

Scheduled Tribes

10.74 Scheduled Tribes (STs) distinguish themselves from other communities with their distinctive culture and isolated habitations and lag behind the rest of the society due to their socio-economic backwardness. According to 2001 Census, they account for about 84.32 million constituting 8.2 per cent of the country's total population. Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) are 1.32 million according to 1991 census constituting 1.49 per cent of the total tribal population. PTGs are still very backward and live in interior forests lacking basic minimum services.

10.75 The Tenth Plan has made a commitment for the social and economic empowerment and social justice to the Scheduled Tribes to fulfill the Constitutional obligation of raising their status to that of the rest of the society. The nodal Ministry for the welfare and development of the STs is Ministry of Tribal Affairs. An outlay of Rs.1,146 crore was provided during Annual Plan 2004-05 against the outlay of Rs.1087 crore made during Annual Plan 2003-04 for undertaking various welfare and developmental works to empower the tribals.

10.76 Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is a 100 per cent grant to undertake a number of developmental schemes with a focus on family oriented income-generating schemes, creation of critical infrastructure and also to extend financial assistance to Self Help Groups, community based activities, Primitive Tribal Groups and Forest Villages. Rs.500 crore was allocated for Annual Plan 2004-05. Grant in aid under Article 275(1) is being provided to the States with an objective to raise the level of administration in the States covered under Scheduled Areas to bring them at par with the rest of the States. Rs.330 crore was allocated for Annual Plan 2004-05 under this strategy. The Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship continued to be implemented. The scheme plays an important role for higher studies and empowerment of the tribals. Economic empowerment of the Scheduled Tribes continued through extending financial support to Finance Corporations and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED).