

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES DURING
SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

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PREFACE

Tribal sub-Plan strategy has been in operation in the country since the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. Collection and collation of data reflecting actual achievement in the field following operation of earlier schemes is necessary before any change in the strategy is suggested for the future. An evaluative scanning of the tribal situation as obtaining till the final year of the Sixth Five Year Plan was therefore considered a pre-requisite before attempting any refashioning of the objectives and strategies for the Seventh Plan. Overall assessment of the impact of on-going programmes, however, inadequate, must precede any recommendation for a change in approach and strategy.

2. In this light, lot of information on a number of important sectors of activity in the tribal area were called for from the State Governments before drafting of the report for the consideration of the Working Group. Several officers of the Tribal Development Division of the M.H.A. paid field visits to collect data and assess efficacy of existing procedures, programmes and organisations. Efforts made in this direction by S/Shri D. N. Tewari and S. R. Saxena, Directors, G. S. Boela, Deputy Secretary, Dr. P. S. K. Menon and Dr. Biswajit Sen, Joint Directors D. K. Ray, Deputy Director, P. K. Mohanty and S. N. Srivatsava, ROs of the Tribal Development Division of M.H.A. are worth-mentioning.

3. The Tribal sub-Plan approach has to keep in view the broad guidelines of the National Development Council and the Approach Paper on Seventh Plan. Valuable suggestions were received from the representatives of Central Ministries and State Governments and from the members of Scheduled Tribes who were associated with the discussion. A discussion with MPs belonging to the Scheduled Tribes under the Chairmanship of Smt. Ram Dulari Sinha, Minister of State for Home Affairs imparted a touch of realism to the report. Important improvements were suggested by Dr. Bhupinder Singh, Adviser, Planning Commission. Finally, the direction and guidance received from Shri S. Narayanaswamy, Chairman of the Group, before the report emerged in its present shape were invaluable.

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