OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of the Meeting of the Coordination Committee to monitor, planning and progress of the schemes/programmes being implemented for overall development of Scheduled Tribes.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of minutes of the Coordination Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Secretary (TA) on 30.06.2015 in the Conference Room, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

(P.L. Verma)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Tele: 011- 2618 2823

To,
1) Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
2) Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, AYUSH Bhawan, INA Colony New Delhi- 110023
3) Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
4) Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
5) Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
6) Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi
7) Secretary, Department of Sports, Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
8) Advisor (SJ&E), NITI Aayog, NITI Aayog Bhawan, New Delhi

Copy to:
1) PS to Secretary (TA)/ JS (A)/ JS (MKP)/ DDG/EA
2) All Divisional Heads
Minutes of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination for effective implementation of Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana- monitor, planning and progress of the schemes/programmes being implemented for overall development of Scheduled Tribes.

A meeting on Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee was held on 30th June, 2015 to monitor, planning and progress of the schemes/programmes being implemented for overall development of Scheduled Tribes. The meeting was chaired by Secretary (TA).

2. List of participants is annexed (Annex-I).

3. At the outset, Secretary (TA) welcomed the members and representatives and; said that this meeting provides the right platform for coordination among the various Ministries/ Departments under Tribal Sub Plan and the recently launched Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana.

3.1 Joint Secretary (TA) provides an overview of TSP and stated that utilization and achievement under TSP component of Central Ministries/ Departments and with line Ministries/ Departments in the States has remained a challenge for Government over the years. Lack of proper institutional mechanism for ensuring convergence of these financial resources resulted in under-achievement. For ensuring effective utilization of available financial resources under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), the Government started implementing a Central Sector Scheme ‘Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY)’ based on the Gujarat Model. Through VKY, the Ministry stresses on convergence of resources by using funds under various schemes / programmes across Ministries/Departments as a unified kit. Hon’ble Prime Minister observation with regards to implementation of TSP and VKY was highlighted that calls for planned, focus and intensive mechanism of coordination of which the output and outcome will be reviewed at the Cabinet Secretary level and at the PMO level.

4. Department of Health & Family Welfare

Director, DoH&FW: provides an overview of the activities under the DoHFW. The health gaps in tribal areas are far more excess than across the country. To address the shortage of manpower in primary health centers across the country, Department of Health & Family Welfare deployed AYUSH Doctors at the PHC level areas from Ministry of AYUSH. Provision of extra marks to the doctors who served in the tribal areas in Post Graduate examination, extra emoluments and financial support to doctors posted at PHCs in tribal and LWE affected areas. Training of home base delivery to health workers and ambulance facility for pregnant women and infants which is a 24*7 GPS base facility.
JS(MoTA) suggest the need for plan of action on reaching the un reached, training of local tribals population for become ASHAs/ANMs, posting of skill health personal in PHCs/CHCs, immunization of children and more institutional delivery. Retaining of the health card issued to sickle cell trait and sickle cell anaemia children may require the facility of recently launched e-health (MoHFW) in tracking of the screened person.

5. **Ministry of AYUSH:**

*Advisor* stated that documentation on medicinal plants has been started and extensive work undertaken by Ayush research councils in Odisha and Andaman & Nicobar Island. Aamchi practitioners in Ladakh, are provided funds for their health practices. **AYUSH Gram** has been launched recently - a concept wherein one village per block will be selected for Ayush interventions of health care by setting up facilities including hospitals. Health check up will be done by Ayush doctors based on Ayush systems. The communities will be provided basic knowledge for promotion of health and prevention of diseases and educated about healthy practices and advantages of traditional food items used locally and their medicinal properties.

Secretary (TA) states that validation with regard to medicinal plants/tribal medicines needs a urgent action.

6. **Ministry of WCD:**

*Joint Secretary (WCD)* gives an account of recent initiatives including the National Nutrition Mission, that aims to cover all children and world bank assisted project of tracking of mother and child wherein MoHFW and ICDS will integrate the tracking and alert of beneficiaries through sophisticated software. The Ministry supports the synergies of all ministries to tackle the rampant issue of malnutrition across the country. He also suggested that MoTA may bifurcate health data of STs of North East States and other parts of the country separately for focused intervention and target beneficiaries.

*Secretary (TA)* has stated that the issue of tribal health has difficult complexity and the health system today seems be more of one size fits all strategy. Tribal population resides in scattered hamlets and incidence of malnutrition and non-communicable diseases is far high amongst them. ICDS scheme implemented for the last 40 years seems to have lesser impact on tribal population as shown by available data. Low institutional delivery or shortage of skilled birth attendant is another pressing issue. Health intervention for tribals needs to be customized and the separate ST health data of the North East States and other States will be worked upon.
JS (A) stated that about 50,000 villages are not having mobile phone facilities and how to deliver health service to these populations without tele-connectivity needs immediate attention.

7. **Department of Sports:**

Sports complex programme and special areas games schemes are expected to cater to the sports talents of ST youth. RGKY aims to create sports facility for all blocks across the country that include both indoor and outdoor component amounting to about Rs. 1.6 crore for each block.

Secretary (TA) desired to know that how many districts/blocks (having high ST population) are covered under the sports complex programme and expenditure under TSP component. As per latest data, there are 168 districts having 25 per cent or more of the tribal population in the district. DoS may initiate a proper planning of expenditure under their TSP with a special focus to LWE Districts and sports infrastructure in tribal schools may be on the priority list too.

8. **Food & Public Distribution**

Food grains under PDS are supplied to States through Food Corporation of India for further distribution. The department does not have a separate plan for Tribal States or for the tribal people instead it is the responsibility of the respective State to decide the beneficiaries. National Food Security Act aims to provide food grains of standard nutritive value. In order to ensure this, NFSA requires convergence with ICDS (MoWCD) and Mid-Day Mealscheme of the D/o School Education & Literacy.

Secretary (TA) enquired if relaxed norms are made for PDS location of which the representative told that relaxation in PDS location are currently in operation for 13 States. Also, the procurement of food grains by the tribal welfare run schools/hostels such as EMRS and Ashram Schools are to be of standard nutritional content.

9. **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

Joint Secretary states that funds are provided to panchayat for construction of buildings, PanchayatBhawans etc. The ideal condition that MoPR suggest is that concerned Ministries may consider implementing their schemes through Gram Panchayats (GP). The ideal situation is to make GP, the focal point of development and implementation; disclosure and local development committee be made a part of GP. Secondly, MoPR would like to work in partnerships with other ministries for development of the Gram Panchayats. The problem with regard to tribal Panchayat/local bodies are lack of duly elected/women representative (North Eastern States) and uninformed and capacity building of representatives (Central India). The implementation of PESA has been a bit of disappointment in NE States. However, for the Central Indian States, revision of National Capacity Building Framework (NCBF) for Local Government made some special provisions/mention for tribal villages/areas.
MoTA suggested that GP may be the point for dissemination and awareness about the availability of health infrastructure and facilities in tribal areas; and renewed thrust on deepening of democracy in tribal areas especially in the NE states and Schedule VI areas too. With regard to Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC), it can work as a group of Panchayats to be consistent with FRA provision and not as parallel body to the ones provided under FRA.

10. **Water Resources**

Sr. Joint Comm, states that minor irrigation facilities are provided to beneficiaries including in tribal areas through State Irrigation Departments. He highlighted that tribal people are dependent on the rain water harvesting for their farming and household needs.

Secretary (TA) suggested the need for gaps in unmet demand for effective intervention and stake of tribal population in the National Water Policy.

11. **Actionable/Desirable Points:**

11.1 Plan of action on reaching the unreached, coordination between ASHAs and ANMs, posting of skill health personal in PHCs/ CHCs, immunization of children and more institutional delivery. Facilitatetracking of health records of tribals and ST screened person of Sickle Cell Anaemia through e-health (M/oHFW).

(Action: D/oHFW/MoWCD)

11.2 Validation of medicinal plants /tribal medicines.  

(Action: M/oAYUSH)

11.3 Integrated Plan of action for tackling malnutrition amongst tribal children and tribal women in collaboration with M/o H&FW, M/o AYUSH, M/o DW&S.

(Action: M/oWCD)

11.4 Bifurcated data on ST health parameters of the North East States and Central Indian States.

(Stat.Division, M/oTA)

11.5 D/o Sports to provide data on districts/blocks (having high ST population) under the sports complex programme. List of 168 districts having 25 per cent or more of the tribal population in the district be provided to D/o Sports.

D/o Sports to work out plan of action and expenditure under TSP with Education Division of M/oTA.

(Action: D/oS/Stat.Div, EducationDiv, M/oTA)

11.6 D/oF&PD to provide list of 13 States with relaxed norms for PDS location and also to give high visibility for minor millets and local coarse grains in the PDS outlet
rather than for polished Rice and Wheat and amount of traditional food like minor millets, local coarse grains provided and supplied in PDS channel in tribal areas. Also, the procurement of food grains by the tribal welfare run schools/ hostels such as EMRS and Ashram Schools are to be of standard nutritional content.

(Action: D/oF&PD/Stat. Div, SG Div, Education Div, M/oTA)

11.7 Gram Panchayat will disseminate and spread awareness about the availability of health infrastructure and facilities in tribal areas; deepening of democracy in tribal areas especially in the NE states and Schedule VI areas. M/oTA to give information on schemes, programmes, policies and monitoring, etc, for dissemination from the platform of Gram Panchayat.

(Action: M/oPR/ C&LM-II, M/oTA)

11.8 Information and data on unmet demand for irrigation in tribal areas/ households, irrigation potential in tribal dominated areas. M/oWR to draw up plan of action for providing irrigation facilities in tribal areas. (Action: Stat. Div, M/oTA/ M/oWR)

11.9 Concerned Ministries/Departments to converge and synergize as highlighted above. Plan of action for activity under TSP component be drawn out by respective Min/Deptt. and intimate to this Ministry within a fortnight. Achievements under each TSP components of Min/Dept for the last 5 years be provided at the earliest. Concerned division of M/oTA will coordinate with related Min/Deptt with regard to information sharing and progress report.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Meeting of the Coordination committee to monitor, planning and progress of the schemes/programmes being implemented for overall development of Scheduled Tribes held on 30th June, 2015

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Annex-1