

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The developmental strategy for the tribals and the Nation has to be associated, to focus on aim oriented administration. One of the major goals of social marshalling therefore is the integration of tribal societies with the national policy. Two vital policies for Tribal development are (I) to safeguard the interests of tribals through legal administrative support, and (II) to raise their standard of living through implementing different development schemes. It is to be noticed that upliftment of tribal societies does not only depend upon operational performance of the administration. What is more important; is the efficiency of the system and acceptance of its legitimacy by the communities concerned to be evidenced by positive participation there in by them. To promote and expedite the process of development and raising the level of living of people, different development schemes were introduced and a decent improvement was made in the development schemes under the Five Year Plan.

KEYWORDS: Tribal, Development, Tribal Sub-Plan, Scheme

INTRODUCTION

During the pre-British period tribal communities in India remained fully or partially isolated from others in the country and consequently they remained backward and suffered from poverty, malnutrition, exploitation and ignorance in varying degrees¹. After independence a number of special provisions have been made in Constitution of India for safeguarding rights and interests of Scheduled Tribe². In the country, population of Scheduled Tribes as per Census 2011 is 10.45 crore. STs constitute 8.6 per cent of the country's total population and 11.3 per cent of the total rural population. Population of ST males is 5.25 crore and ST females is 5.20 crore³. According to the Census 2011 the population of Himachal Pradesh is 6864602 of which 392126 (5.71 %) belongs to Scheduled Tribe.

In the fifth and the sixth schedule of constitution, various arrangements have been made for the administration of the Scheduled Areas. Fifth Schedule is implemented on two classification of States; firstly to those states which include gathering of tribal population ranging a considerable percentage from 8 % to 29 % such as Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Secondly states with more dispensed Tribal Population in terms of various traits and also as per the percentage such as West Bengal, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh. The North –Eastern States such as Nagaland, Tripura, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya have been covered under the Sixth Schedule. All of these states are largely Tribal Areas.

¹ Padhy Kishor C., “The Challenges of Tribal Development: Essays in Honour of Dr. N. Patnaik”, Sarup & Sons, New Delhi. 2000. p.2

² Vidyarthi L.P., “Tribal Development and its Administration”, Concept Publishing Company”, New Delhi. 1981. p.19.

³ Annual Report, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. 2017-18.

Appointment of a Special Officer is also done by the Government of India who is designated as Commissioner of the Schedule Tribes under Article 338. His job is to investigate all the affairs related to Schedule Tribe Community and to provide remedial measures to the Tribals. Welfare of the Schedule Tribe is a prime concern; along with scrutinizing the execution of Constitutional protection. The theory of including the Tribal Sub-Plan in the annual plan of state is to focus on the detailed and comprehensive development of the Tribal Areas and to promote welfare of various Tribal families.

THE SCHEDULED TRIBES OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The scheduled tribes in Himachal Pradesh are scattered throughout the state. Looking at the table above is the list of different scheduled tribes living in the Himachal Pradesh. Namely the Bhot or Bodh, the Gaddi, the Gujjar, the Lamba, Jad or Khampa, the Kinnara, the Lahaula, the Swangla, the Beta or Beda, the Domba, Gara, Zoba. The tribal belt inhabits mainly the Kinnaura, the Bodh or Bhot, the Pangwala, the Swangla, and the Gaddi tribes. The Kinnara or Kanaura tribe are mainly concentrated in Kinnaur, the Pangwala in Pangi, the Bodh or Bhot in Lahaul and Spiti and the Gaddi in Bharmour. And the tribes others like the Gujjar, the Domba, Gara, Zoba, the Jad, Lamba and Khampa are less in population and are concentrated in different parts of the state.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal Pradesh has well-defined administrative units. There are five ITDP (Integrated Tribal Development Project) in the state i.e. ITDP Reckong Peo in Kinnaur, ITDP Keylong in Lahaul, ITDP Kaza in Spiti, ITDP Killar in Pangi and ITDP Bharmour in Chamba. The whole district Kinnaur falls under the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) Kinnaur. Tehsil Keylong and Sub-tehsil Udaipur come under the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) Lahaul and rest of the three Integrated Tribal Development Project are Spiti, Pangi and Bharmour with same Tehsils. Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) Kinnaur further consists of three Blocks; Kalpa, Nichar and Pooh and the rest of the four Integrated Tribal Development Projects are constituted of one Community Development Project that comprises of Lahaul-Spiti, Bharmour and Pangi.

Figure 1 shows At the Government level; Spl./Add. Deputy/Under Secy. assists the Secretary on various issues such as policy matters including introduction of new schemes and to coordinate and evaluate all activities of any department in relation to the matters affecting Tribal areas and members of scheduled tribe of the state. Section officer is in charge of the Administration Branch in the Secretariat for work related to budget and accounts.

At the State level; Commissioner works as Head of the Department who also coordinates with the Tribal Development Department of other states, Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Union Ministry of Home Affairs and National Commission for STs. He holds the complete power to sanction approval for repair and maintenance of works along with the sanction of individual schemes expenditure on purchase of materials and repairs of tools/equipment and machinery.

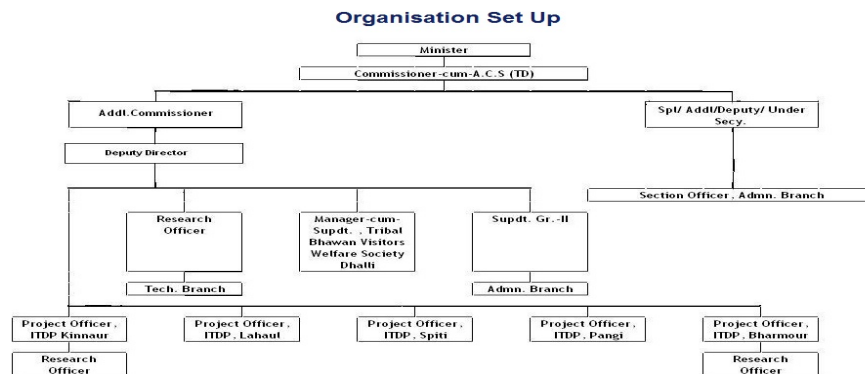


Figure 1

TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP)

Planning Commission has an important role in incorporation of Tribal Sub-Plan in the Annual Plan of state which was firstly introduced by the Government of India on the 5th Five-Year Plan. Main objective of the tribal sub-plan was overall development of Tribal areas mainly focusing on welfare of the tribal families. Various new programmes were also introduced, besides escalating programmes which were already popular. Tribal sub plan also work towards bridging the gap by providing access to health facilities, education, and income generation and mainly to work as a shield against exploitation.

THE CONCEPT OF TRIBAL SUB-PLAN

Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) emerged as a watershed in the history of tribal development administration in India. This approach is essentially an area development approach and the focus is on the problems of tribal people. It is an integrated approach in which all departments work together for tribal development in a coordinated manner. Tribal Sub Plan is basically a Plan within a Plan. Tribal Sub Plan involves the welfare and empowerment of tribals and it is called a Sub Plan because it is specifically for tribals. The funds that are issued under the Sub Plan should be equal to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of each State or Union Territory. Tribal Sub Plan is not the only benefit provided to tribals and tribal areas. It is in addition to other benefits that flow from the general Plan of a State. Tribal Sub Plan is in operation in 23 states and 2 UTs. Areas covered under the Tribal Sub Plan are tehsils with the tribal population of fifty per cent or above.

INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (ITDP)

Integrated Tribal Development Projects strategy is an important part of Tribal Sub Plan. An Integrated Tribal Development Project is a unit of administration in the TSP approach at the district level. This Project includes number of contiguous blocks within a district. It includes all blocks within a district which have more than 50 % of their population as tribals.

In Tribal Areas of Himachal Pradesh there are five Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP); ITDP Lahaul at Keylong, Kinnaur at Reckong Peo, ITDP Pangi, ITDP Spiti and ITDP Bharmour. Headquarter for all the five Integrated Tribal Development Projects is located at Shimla, the Capital of Himachal Pradesh. The formula implied for the equal flow of funds to the five ITDPs was based on 20 % of area, 40 % population and remaining 40 % for the relative economic backwardness. The funds were further allocated as per the formula under which 30% of the funds were allocated to the Kinnaur District, 16 % to Spiti, 18 % to Lahaul, 19 % to Bharmour and rest of the 17 % to Pangi.

The tribal development administration has developed to a great extent in India. At the national level, there is both administrative and policy framework. Over the years, a rich knowledge reservoir has developed for tribal development in India. But the main issue continues to be the implementation of various tribal policies, programmes, schemes and effective working of tribal institutions for development. This depends upon the tribal development administration at the state level. It is at the state levels where challenges of tribal development administration become more obvious.

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Fifth Plan (1974–1979)

The Fifth Five Year Plan (1974–79) was terminated in 1977–78, one year earlier than scheduled. So the outlays for 1978–79 could not be utilised⁴. Rs. 16 crore was approved in the original Sub-plan for the fifth plan period (1974–79) in which Rs. 12.81 crore was State Plan and 3.19 crore was Special Central Assistance (SCA) with the utilization of 83 % the actual expenditure was Rs. 9.12 crore in which Rs. 7.80 crore was State Plan and Rs. 1.32 crore was SCA.

Sixth Plan (1980–1985)

Based on the experience in Fifth Plan, it was decided to extend the coverage of area based tribal development programmes to pocket smaller than block units in all states⁵. In Himachal, against the target of 5.36 %, the state plan flow to the tribal sub-plans during the 5th Plan (1974–79), 5.75 % was the actual achievement. Similarly the target set for the state Plan flow to the tribal sub-plan for the 6th Plan period (1980–85) was 8.48 % and the achievement against the target was 8.62 %.

Seventh Plan (1985–1990)

Both the centre and the state Govt. have been taking care of proper implementation of the programmes by introducing Tribal Sub-Plan⁶. The main purpose of designing the seventh Plan was to combine the profits of previous investments so as to launch the country on the way to development, removal of hardship and substantial growth in the level of social welfare and consumption, especially to the deprived section of the society. It was strategized in a way to provide various amenities to the people with an emphasis on basic needs. All the tribals in the beneficiary oriented programme were dealt with the TSP strategy of the plan. In Seventh Plan the achievement was 8.78 % which was targeted at 9 %.

Eight Plan (1992–1997)

One of the objectives of launching these plans was to provide socio-economic development to the tribals and the tribal area which proved to be a beneficial under the Tribal Sub-Plan strategy adopted from the Fifth Plan onwards. The decentralized planning procedure with ITDP had been considered as the base and started accordingly; also previous practices of planning process and all the exercises were covered under the new procedure. The measure of funds has been made more pertinent to the tribal areas and less notional. The achievement of State flow was 8.56 % which was targeted at 9 %.

Ninth Five Year Plan (1997–2002)

The Ninth Five-Year Plan had great impact on the growth of employment being provided to the people. Basic requirement

⁴ Verma M.M., “Tribal Development in India: Programmes and Perspectives”, Mittal Publication, New Delhi-59. 1996 P.167.

⁵ Deogaonkar S.G., “Tribal administration and Development: With Ethnographic profiles of selected Tribe”, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi-59. 1994.p.40.

⁶ Singh M. Romesh., “Tribal development in 21st Century: An experience of Manipur”, Mittal Publication, New Delhi. 2006. P.37.

in form of services were being provided to the people. This plan proved to be successful in term of providing food security and eradication of poverty. Rs. 495 crores has been approved for the Ninth Plan under which Rs. 646.03 crore were utilized till the end of the Plan (31-3-2002).

Tenth Five Year Plan (2002–2007)

Acceleration of growth in providing employment and basic amenities to the people, food security and elimination of poverty were being laid greater emphasis on, under The Tenth Five Year Plan. Rs. 685.75 crore was utilized by the end of the Plan i.e. on 31-3-2007 against Rs. 856.35 crores that was being proposed for the Plan.

Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007–2012)

Approval of Rs. 1260.00 crore has been allotted for the Eleventh Five Year Tribal Sub Plan (20072012) under which Rs. 1215.00 crore has been issued and an expenditure of Rs. 1241.37 crore has been incurred.

Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012–2017)

An approval of Rs. 2052.00 crore was being approved for the Tribal Sub Plan for 20122017. Rs. 1995.26 crore were utilised by the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

This study is a perspective of Tribal Development Administration in Himachal Pradesh. In June 1976, the Tribal Development Department came into existence with the purpose of investing main focus on social and economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribe. The Honourable Minister of Himachal Pradesh is the head of the Tribal Development Department in the state. It is an integrated approach in which all departments work together for tribal development in a coordinated manner. This summarizes the growth of administration structure in Himachal Pradesh.

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