

## **State level Consultation on “Tribal Sub Plan in Tamil Nadu”**

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> April – 2017 **Venue:** State Planning Commission, Chepauk, Chennai

‘**State level Consultation on Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) in Tamil Nadu**’ was organized by **Social Watch – Tamil Nadu** in collaboration with **PAALAM, ASSET and civil society organizations** on 18<sup>th</sup> April – 2017 at State Planning Commission Conference hall, Ezhilagam, Chennai.

The intent of the consultation was

- To strengthen the schemes for PVTG’s (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups)
- To reinforce LAMP societies and
- To stress Govt. Authorities to implement Tribal Forest Act 2006.

The list of dignitaries include

- **Dr. B.C Archana Kalyani, I.F.S Director - Tribal welfare,**
- **Fr.John Kumar, Director, Social Watch – TN.**
- **Mrs. Qudsia Gandhi I.A.S (Retd) and**
- **Mr.Christodas Gandhi I.A.S (Retd) - Consultant Social Watch – TN.**

There were **124** participants who include Government servants, CSO’s, and PhD scholars.

The welcome speech and inaugural address was given by **Mr.Christodos Gandhi I.A.S (Retd) - Consultant Social Watch – TN.** He explained dynamics of the consultation. After the welcome address the participants were divided into two groups:

Group I – State Planning Commission Hall.

Group II - Revenue Department Hall.

### **RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS AT STATE PLANNING COMMISSION HALL**

#### **Session 1**

**Topic: Schemes for PVTG’s**

**Presenter: Mr. Alwas, Director, NAWA.**

**Moderator: Dr.B.C. Archana Kalyani, IFS, Director, Tribal Welfare.**

The presentation spelt out on Scholarships for ST students, Quality of Education, Separate College for ST, Safety and security for Adolescent girls and Transport facility for school children.

There are six tribal groups who are recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG’s) in Tamilnadu. They are Irular (1,89,661), Kattunayakkar (46,672), Todar (1,975), Kothar (303), Kurumbar (6,932) and Paniyar(10,139).

The participants from PVTG’s groups gave few recommendations for the Development of school education. They are as follows.

- The quality of education should be improved.
- X, XI, XII students should be given awareness on courses available for Higher education.

- There should be timely distribution of Scholarship for ST students.
- Construction of separate college for Scheduled Tribes in all states will reduce illiteracy among the tribe groups.
- In order to reduce the malnourishment among the tribal children, the importance should be given to Mid-day meals programme.
- For every 3 Kms school has to be built in forest region with efficient teachers.
- Transportation for school going children should be provided and the local people should be given authority to manage it.
- Scheduled tribes Panchayat leaders should run the elementary school.
- As there is no availability of teachers in the forest region the students of that area who have completed 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> std can take classes for the primary level students.
- Government college reservation for tribes is just 1% which is not helpful for the empowerment of tribes so they need separate colleges for tribes or they need 10% reservation for tribes in nearby colleges.
- The LAMP society should be only for Adivasi and no other groups should be part of it.
- The tribal groups should have access to use the forest products such as fruits, vegetables etc., except tree wood and wildlife.

## **Session 2**

### **Topic: Schemes for Irulars**

**Presenter: Mr. Irulapoo Selvakumar, General Secretary, Tamilnadu Adivasi Federation (TAF), and Mrs.Sornalatha, Managing Trustee, ASSET.**

**Moderator: Dr.B.C. Archana Kalyani, IFS, Director, Tribal Welfare.**

Irulars are the second majority in population among the tribal groups in TN. There are around 1,89,661 Irular people in Tamil Nadu in different districts like

**Thickly populated districts** - Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram, Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Vellore, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Kovai, Nilgiris (more than 10,000).

**Moderately populated districts** - Chennai, Erode, Naagai, Namakkal, Perambalur, Salem, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Trichy, Tirupur (100 - 800 members).

**Less populated district** - Ramanathapuram (20 members).

The participants gave few recommendations for the development of Irular tribes. They are

- Loan facilities with less interest by setting up Tribal Cooperative banks.
- 75% of Irulars are working in Brick Kiln, Rice mill, Gardening, Construction works, Household works etc., and that leads to migration so employment opportunity should be provided.

- Construction of community hall for various purposes like marriage and other functions where they can earn money out of it.
- There may be centers established to cater the Computer Education Irular students.
- Assuring financial assistance for cashew farming and marketing and to form Herbal hub.
- In need of permanent Housing facility.
- Construction of schools with standard education.
- To avail community certificates for the students in order to help them in education purpose and job opportunities.

Irulars proposed following schemes for their development.

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Required fund</b>
1	Housing Facility	Ariyalur Cuddalore Villupuram Kancheepuram Thiruvallur Thiruvannamalai Vellore Krishnagiri Dharmapuri Kovai	1 house = 10 lakhs In 10 districts for 100 houses 10 * 100 = 1000 houses 1000 houses*10 lakhs = 10,000 crore
2	Cattle and poultry farming	Ariyalur Cuddalore Villupuram Kancheepuram Thiruvallur Thiruvannamalai Vellore Krishnagiri Dharmapuri Kovai	1 person = 10 lakhs 1000 members = 1 crore
3	Construction of Brick Kiln	Ariyalur Cuddalore Villupuram Kancheepuram Thiruvallur Thiruvannamalai Vellore Krishnagiri Dharmapuri Kovai	5 crores
4	Youth Entrepreneurship Programme	Ariyalur Cuddalore Villupuram	1286 crore

		Kancheepuram Thiruvallur Thiruvannamalai Vellore Krishnagiri Dharmapuri Kovai	
5	Irular Herbal Farming	Ariyalur Villupuram Kancheepuram Thiruvallur Thiruvannamalai Vellore Krishnagiri Kovai	400 lakhs
6	Rice Mill	Villupuram Kancheepuram Thiruvallur	15 crore
7	Establishing Petrol Bunks	Ariyalur Cuddalore Villupuram Kancheepuram Thiruvallur Thiruvannamalai Vellore Kovai	
8	Setting up of Residential schools	Ariyalur Cuddalore Villupuram Kancheepuram Thiruvallur Thiruvannamalai Vellore Kovai Dharmapuri	27 crore
9	Cashew Farming and Marketing	Ariyalur	
10		Ariyalur	1 crore

## **RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS AT REVENUE HALL**

### **Session 1**

**Topic: Schemes for Malayali Tribes**

**Presenter: Mr. Vishwanathan**

**Moderator: Tmt. Qudsia Gandhi, IAS (Retd)**

The major demands raised during the previous year 'State level Consultation on Tribal Sub Plan' was presented by Mr. Antony, Researcher, Social Watch –TN. The participants were asking whether there have been any action taken to fulfill these demands. The absence of Govt Authorities was regretted and it was decided to raise these demands in the presence of concern Govt Authorities.

The Malayalis majority of them are found in the hilly areas of Salem, Attur, Namakkal, Rasipuram, Karur, North Arcot and Thuraiyur taluks. Javathu hills, Shervaroy, Kalrayan, Pachaimalai and Kolli hills. Many of them own land resource and cultivate horticultural crops. **Tmt. Qudsia Gandhi, IAS (Retd)**, moderator of the session welcomed the participants and explained the dynamics of the consultation as to express the constructive

The participants gave suggestions for the progress of Malayalis tribes. They are

- The tribal welfare Director seems to be powerless so they need a Director who himself/herself as a tribe.
- As there is no availability of teachers in the forest region the person who have graduated among them can take incharge of educating the children in order to overcome unemployment.
- The tribal welfare department should merge with Education department for the enhancement of tribal education.
- The standard of education for the Malayalis tribes should be improved.
- LAMP's (Large sized Multi-purpose cooperative society) should act as a Bank so that the tribes can easily avail loans with minimum interest.
- The fund allocation for tribes in the fiscal year 2015 – 2016 was Rs.11,633 crore but the amount spent for the tribes was only Rs.6,211 crore. So, spending money for the tribes should be transparent.
- ITDP – Integrated Tribal Development Programme

### Session 2

Topic : Strengthening LAMP society

Presenter : Mr. Sivalingam

Moderator : Ms. Qudsia Gandhi

Mr.Sivalingam, leader of Nilgiris LAMP society briefed his experience about the LAMP society in Nilgiris district.

- LAMP society can be strengthened by forming a committee with like-minded people.
- LAMP society should act like a cooperative bank from which the TAHDCO (Tamilnadu Adi-vasi Housing Development Corporation) loans can be provided to the tribal.
- The LAMP society should give more important to the needs of the people.

## **Annexure 5**

Session 3

Topic : Tribal Forest Rights Act - 2006

Presenter : Mr. Alzhagesan

Moderator : Ms. Archana Kalyani

It was combined session with the participants of PVTG's and Malayalis tribes in the Revenue hall. Ms. Archana Kalyani put into words about Tribal Forest act – 2006.

The scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers act, 2006 is a key piece of forest legislation passed in India on 18 December 2006. It has also been called the forest rights act/the tribal rights act/tribal land act. The law concerns the rights of forest-dwelling communities to land and other resources, denied to them over decades.

The act as passed in 2006 has the following basic rights, They are :

- Individual Rights
  - ✓ Rights to hold and live in the forest land under the individual occupation for habitation or for self cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling scheduled tribes.
  - ✓ In Individual Rights, an individual can own maximum of 10 acres of land.
- Community Rights
  - ✓ Community Forest Rights (CFR) recognized under the Forest Rights Act are important for securing livelihoods of the forest communities and for strengthening local self-governance forest and natural resources.
  - ✓ In Community Rights, a community/family can own maximum of 100 acres of land.

### Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility to get rights under the act is confined to those who “ Primarily Resides in Forest ”and who depend on forest and forest land for a livelihood. Further, the claimant must be a member of a scheduled tribes or must have been residing in the forest for 75 years.

Session 1, elucidates on 'Schemes for Malayalis' and the presenter was Mr. Vishwanathan. The chair person was Ms. Qudsia Gandhi (Retd I.A.S) and Advisor of SWTN.*(Please see Annexure-3).*

Session 2, illuminate on 'Strengthening LAMP Society' and the presenter was Mr. Sivalingam. The chair person was Ms. Qudsia Gandhi (Retd I.A.S) and Advisor of SWTN.*(Please see Annexure-4).*

Session 3, throw light on 'Tribal Forest Rights Act' and the presenter was Mr. Alzhagesan. The moderator was Ms. Archana Kalyani (I.F.S), Director of Tribal department.*(Please see Annexure-5).*

## **CONCLUSION**

Reciprocation of Ms.Archana Kalyani (I.F.S) for the recommendation of the participants in the state level consultation of Tribal sub plan.

- The existing Mid Day Meal Programme has to ameliorate.
- To mainstream the people and to train on NEET, TET, SET etc., that leads to increase in employment opportunity.
- Instead of building separate colleges for Tribal, the allocation of seats for ST can be increased in near by colleges so the fund that have to be used for construction of separate colleges can be used for construction of Roads, Housing and water facilities can be provided for the people.

## Appendix



Record of Discussions in State Planning Hall

Moderator: **Dr.B.C.Archana Kalyani, I.F.S – Director, Tribal welfare.**



Record of Discussions in Revenue Hall

Moderator: **Ms. Qudsia Gandhi, I.A.S (Retd)**





Record of Discussions in Revenue Hall (Afternoon session)  
Moderator: **Dr.B.C.Archana Kalyani, I.F.S – Director, Tribal welfare.**