



REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL MULTIPURPOSE
TRIBAL BLOCKS

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI
March 1960

(C)

INDIA HOME AFFAIRS (MINISTRY OF —) COMMITTEE
ON SPECIAL MULTIPURPOSE TRIBAL BLOCKS (1960)

Letter of Transmittal

SPECIAL MULTIPURPOSE TRIBAL BLOCKS COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi

March 30th, 1960

MY DEAR PANTJI,

I am sending herewith the report of the Committee appointed to study the working of the Special Multipurpose Tribal Blocks.

It is difficult to assess a situation that is now rapidly changing. Although most of the Blocks took a long time to get into their stride, the tempo has now greatly increased almost everywhere and while we have been critical of some of the things that have been done or have not been done, we feel that the experiment has succeeded sufficiently well for it to be continued and greatly extended during the Third Five Year Plan. We are, in fact, asking for a sum of about thirty crores of rupees as the Home Ministry's contribution to the Special Tribal Blocks to be opened in the future. At the same time we have suggested certain conditions on which this should be given, for unless these are fulfilled we consider that it will be better to stagger the scheme over a number of years.

We would not, however, like to see this done. We have been deeply shocked by the poverty of the tribal people, the exploitation that they still suffer, the lack of consideration with which they are all too often treated, the burden of fear and anxiety under which they live, the pressure on them of unfamiliar regulations, and the loss of many good elements in their own tradition and culture.

We feel that if any development is to be done in the tribal areas it must be done well. The tribal people must be brought out of their long isolation as soon as possible. The diseases untreated for generations must be banished. They must have enough to eat and be able to live without fear. We feel that all the tribes should advance together, and that is why we have advocated extending the special scheme over a much larger area.

Our report, I am glad to say, is unanimous and it is perhaps remarkable that a Committee consisting of two experienced administrators, an expert on social education, a tribal Member of Parliament and myself, each of us with a very different background and experience, should have come to a common mind.

We have, in some of our Chapters, put forward a rather novel point of view and we have sometimes had to be very critical. We hope that we will not be misunderstood and we have tried in our concluding Chapter to answer some of the misapprehensions that might arise.

(ii)

We are very grateful to all who have helped us and to the State Governments for the generous hospitality and assistance they gave us when we visited them. The recollection of your own deep interest in this problem and your anxiety to help the tribal people has been a constant source of inspiration to us.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

VERRIER ELWIN

Shri Govind Ballabh Pant,
Home Minister,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

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