

No.15025/15/2017-TRI
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(TRI Division)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 05.04.2018

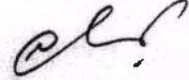
To,
(As per list attached)

Subject: Minutes of the review meeting of the Centres of Excellence held on 03.07.2017 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (TA), Ministry of Tribal Affairs-reg.

Sir/Madam

I am directed to refer to the captioned subject and to forward herewith a copy of minutes of the meeting of the Centres of Excellence held on 03.07.2017 in Conference Room of Ministry of Tribal Affairs for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,



(Nadeem Ahmad)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel: 23073708
Email: nadeem.ahmad@nic.in

Encls: As above

To

All Members of the Committee

Copy to:

- (i) Professor & Head, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Rajender Nagar, Hyderabad- 500030.
- (ii) President, BAIF Development Research Foundation, Dr. Manibhai Desai Nagar, National Highway No. 4, Warje, Pune- 411058.
- (iii) Managing Trustee, Bhasha Research & Publication Centre, 62, Shreenathdham Society, Near Urni Crossing, Behind Dinesh Mills, Vadodara.
- (iv) Prof. Manoranjan Pradhan, Prof. 7 Head, Department of Odia, Visva- Bharati, Shantiniketan- 731235, West Bengal.
- (v) Dr. Kushal Kumar Sharma, Professor, School of Social Sciences, Centre for Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110067.
- (vi) Prof. Seemita Mohanty, Cooridinator, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela- 769008, Odisha.

Copy also to:-

Internal circulation:

1. PS to Hon'ble MTA
2. PSs to Hon'ble MOS(TA)
3. PPS to Secretary (TA)
4. PS to JS (A)
5. PS to JS (VKT)
6. PS to JS&FA
7. PS to EA

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs
R&M Division**

Record note of discussion of the meeting held on July 3, 2017 to review the projects carried out with the financial assistance provided by MoTA under the sub-component "Financial Support to Centres of Excellence (CoEs)" of the Scheme "Research Information, Mass Media and Tribal Festivals"

Secretary (TA) reviewed the projects carried out by the Centres of Excellence (CoEs) with the funding from Ministry under the sub-component "Financial Support to Centres of Excellence (CoEs)" of the Scheme "Research Information, Mass Media and Tribal Festivals" on July 3, 2017. JS(A), JS(FRA&NGO), DDG, EA(LS), DIR(Stat) and DIR(PA and R&M) were present during the presentation.

2. A presentation was made by Bhasha Research and Publication Centre, Vadodara on the work done by them with the help of funding from MoTA. A copy of the presentation is placed below at F/A'. It was observed that an amount of Rs. 81.85 lakhs has been received to Bhasha during the years 2012-13 to 2015-16. No releases were made during 2016-17 and 2017-18 (upto June 2017). Bhasha have utilised the entire amount for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and have also submitted UCs for the same. Bhasha also submitted copies of reports brought out by them with the financial assistance of MoTA. It was also observed that Bhasha is doing very good work. Secretary (TA) stated that the work accomplished by Bhasha should be got validated through Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs). Bhasha was asked to provide hard and soft copies of all reports brought out with the financial assistance from MoTA so far be sent to be uploaded in the website of the MoTA. All reports brought out by Bhasha with the funding from MoTA should contain an acknowledgement that MoTA had funded the same. Future areas for support should be documentation of dying tribal dialects and languages, music and cuisine practices, and compilation of customary tribal laws.

3. BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune made a presentation on the activities of the organisation. A copy of the presentation is placed below at F/B'. It was observed that an amount of Rs. 35.99 lakhs had been released to BAIF during the year 2012-13 to 2014-15. No releases were made during 2015-16 to 2017-18 (upto June, 2017). BAIF have utilised the amount for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and

have also submitted the UCs. BAIF was asked to share the various reports brought out by them with the assistance from MoTA. It was observed that BAIF is also doing good work. However, Ministry need to work out clear deliverables with BAIF, whenever future projects are considered. BAIF may undertake activities to introduce locale specific cross breeding in cows, sheep and goats.

4. National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad made a presentation. However, since the presentation did not contain any projects which were funded by MoTA, NIRD was asked to send detailed note on the progress and work accomplished of the projects funded by MoTA within a week. Though it was desirable that NIRD may continue to be associated with Research and evaluation studies as and when needed, further funding under the budget head of Centre of Excellence may not be done.

5. National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela made a presentation on the work done so far. A copy of the presentation is placed below at F/C'. It was noted that an amount of Rs.131.66 lakhs has been sanction to NIT, Rourkela in 2016-17 and an amount of Rs.54.94 lakhs has been released as 1st instalment. NIT, Rourkela has not submitted UCs/ Physical Progress Report. NIT, Rourkela informed that the 1st Instalment was released only on 28.2.2017 and as such the entire amount could not be released before March 31, 2017. It was informed that a National Conference on Health, Public Policy and Human Development was organised on March 30-31, 2017 and a Tribal Conclave on April 22-23, 2017. It was observed that NIT, Rourkela deliverables and quality is doubtful. It was therefore felt that the Ministry should work out revised project deliverables with them for already sanctioned project, so that our outgo is minimised. NIT was asked to submit revised project wise reduced budget and timelines.

6. It was noted that Viswa Bharati University, Santiniketan has been sanctioned an amount of Rs.200.93 lakhs and an amount of Rs.100.10 lakhs released during 2014-15 as 1st instalment. UC / PPR for the amount has not been received. It was observed that no substantive work has been done so far and the grants given to Viswa Bharati University has been spent only on manpower and renovation of building, with zero output. It was decided to close the project, and ask them to return whatever balance amount they have with them, along with interest earned.

7. School of Social Sciences, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU was declared as a CoE in 2016-17 and an amount of Rs.137.40 lakhs was sanctioned out of which Rs.29.28 lakhs was released as 1st instalment. JNU was to prepare a Database on Thematic Atlas of Tribal Administrative Areas. It transpired during the presentation that there has been no progress in the project so far and the amount released to them has not been spent. It was felt that National Remote Sensing work with the Ministry was proceeding quite well. There seems to be no justification for a small team in JNU preparing village or block wise developmental plans for 177 tribal districts. It was therefore decided to cancel the project and ask them to return full amount, along with interest earned.

8. The following decision were taken at the end of the meeting:

- i) In future, Ministry should choose only those organisations as Centre of Excellence who already have a good track record of working or research in Tribal areas. Ministry should also recognise TRI Odisha as Centre of Excellence as they are doing pioneering work on Tribal Primers, documentation of Tribal lifestyles practices, and in many other related areas.
- ii) Further, Ministry should only sponsor projects with clear deliverables, rather than funding buildings, equipment and manpower. Any organisation being recognised as Centre of Excellence is supposed to already have good buildings, equipment and manpower. The funding only has to act as incremental support for fresh work, or to expand the existing work being done by them.
- iii) The Committee for recognising organisations as Centre of Excellence and approving their projects should be headed by Secretary rather than by a Joint Secretary rank officer. In future, all projects will be considered only by the Committee headed by Secretary. R&M Division was accordingly advised to move the file for revising the composition of the Committee.