

# Year End Review 2017 - Ministry of Tribal Affairs

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Following are the highlights of the activities of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the year 2017.

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs continued its endeavors for socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes (STs) through especially tailored educational, infrastructure and livelihood schemes to fill in for critical gaps.
- Allocation of Business Rules (ABR) of the Government now mandates this Ministry to monitor '**Tribal Sub-Plan**' (now called as '**Scheduled Tribe Component**') funds of Central Ministries based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog.
- The Budget allocation for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has gone up from Rs. 4827.00 Cr in the year 2016-17 to Rs. 5329.00 Cr in 2017-18.
- Also, allocation for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes across all Ministries has witnessed an increase from Rs. 24,005.00 Cr in the year 2016-17 has gone up to Rs. 31,920.00 Cr in the corresponding period.
- An amount of Rs. 2280.49 Cr (as on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017) has been released under two Special Areas Programme of the Ministry viz. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme and Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for Education, Health, Livelihood/Income Generation Activities etc.
- With the implementation of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) complete transparency and monitoring of funds released is ensured by the Ministry.
- All agencies receiving funds from the Ministry on 100% basis and sub agencies that receive funds from the main agency have been on boarded in the system. This ensures tracking of utilisation of funds by the implementing agencies.

## **Monitoring of funds for tribal development:**

There are 32 Central Ministries and Departments having '**Tribal Sub-Plan(TSP)**' funds [now called as '**Scheduled Tribe Component**'](STC) catering to specific tribal development in various sectors through 273 different schemes.

Allocation of Business Rules (ABR) has been amended in January, 2017 whereby Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has been given mandate for monitoring of STC funds of Central Ministries based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog.

An online monitoring system has been put in place with web address **stcmis.nic.in**.

As on 15.12.2017, 68% of the total allocated STC amount has been released by different Central Ministries / Departments against various development projects relating to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, electrification, employment generation, skill development etc.

## **Scheme for Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS):**

(i) 51 EMRSs were made functional during last three years taking the total tally of functional schools to 190.

(ii) 14 new EMRSs have been sanctioned during 2017-18 and an amount of Rs. 322.10 crore released for the purpose. Now 271 EMRSs have been sanctioned overall by the Ministry.

(iii) An amount of Rs. 235.48 crore released to the States during 2017-18 for meeting recurring cost of 190 functional EMRSs where about 56000 tribal students are enrolled (@Rs. 42000/- per student per annum).

## **Skill Development:**

An amount of Rs. 165.00 Crore has been released to various states under the scheme Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) and Grants under Article 275(1) for skill development of more than 71 thousand male and female tribal beneficiaries in a wide gamut of trades.

## **Construction of Museums for Tribal Freedom Fighters:**

The Government desires and is planning permanent museums in the States where Tribals lived, struggled against the Britishers and refused to be bowed down.

## Initiatives under Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):

- Ministry has enhanced the allocation of funds for the development of particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) from Rs. 270 crores in 2016-17 to Rs. 340 crores in 2017-18.
- State Government have been given the flexibility of utilizing the funds using the gaps identified through Bae Line Survey.
- In order to ensure the overall and particular development of PVTGs, emphasis is being given on Micro planning using GIS mapping of tribes.
- Emphasis in the Comprehensive cum Development (CCD) is for preserving traditional architecture, traditional medical practices and cuisine and maintaining the heritage and culture of PVTGs.

## Scholarships:

### I. Pre Matric Scholarship

- State are using own portal/National Scholarship Portal(NSP) for inviting online applications.
- Financial assistance has been enhanced from Rs. 212.19 crore to Rs. 265.00 crores in 2016-17.

### II. Post Matric Scholarship

- State are using own portal/NSP portal for inviting online applications.
- Financial assistance has been enhanced from Rs. 748.45 crores to Rs. 1347.07 crores.

### III. National fellowship and Scholarship Scheme for higher education of ST students

Financial assistance for the scheme has been enhanced from Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 120 crores.

#### Scholarship Scheme

- NSP is used for inviting application from top class students.
- Tuition fees are being disbursed directly to the institute while maintaining allowance for students to student's individual accounts directly online through PFMS.
- Family Income ceiling for eligibility increased from Rs.4.50 Lakhs to Rs.6.00 Lakhs

#### Fellowship Scheme

- Ministry has taken over the implementation of the scheme from UGC so that students get money in time.
- Developed NFST portal and hosted the same on Ministry NIC server for inviting fresh applications online.
- Various student queries are being resolved through coordination with PFMS, Banks and NSP teams.
- Higher priority fixed for Persons with Disabilities, PVTGs, BPL and females.

#### National Overseas Scholarship for ST students

- Portal has been developed by the Ministry and hosted at Ministry's NIC Server.
- Brought in flexibility of courses to be undertaken by the Students.
- Fresh guidelines have been issued providing for enhanced flexibility to students regarding the courses.
- Students who have cleared GRE/GMAT/TOEFL etc. will be given priority, as per revised guidelines.

#### DBT

- 9 schemes being implemented by the Ministry have been board on DBT.
- Data being collected every month and uploaded at DBT Bharat Portal.
- DBT App 3.0 installed at Ministry to capture beneficiary wise data.

#### Aadi Mahotsav:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with **TRIFED** had organized a National Tribal Festival from 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.
- The Festival commenced with a tribute to **Birsa Munda**, legendary tribal leader, freedom fighter and folk hero on his 142<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary through an advertisement in print and social media on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

- **Aadi Mahotsav** was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice President of India on 16.11.2017.

## **NGO Grants:**

Ministry has been funding NGOs in service deficient areas in sectors such as Health, Education etc. in order to ensure transparency and in line with Government policies, NGO Grants portal has been developed

## **Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce :**

- The MSP for the ten MFP items which had formed a part of the scheme since inception in 2013-14 had been revised on 31.10.2016.
- Also, furthermore MFP items had been included in the list of MFP items and the scheme was made applicable all over the country.
- Prior to that the Scheme was applicable only in Schedule V States.
- The MSP of five items viz. Sal Seed, Sal Leaves, Chironji Pods with seeds, Rangeeni Lac and Kusumi Lac have been increased in November, 2017.



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# Year-End Review-2017: Department of Consumer Affairs

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Following are the major highlights of the activities of the Department of Consumer Affairs during the year 2017:

## **PRICE MONITORING CELL (PMC)**

### **Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)**

- Buffer stock of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses has been built through domestic procurement and import for effective market intervention to stabilize their prices
- Pulses from the buffer are being utilized for supply to States for distribution through their schemes; Ministries/Departments of Central Government having schemes with a nutrition component as well as those providing hospitality services either directly or through Private Agencies. In addition, pulses are also being disposed through auction in Market.
- These interventions, inter-alia, has ensured that prices of pulses remain at reasonable level during the year.

### **B) Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell (PMC)**

- The Price Monitoring Cell is being strengthened at State level also by way of grants released to the State Government.
- Prices are stabilised by making appropriate policy recommendation and market intervention.

## **LEGAL METROLOGY**

**(1) Amendment made in the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 to safeguard the interest of consumers and ease of doing business – it will come into force w.e.f. 01.01.2018:**

- Goods displayed by the seller on e-commerce platform shall contain declarations required under the Rules.
- Specific mention is made in the rules that no person shall declare different MRPs (dual MRP) on an identical pre-packaged commodity.
- Size of letters and numerals for making declaration is increased, so that consumer can easily read the same.
- The net quantity checking is made more scientific.
- Bar Code/ QR Coding is allowed on voluntarily basis.
- Provisions regarding declarations on Food Products have been harmonized with regulation under the Food Safety & Standards Act.
- Medical devices which are declared as drugs, are brought into the purview of declarations to be made under the rules.

**(2) Permission to display revised MRP due to reduction of rates of GST up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017:**

- On account of implementation of GST w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017, there may be instances where the retail sale price of a pre-packaged commodity is required to be changed.
- In this context, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution had allowed the manufacturers or packers or importers of pre-packaged commodities to declare the revised retail sale price (MRP) in addition to the existing retail sale price (MRP), for three months w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.
- Declaration of the changed retail sale price (MRP) was allowed to be made by way of stamping or putting sticker or online printing, as the case may be, after taking into account the input tax credit.

- Use of unexhausted packaging material/wrapper had also been allowed upto 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 after making the necessary corrections.
- Considering the requests received to extend the permission for some more time, display on the revised MRP due to implementation of GST by way of stamping or putting sticker or online has been extended up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.
- Further Government has reduced the rates of GST on certain specified items, permission has been granted under sub-rule (3) of rule 6 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 to affix an additional sticker or stamping or online printing for declaring the reduced MRP on the pre-packaged commodity. In this case also, the earlier Labelling/ Sticker of MRP will continue to be visible.
- This relaxation is also applicable in the case of unsold stocks manufactured/ packed/ imported after 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017 where the MRP would reduce due to reduction in the rate of GST post 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017.

### **(3) Advisories issued:**

- For ease of doing business, an advisory was issued to all stakeholders that loose readymade garments are not covered under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.
- In the interest of consumers, advisory was issued to the Controllers of Legal Metrology of all States/UTs to enforce provisions related to overcharging and dual MRP.
- Govt. of Maharashtra issued notices for compliance of provisions of Rules related to overcharging to Vankhade Stadium, Mumbai, after which they have asked their vendors to comply with the provisions of Rules.
- To safeguard the interest of consumers, advisory has been issued to all State Governments to ensure all declarations including MRP on all medical devices.
- Advisory in the interest of consumers was also issued to all State Governments to ensure the correct quantity of petrol/ diesel and LPG Cylinders.

### **BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS) ACT 2016**

- A new **Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016** which was notified on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016, has been brought into force with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.
- The Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.
- It has enabling provisions for the Government to bring under compulsory certification regime any goods or article of any scheduled industry, process, system or service which it considers necessary in the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security.
- Enabling provisions have also been made for making hallmarking of the precious metal articles mandatory.
- The Act enables the Central Government to appoint any authority/agency, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products and services to a standard and issue certificate of conformity.
- The new Act will further help in ease of doing business in the country, give fillip to Make In India campaign and ensure availability of quality products and services to the consumers.
- Bureau of Indian Standards Rules, 2017 were also notified on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.

### **CONSUMER PROTECTION UNIT**

- An international conference on consumer protection was held on 26-27 October, 2017 in New Delhi in association with UNCTAD having participation from countries in the East, South and South-East Asia with the theme "Empowering Consumers in New Markets".
- The Union Government has approved on 20.12.2017 the introduction of new Consumer Protection Bill, 2017 in Parliament to further protect the interest of consumer by:
  - i. Strengthening the existing Act,

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- ii. Faster redressal of Consumer Grievances,
- iii. Empowering Consumers, and
- iv. Modernizing legislation to keep pace with ongoing change in market.

