain communities in the tribal category, like Badagas and Valmiki community who are presently under OBC category. I request the hon. Minister to kindly

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consider these things. Secondly, tribal people live in forests and depend on hunting for their livelihood. Even the fishermen community should be included in the category of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: 75 years have passed since independence, but even today tribal people do not have basic facilities. The rights which they had in forest wealth are being snatched away. There are about 117,000 villages with ST population, but today there are no schools, no roads, no electricity, no telephone facility in many places. All the basic facilities which should be there for the development of human beings are not there even today. Today there is shortage of employment in the country. IF a person of ST, like a person from Manjhi community in Madhya Pradesh, he moves to Delhi or goes to some other state, there he is treated as a person from general category. They are also denied reservation. The primary schools have a dual education policy. General education policy should be implemented by abolishing this dual education policy. There is no enumeration of all the nomadic tribal castes in the country today. We want caste census to be done. They should be given basic facilities and participation should be given on the basis of their numbers. Today, there is a doubt among the people of SC, ST that EVMs have software like mobile. Unless the elections are held by ballot paper, the mandate of the people will not come. There is no quota for reservation. Privatization is happening all over the country. This will end their reservation in jobs. We will demand from all political parties that they should boycott EVMs, conduct proper elections through ballot papers. Budget should be given for basic facilities of tribals who are forest dwellers.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: When the Constituent Assembly debate took place, the subjects which were raised by Jaipal Singh Munda Sahab, we are still miles away from them. First of all, I will talk about Eklavya Model School. I would say that this name should be reconsidered, some more thought should be given to it, because through Eklavya Model School, we have decided this without system, without quality. If you look into higher education, you will

know how difficult it is for the people of the deprived and Bahujan society to reach the top. There are breakers everywhere, and those breakers have ensured that the representation is either zero or very paltry. You see the problem of Naxalism in some areas, it is not a law and order problem, it is also a problem of social order. You have to deal with this extremist ideology through inclusive development and not through intrusion. Almost half of the tribal population is illiterate and adolescents have studied up to class 12th only. Shouldn't this be a matter of collective concern? When we come to health, there is the problem of malnutrition. The second problem is indiscriminate urbanization and the third problem is that of non-communicable diseases. We all know about what happened to a tribal woman in Madhya Pradesh recently. I would like to say that the Honorable Minister, ask for the details of Pre-Matric Scholarship yourself. You will be worried. Such a change has been made in the National Foreign Scholarship that you will be surprised to hear! If Babasaheb Ambedkar had been there today, what would he have said? What would happen to his study of Colombia? How will you become 'Vishv Guru'? The report of the commission has not been made public since 2018 till date, is it transparency, nothing will happen just by speaking. Imbibe the thoughts of Manyavar Kanshi Ram, Jaipal Singh Munda.

SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: It has been 75 years. One should think about the hopes and ideas our forefathers had for these societies. These castes account for 11 percent population. What have we done for them? How many of them became doctors, how many engineers, how many professors, how many teachers, how many made IAS and IPS. We should think on this. Why are Naxalites flourishing in their settlements? Right now there are schemes in the name of tribals, in the name of tribes but who has the right, we should think about it. The number of these castes is in majority in 12 states. Based on the number of these 12 states, will the government make any effort to take them forward?

DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI: I come from tribal dominated area of Madhya Pradesh. Tribal society is now moving ahead on the path of continuous progress. For the first time after independence, the Bharatiya Janata Party government is paying attention to education, medicine, employment and every field. On November 15, 2021 on the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, this day has been declared as National Tribal Pride Day. Tribal greats had never been able to find a proper place on the pages of history since independence. Now the well-equipped hi-tech railway station of the country has been named after Rani Kamalapati in Bhopal. There has been a significant increase of 12.32 per cent in the budget outlay of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2022-23. We are celebrating Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Amrit Kaal will now prove to be a golden period for the tribal society. Now the tribal society is moving towards living with dignity and self-respect. Work is also being done in the direction of writing the history of tribal greats. The government is constantly working to preserve the culture and tradition of the tribal people. A separate Tribal Commission has been constituted for the tribal society. The government has materialised the work related to water, forest and land. Today, thousands of people have been given forest rights lease. Continuous efforts are also being made towards setting up Van Dhan Kendras, through which tribal society will start getting fair price for forest produce. The tribal society of the forest is moving towards becoming self-reliant. The government has started 'Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana'. There are hundreds of such districts in the country, which are being declared as aspirational districts and work is being done towards their development. Tribals used to cultivate for fifteen-fifteen, sixteen-sixteen, twenty-twenty years, but far from the lease of forest rights, they were not even allowed to stand there properly. The work of providing water by digging wells is also being done, electricity is also being provided to them. After the Pradhan Mantri Aawas, 'Jal Jeevan Mission' and Eklavya Schools have also been gifted. Today, work is being done to establish hundreds of Eklavya

Model Residential Schools within Madhya Pradesh and within the country. Earlier tribal students could not go abroad. Today, a network of roads has been laid in the country under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'. 'Pradhan Mantri Tribal Development Mission' has also been started and development of tribal brothers and sisters are being done under it. All the development works are going on continuously, but our area is far away from the gifts of Railways and medical colleges. I would like to urge the government that if these facilities are also available, then the tribal society will get a big benefit.

SHRIMATI PHULO DEVI NETAM: I think the government is not sensitive towards the tribals, towards the tribal community. 74.1 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes are extremely poor. In the year 2022-23, only 9.46 per cent has been allocated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs out of the total allocated budget for Scheduled Tribes. It is evident from this that even 10 per cent of the budget allocated for the tribals has not been directly allocated for the schemes made for them. The amount for Scheduled Tribe Development Plan is also diverted in all the other schemes. When the amount has been allocated for the tribals then why is it being distributed among all. This amount should be spent only on the schemes targeted for the development of tribal communities. The revised budget of this Ministry has been cut in the year 2021-22. The reduction in the budget was done at a time when the whole country was bearing the brunt of Corona. The worst hit by impact of Corona were the poor tribals. When the Ministry of Tribal Affairs talks about increasing the budget, there has been a reduction in the amount allocated for many schemes have been cut. There has been a substantial reduction in the grant-in-aid amount of the state governments. Our tribal states will suffer the most due to the reduction in the allocation of this scheme. There is a big difference between the 'Human Development Index' of tribal communities and other communities. The budget for tribal communities is not allocated on the basis of their population. Today I want to again raise some demands for the tribal areas. First, the budget to be

allocated for the tribal community, which accounts for 8.6 percent of the country's population, should be allocated in proportion to their share in the population. Second, the budget allocated for Scheduled Tribes should be spent on targeted schemes only. Thirdly, for the implementation of the schemes meant for the Scheduled Tribes, the entire amount of the budget allocated, should be spent on the same determined work. In Chhattisgarh, 'Gauthan Yojana' is being run under 'Godhan Nyay Yojana', due to which farmers are becoming self-reliant. The central government should implement this scheme across the country so that the income of the farmers can increase. We must all be sensitive towards the tribal area like Bastar of Chhattisgarh. The way you have made a reduction in the budget allocated for them, is not right. There should not be any further cut in this Budget and 100 percent Budget should be spent for the Tribals. Pucca houses should be built for them, drinking water and electricity should be provided to them adequately. Tribals should get full rights.

SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY: I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for considering the demand of the Bhogta community of Jharkhand. Our Government is continuously working in relation to health facilities for the Tribal community of the whole country. Eklavya schools are being built continuously in the tribal areas of the whole country to promote education under the guidance of the Minister. Today, the daughters and youth of our tribal community go to study within the country and abroad. They acquire degrees of doctors and engineers there and come back here and are giving their services to this country. This is a great thing. Today, the Government is continuously making schemes for every section of the people and our Government is taking the benefits of those schemes to the last person of the society. On behalf of the entire Tribal society, I congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister for taking care of us and working to connect it with the mainstream. Today, the rights from plucking tendu leaves to selling them have been given to the Van Samities. This is a great thing. Only they can understand it, because they pluck them. Many families did not

have food grains to eat, but during the time of Covid, the work of providing free food grains to 80 crore families, in which 90 percent of the families belonged to our Tribal community, was done under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister. The work of providing food grains to every state is being done continuously under the guidance of our Prime Minister. Honorable Prime Minister worked tirelessly while caring for all of us, each and every family. There were many such families which did not have food to eat, but at the time of vaccination, 80 crore families out of which 90 percent people belonged to the tribal community, were given free foodgrains under the guidance of the hon'ble Prime Minister. . Today, whether it is in the field of education, health or in the area of drinking water, this government is continuously doing development work in all spheres. He is committed to work with everyone's cooperation for everyone's progress and taking along everyone in this effort. I would like to thank a lot that the roads were constructed under Prime Minister Sadak Vikas Yojna upto the forests and the mountains due to which the people of our tribal society got employment and opportunity to connect with the mainstream. Today our tribal brothers and sisters, whether it is the field of employment, business, other jobs or the field of politics, they have got a chance to make strides in every field. Today, this government has done the work of providing health facilities in the tribal area and the medical college is also the gift of the honorable Prime Minister.

Discussion not concluded.

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLIMENT OF SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE
DATED 14th March, 2022
AND SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE DATED 15th March, 2022**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
226	2	Read 'were there' for 'there were'
226	16	Add 'see' after 'you'
245	5	Read 'Central Government' for 'central government'