TRIBAL WELFARE
IN
ANDHRA PRADESH
This brochure on Tribal Welfare in Andhra Pradesh is to present a Kaleidoscopic picture of our tribals and their development. The landscape of tribal areas has changed much. So has the life of the people. And the change is for the better.

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If I were not Prime Minister, "I would have liked to do research in History or perhaps in Anthropology, for that interests me even more than History."

"I have always been greatly interested in the life of the tribal people, in their folk art and their folk music—whenever I got a chance I used to go to the tribal areas. I must say that I got on very well with the tribal people."
"Far from the madding crowds' ignoble strife
Their sober wishes never learned to stray
Along the cool sequestered vale of life
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way"
Mahatma Gandhi

“........ no one who hopes to construct ‘Swaraj’ on the foundation of non-violence can afford to neglect even the least of India’s sons. Adivasis are too numerous to be counted among the least”
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

"The people of the tribal areas and the hills attract me greatly and deserve our very special care. I am anxious that they should not lose their artistry and joy in life and the culture that distinguish them in many ways."

"We should judge results not by statistics or the amount of money spent, but by the quality of human character that is evolved."
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"We should judge results not by statistics or the amount of money spent, but by the quality of human character that is evolved."
"Some unscrupulous persons by taking advantage of the simplicity and honesty of the tribal people were exploiting them and thus denying them their constitutional right of equal opportunity for development. The tribals themselves should rise and unite to fight their exploitation and join hands with the Government in its endeavour to improve their conditions."
SHRI J. VENGALA RAO,
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

"The Tribals constitute the weakest among weaker sections. For centuries, they remained secluded in their forest habitat and never attracted the attention they deserved before Independence. There developed a gulf between the tribals and others. The framers of our Constitution enshrined various provisions to promote their allround development. In pursuance of these Constitutional provisions, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have enacted various legislations and taken on hand various development programmes.

As a result of two decades of intensive development work, the tribal is a different man to-day. There are many a progressive farmers enjoying the fruits of green revolution. However, much remains to be done to enable them to take their rightful place in the larger society.

The Fifth Five Year Plan envisaging integrated tribal development plans at district level and Sub-Plan at State level at a huge expenditure lay firm foundations for long range development of tribal areas and people."
SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTHY,
Minister for Tribal Welfare, Social Welfare and Technical Education, Andhra Pradesh

"The tribal areas have been witnessing development activity on an unprecedented scale. The once sleepy areas are now throbbing with activity. Today they offer ample opportunities for skilled tribals. The Integrated Tribal Development Plans and the Sub-Plan for tribal areas during V Five Year Plan offer still greater opportunities for tribals with skills, ability and competence.

Economic development does not usher in merely by pumping large sums of money, by providing an institutional apparatus, by supplying inputs free of cost or by planting a few factories. All these are essential. But the most important element is the human factor that has to be stimulated and endowed with necessary technical skills and expertise.

The educational structure in the tribal areas should be geared for this purpose. We need a number of Industrial Training Institutes and Technical Schools in and around the tribal areas to impart necessary technical skills so as to enable them to avail of the new opportunities. This would certainly go a long way for successful implementation of the massive tribal development programmes and also enable the tribal to effectively participate in the great nation building endeavour in which we are all engaged."
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA ON SCHEDULED TRIBES

The Constitution of India is the *magna carta* for Harijans and Girijans. The Constitution was committed to the welfare of the weaker sections of which the Scheduled Tribes are the vital segment. It embodies a new policy with a message of hope for these long neglected sections.

The directive principles of State policy state:

"The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation."

(Art. 46 of Constitution of India)

The Constitution not only recognised the urgent need for educational and economic development programmes but also rightly stressed the need for protection for defenceless sections from age-old exploitation. Further the Constitution placed the responsibility for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes on popular Government through the President of India and the Governor. The result is far reaching and momentous.

The Constitution further empowers the President to make arrangements for implementation of the high ideals of the Article 46.

Article 244 empowers the President to declare any area, where there is a substantial tribal population, as Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule. The Governor is vested with the authority to modify State and Central laws and to make Regulations for their peace and good Government. In States having Scheduled Areas there will be a Tribes Advisory Council to advise the Government on welfare of Scheduled Tribes. The Governor has to submit periodical reports on the development of Scheduled Areas and Tribes to the President.

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ARCHITECTS OF NEW TRIBAL ANDHRA PRADESH: Tribal Samithi Presidents with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is the foremost in the country to reserve the Offices of Samithi Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Sarpanches in Scheduled areas for Scheduled Tribes.

The Constitution provides for assistance to the States for implementation of welfare programmes for Scheduled Tribes under the Article 275, which reads:

"There shall be paid out of the consolidated fund of India as grants-in-aid of the revenues of a State such capital and recurring sums as may be necessary to enable that State to meet the costs of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by the State with the approval of the Government of India for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in that State or raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas therein to that of the administration of the rest of that State."

The Constitution does not confine itself to the development programmes of Scheduled Tribes. With a view to bring all round development and enable the Scheduled Tribes to participate in the policy making, and executive apparatus of the country, the Constitution
provides reservations for the Scheduled Tribes. Articles 330, 332 and 334 provide for reservation of seats of Scheduled Tribes in the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the States.

Article 339 of the Constitution states:

"The executive power of the Union extends to the giving of directives to a State as to the drawing up and execution of schemes specified in the direction to be essential for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the State."

This article facilitates to fix up priorities and imparts direction to the policies and programmes on Scheduled Tribes in various States.

Article 335 provides for reservations in the Services so as to provide the educationally backward Scheduled Tribes adequate avenues of employment.

Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Constitution require the State "to take into account the special conditions of the tribes in matters of enforcing the provisions relating to the equality of all citizens, while legislating on any matter."

**Constitutional Privileges and Incentives**

Andhra Pradesh is among the foremost States whose dedication to the Tribal Welfare is complete and unwavering. The Government of Andhra Pradesh religiously followed the constitutional provisions on Scheduled Tribes and their welfare.

In pursuance of Articles 330, 332 and 334 of the Constitution, 11 seats in State Legislature and two seats in Parliament are reserved for Scheduled Tribes. Boath and Asifabad in Adilabad district, Boorgumphad and Bhadrachalam in Khammam district, Polavaram in West Godavari district, Yellavaram in East Godavari district, Paderu and Chintapalli in Visakhapatnam district and Salur, Kothuru and Naguru Assembly Constituencies in Srikakulam district and Bhadrachalam and Parvatipuram Parliament Constituencies in the State are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

Tribes Advisory Council has been constituted with the Minister for Tribal Welfare as the Chairman and the tribal legislators and tribal leaders as members to advise the Government on policies relating to the development of Scheduled Tribes and areas in the State.
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With the introduction of Panchayati Raj in tribal areas, the Government of Andhra Pradesh made provision for representation of Scheduled Tribes on the various bodies of policy making at village, Block and Zilla Parishad level. Andhra Pradesh is a pioneer in reserving the Offices of President and Vice-President of Panchayati Samithis in Scheduled Areas for the members of Scheduled Tribes.

Article 335 provides for reservations in the Services. The Government of Andhra Pradesh followed in letter and spirit the constitutional provisions on Scheduled Tribes. Under the States recruitment rules there is a reservation of 4% of vacancies in favour of Scheduled Tribes. Under Government of India recruitment rules, 8% of the vacancies in the Central Government Offices is reserved for Scheduled Tribes. The percentage of reservations is based on the ratio of Scheduled Tribe population to the total population. Further, recruitment rules have also been relaxed in favour of Scheduled Tribes in matters of qualifications and marks. In Forest Department, the tribal candidates have special preference for lower posts and the qualifications required for these posts have been specially reduced for the sake of Scheduled Tribes. There are also special reductions in examination and application fees. The age for recruitment to various posts ranging from Clerks to I.A.S. examination has been enhanced by 5 years for Scheduled Tribes.

Under the rules of admission to various Government academic and professional institutions, seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates. The rules have been relaxed in favour of Scheduled Tribes in matters of age, qualifications and marks. The tribal students at various levels of education receive residential and non-residential scholarships. Hostel facilities are available for Scheduled Tribe students at various levels.

As the Scheduled Tribes mostly live in and around the forests, the Government of Andhra Pradesh extended certain forest concessions to the Scheduled Tribes. They are entitled to collect minor forest produce for sale to the Girijan Corporation and collect timber and fuel for domestic use. They are further entitled to graze their cattle and also lease in the right to collect forest produce through Co-operative Societies.

In construction of roads, buildings etc., in Scheduled Areas, the contribution system is waived by the Panchayati Raj Department. This removed a hurdle in execution of the construction work in tribal areas. There are special incentives and concessions to Scheduled Tribes under various development programmes in the shape of subsidies ranging from 10 to 100%.
TRYST WITH DESTINY

With the consolidation of British empire in India by the middle of 19th Century, they extended their wings of administration to the tribal areas. Soon the peaceful tribal areas were rocked with a series of revolts against the British. The Alluri Sitarama Raju fituri and the Rampa rebellion are just two of many revolts which were brutally subdued by the British guns. These insurrections compelled the British to withdraw from the area and introduce a policy of isolation and indirect rule. The feudal intermediaries like Muttadars and Mustajadars were entrusted with the administration of the tribal areas on a fixed payment basis. This policy of indirect rule brought untold misery to the tribals who were exploited by the feudal chiefs and petty officials. Greedy traders and usurious money lenders, who trickled into the tribal areas with the help of roads laid by the British to quell the tribal revolts, aggravated the situation. When India woke up to freedom, the tribal was still in a deep slumber. He was a disillusioned man steeped in abject poverty, ignorance and illiteracy. He was bound helpless in debt bondage.

The dawn of Independence heralded a new era of development and gave a new lease of life for tribals. He was to be liberated from the socio-economic legacies of the past to put him on the road to progress.
The popular Governments soon embarked on a constructive programme in tribal areas in pursuance of a carefully evolved policy of protection against exploitation and development in various spheres of tribal life. The tribal set out on a long and tortuous journey for his tryst with destiny. The silent work by the Government over successive five year plans paid dividends.

The tribal who was a very dejected man in 1947 now owned his own land, ploughed it with a pair of bullocks, watered it from an irrigation well, sowed it with hybrid seed, fed it with fertilisers, protected it with pesticides all supplied by Government, and reaped a good harvest which he sold at a profit to the Girijan Corporation. He is full of hope for the future.

TRIBAL CANVAS

Not far away from the palm fringed sea shore of Srikakulam district lie the sylvan tracts interspersed with hill ranges. The hill ranges popularly called Eastern Ghats, run through upper part of the districts of Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari to wall off the wooded tracts from the rest of the area. It is this forest and hilly habitat.
PROTECTED WATER SUPPLY

Contaminated water is cause of many diseases. In some areas there is shortage of potable drinking water. Minimum Needs Programme envisages supply of potable drinking water to every tribal village.

that constitutes the traditional habitat of the Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh. Be it in Adilabad or Srikakulam, the tribal land is a green carpet from horizon to horizon. The hill ranges run across to form watershed to many a stream and gorgeous valleys in between. The sluggish streams criss-cross the lush carpet. The environs are idyllic and the climate bracing. The atmosphere is balmy and the surroundings placid. It is here that 30 tribes donning colourful costumes and gorgeous jewellery forget the rigours of their hard life in their hilly habitat in festivals and dances. Everything appears to be song and dance in the tribal habitat. But that is only one side of the coin.

The same forests and hill ranges walled off these aborigines from the winds of change and development. The people remained unlettered and undeveloped, caught up in a web of superstitions, ignorance and poverty. The pre-literate people struggled hard to eke out a livelihood
from the land and forest with their primitive technology. Until recently, for many the very name tribal area conjured up a picture of tractless terrain infested with menacing mosquitoes and prowling carnivora, and the rampant malaria and yaws. The tribal had to lead a hazardous life in his inhospitable home.

Nevertheless, the population registered a steady growth. The population of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh now touches 18 lakhs. 11595 square miles of Scheduled area and surrounding areas sprawling from Srikakulam district in the North-East to Adilabad district in the North-West is the main habitat of 30 forest living tribes. Yerukula, Yanadi and Sugali, however, live in symbiosis with rural population across the countryside.

The Tribes of Andhra Pradesh present a spectacle of striking diversity. It is this diversity marked by varied racial characteristics variegated cultural traits, plurality of occupations and diverse linguistic traditions that lends lustre to the cultural mosaic of Andhra Pradesh. Nevertheless there are certain broad similarities between the mutually divergent tribal groups. The most striking similarities are the performance of festivals like ‘Kothas’, belief in common ancestry and worship of ancestors. But the most important common feature is of course, their simplicity, honesty and truthfulness.

Agriculture is the anchor sheet of tribal economy, while forest is a vital source of food, shelter and employment. However there is a wide diversity. Chenchu of Nallamalai and Amarabad plateau mainly subsist on forest labour and forest produce, while the plains living Yanadi earns his livelihood by fishing and catching rodents and snakes. On the other hand, most of the tribes in hilly and forested habitat mainly depend upon agriculture of one type or other. The tribes like Khond and Konda Reddi, Savara and Gadoba who are confined to hilly tracts mainly are engaged in slash and burn cultivation locally called ‘Podu’. In between these food gatherers and cultivators are the pastoralists. Sugalis and Gouds are cattle breeders and the famous Amarabad bulls are a proud contribution of Lambadas to the cattle wealth of the State. At the top of this occupational pyramid are the Valmiki and Yerukula who pursue a variety of professions varying from petty trade to sooth saying. But a vast majority draw their sustenance from agriculture which is prone to vagaries of nature. Collection of Forest Produce is the chief subsidiary occupation for a majority of them. Other sectors are still undeveloped. The tribal areas are endowed with water, forest, mineral and other resources. The systematic exploitation of all these natural gifts will transform the tribal areas and bring prosperity to people in ample
NO NEED FOR OUTSIDERS

Under Trade Assistance Programme Tribal Welfare Department extends loans to promising tribals to run provision stores, tea stalls, cycle shops, flour mills etc. which were so far owned by outsiders. 676 tribals were benefited so far.

measure. The Tribal Welfare Department is tirelessly engaged in this endeavour.

There are formidable barriers on the road to prosperity. The primitive world view, low level of aspirations and fatalistic philosophy of tribals work as a shackle on the developing economy. It needs a quite a lot of patient and pains taking work by a team of specially trained executives to put on ground various programmes tailored to the specific needs of each tribal group.

DEVELOPMENT ERA

Since the country was liberated in 1947 the Government focussed attention on development of tribals. The Constitution embodied various provisions for overall development of Scheduled Tribes. The President
POWER FOR PRODUCTION

Electricity is essential for harnessing ground and surface water as well as for industrial development in tribal areas. 116 tribal villages are now electrified and Government have big plans in V Five Year Plan.

proclaimed a list of Scheduled Tribes in 1950. The Provincial Governments put on ground various ameliorative programmes. A systematic effort was made to study the problems of tribals and chalk out programmes on the basis of the resources under the Chairmanship of Malayappan in 1950. It was, however, only with the formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1956 that an era of integrated and intensive tribal development ushered in.

The Government adopted a two pronged strategy. A series of protective regulations supported with executive instructions have been enforced to insulate the defenceless tribals against the exploiters, while development programmes were put on ground for their all round development.
The Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission (popularly known as Dhebar Commission) under the Chairmanship of Shri U. N. Dhebar and other Committees appointed from time to time by the Government of India helped to mould the policies and programmes for rapid development of tribals. The Report of Dhebar Commission is a testament for bright future for tribals retaining the best in their traditions and attuning it with fast changing technologies and modern modes of life.

The New Deal for tribals promised in the First Five Year Plan is fulfilled in the successive plans. The development process was initiated in tribal areas during the First Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 118.72 lakhs. The establishment of 4 Multipurpose Projects at Utmoor, Araku, Narsampet and Paderu marked the beginning of integrated approach and long range planning. With the establishment of 24 T.D. Blocks covering the tribal areas during Third Five Year Plan,

NEW SKILLS

There is no dearth of skills nor man power. The tribals only need training in various trades and they pick up in no time. Several tribal employees are now working in public and private industrial undertakings.
the tribal welfare programmes received further fillip. The creation of separate Department of Tribal Welfare in 1966 is a testimony for the Government's concern for the welfare of tribals. The Department is ably assisted by the Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute in planning and smooth implementation of schemes tailored to the needs of the tribal people. Various new schemes have been taken on hand to benefit all sections of tribal population.

Tempo of development is increasing over successive plans. The outlay registered a manifold increase from a modest sum of Rs. 118.72 lakhs to Rs. 734.03 lakhs in Fourth Five Year Plan. To grapple with gigantic problems of housing, marketing etc., specialised institutions sprang up. The Girijan Co-operative Corporation Limited, Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Co-operative Housing Federation and Girijan Development Agency join in this great task.

The Fifth Five Year Plan envisages planning from grass roots to provide lasting base for integrated tribal development. With

FROM PODU TO PLOUGH CULTIVATION: Slash in burn (Podu) cultivation was a common phenomenon in tribal areas. Podu destroyed forests and soil. Besides taking up soil conservation and aorestation programmes on a massive scale, the Government took steps to wean the tribals from 'Podu'. Most of them already switched over to plough cultivation.
Integrated Tribal Development Plan at district and separate Sub-plan at State level, the Fifth Five Year Plan is a giant step forward in the development of tribal areas and people on a permanent footing.

LAND AND AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the mainstay of Tribals. Land is the dearest thing the tribals cherish to possess. The destiny of the tribals is inseparably linked with the development of Agriculture. In 1947 the tribal was among the lowest producers. He struggled with antiquated equipment and primitive methods of cultivation and at the mercy of the moneylenders for seed to sow, and the God for rain to grow his crops. Still others in hills pursued ‘Podu’ cultivation with primitive tools to fill their bellies. He was a victim of vagaries of Nature and ravages of moneylenders. He was an emaciated farmer with back breaking debts.

Then came the Government to his rescue in a big way. More than one million acres of land were assigned to landless poor. Preference

YOUR CUP OF COFFEE: The steaming cup of coffee you had this morning may be from the tribal areas of Visakhapatnam. The altitude, climate and terrain of tribal areas of Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and East Godavari are ideally suited for large scale Coffee and Cocoa cultivation. There are already thousands of hectares under coffee and big plans for future.
was given to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in assignment. The land was reclaimed and inputs supplied free. Further, the land for assignment in Scheduled Areas is reserved for Scheduled Tribes. The intermediary systems of tenure—Muttadari and Malgajari are abolished. The lands were surveyed and Pattas (occupancy rights) were conferred on tribals. With this the tribal is emancipated from evils of Muttadari system—Vetti and insecurity of tenure and Tribal is now proud owner of his land.

A comprehensive strategy was evolved for development of agriculture in tribal areas. Over the consecutive plans various programmes were in force to bring about qualitative and quantitative development of agriculture on the basis of agro-climatic conditions in tribal areas. The establishment of Tribal Development Blocks in tribal areas gave an impetus to the agricultural development programmes. A package deal was evolved for tribal farmers. A package of improved practices, improved seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and implements was made available to tribal farmer.

DEEPER THE BETTER: Government took up massive programme of land development and Assignment. Surplus Forests are excised and the land fully reclaimed and distributed among the landless tribals.
SUBSIDIES GALORE

All these agrarian inputs are supplied at incredibly low prices. This was made possible by heavy Government subsidies year after year. For the Government believed that due to their poverty the tribal is not able to purchase all the improved inputs.

As a result of intensive development the agriculture has changed. The tribal farmer is a different man today. He employs modern technology, tools and inputs and competes with progressive farmers in plains in crop yield competitions.

It is not quantitative change alone but the qualitative change is also vital for boosting up agricultural income. The tribal contributes crops like Rice, Jowar, Ragi, Bajra, Pulses, Oil-seeds, Tobacco, Mustard, Turmeric, Chillies etc., to the State granaries. But they are the sole contributors of crops like ‘Niger’ and ‘Pippalu’. The sweet and succulent mangoes, bananas and oranges of the tribal areas find their way into the urban markets. Topography, climate and altitude of the tribal areas provide an ideal locale for many a cash crops. The

IMPROVED BREEDS: As a part of vigorous drive to develop the milk output of tribal cattle, Breeding Bulls of high yielding breeds are supplied to the Tribal Blocks.
agronomists have successfully brought sizable areas under plantation crops like Coffee and Rubber, Potato and Cotton. There is a vast potential for further development of citrus, cashew, mango, pineapple, orchards besides spices like pepper and cinnamon.

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

The primitive agriculture did not need plough cattle. The tribal depended upon forest for his protein requirements. Livestock did not receive the attention it deserved. Cattle were sickly and puny. Till recently milking was a sin for tribals.

Cattle development is *sine quo non* to step up agricultural production. Dairy and poultry products are badly needed to fight out malnutrition which the tribals manifest in the wake of major ecological

EGGS FOR HEALTH: Egg consumption was not popular in tribal areas until a decade ago. Sustained efforts of Government produced results. Now there are many poultry units in various T. D. Blocks. White leg horn fowls are a common sight in tribal villages now.
changes. The Animal Husbandry programmes are receiving due importance in tribal areas.

With plenty of pastures, abundance of roughages, there are very good prospects for dairy development in tribal areas. The dairy, poultry and livestock farming would provide a new avenue of income and help reduce mounting pressure on land.

The Tribal Welfare Department have launched an integrated programme to upgrade the livestock to increase productivity and protect the livestock through effective Veterinary services. Altogether 46 Veterinary Institutions are functioning in the tribal areas. As a part of this programme one Livestock Farm was established at Chintapalli with the twin objectives of upgrading the local livestock and demonstrating improved methods of rearing and feeding. Besides the Livestock Farm, the Girijan Development Agency supplied improved milch cattle, plough cattle, breeding bulls, poultry units, Yorkshire pigs and sheep. The Integrated Tribal Development Plan in Fifth Five Year Plan promise a new deal for livestock in tribal areas and have big plans to boost up milk and meat production.

IRRIGATION

Tribal agriculture was ‘gamble in monsoon’. The tribal areas abound in hill streams and perennial rivers Vamsadhara, Nagavali, Machikund, Sileru, Sabari, Maneru, Kadam and Kinnarasan meander through the tribal areas. The tribals did not have storage wells or tanks and let most of the monsoon water run to waste. Lack of irrigation is the main cause of low productivity. Green revolution will remain a mirage without irrigation. Top priority is given for harnessing of all water sources to bring more and more areas under assured water supply.

Investigation and execution of minor irrigation works in the tribal areas has been the major programme in the Tribal Development over the last two plan periods. Small reservoirs are built across the streams to store the water for raising crops. Tajangi reservoir in Chintapally Tribal Development Block in Visakhapatnam district irrigating 1000 acres converted the red barren land into a green carpet of paddy and other wet crops. In Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts water from small and sluggish streams is skilfully diverted into the hill fields by erecting small bunds and channels to regulate the water
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IRRIGATION

Tribal agriculture was 'gamble in monsoon'. The tribal areas abound in hill streams and perennial rivers Vamsadhara, Nagavali, Machkhund, Sileru, Sabari, Maneru, Kadam and Kinnarasani meander through the tribal areas. The tribals did not have storage wells or tanks and let most of the monsoon water run to waste. Lack of irrigation is the main cause of low productivity. Green revolution will remain a mirage without irrigation. Top priority is given for harnessing of all water sources to bring more and more areas under assured water supply.

Investigation and execution of minor irrigation works in the tribal areas has been the major programme in the Tribal Development over the last two plan periods. Small reservoirs are built across the streams to store the water for raising crops. Tajangi reservoir in Chintapalli Tribal Development Block in Visakhapatnam district irrigating 1000 acres converted the red barren land into a green carpet of paddy and other wet crops. In Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts water from small and sluggish streams is skilfully diverted into the hill fields by erecting small bunds and channels to regulate the water.
QUEST FOR WATER

Tribal areas abound in hill streams. Government gave top priority for harnessing minor irrigation sources. Construction work is in full swing. Ground water survey is on. Exploitation of surface and sub soil water pave way for green revolution in tribal areas.

flow. In the arid areas of Khammam, West Godavari, Warangal and Adilabad Districts, the sinking of irrigation wells and formation of storage tanks are taken up in a big way. The ground water survey is in full swing to tap the vast reserves of sub soil water for irrigation. A cluster scheme of Bore Wells at Ranguvarigudem inaugurated recently by Shri J. Vengal Rao, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh is fast changing the fortunes of tribal farmers. Many more cluster schemes of Bore Wells are proposed. The Tribal Welfare Department is supplying pump sets, electric motors and diesel engines to facilitate lifting water from wells, streams and rivers for irrigation.

The Girijan Development Agency is currently engaged in construction of 18 Minor Irrigation works besides sinking of 258 irrigation wells in the tribal areas of Srikakulam District.
HOPE SPRINGS

Community Bore wells at Ranguvatirtham in Aswaraopet Tribal Development Block is the first in the series of cluster of Bore wells to come up soon in tribal areas. Sub-soil water brought prosperity to the tribals.

In Tribal Development Blocks alone 82,069 acres have been brought under irrigation. The Integrated Tribal Development Plans provide a blueprint for irrigation development in the tribal areas in next twenty years to come. The irrigation programme, when accomplished at a huge outlay under Integrated Tribal Development Plan will surely enable the tribal areas to occupy place of pride on the agricultural map of the State.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications provide vital link for promotion of trade and commerce, culture contact and emotional integration of the tribal people who long remained secluded from the main stream of national life. Construction of roads, major as well as minor, gathered momentum
TRAIN OF PROGRESS STEAMS in: Gone are the days of isolation. A network of roads and a giant railway line link the once isolated tribal areas with the rest of the State and the Country.

over successive Five Year Plans. The inaccessible forest and hilly tracts are thrown open and from the bullock cart age the tribal areas stepped into an era of Bus transport. Almost all the Block headquarters have regular bus services. The tribal areas are now covered with a total road length of 3486.28 kms. The road mileage is now 6.7 miles for 100 square miles in tribal areas. The road from Paderu to Peddaboyalu and Munchingput Blocks. Much remains to be done. Huge funds are required to span the streams and construct roads across the hill tract. But the roads are too important to postpone. The agricultural and industrial growth will be hampered without good roads. The Sub-Plan and Integrated Tribal Development Plans therefore embody programmes to provide an efficient net work of roads, and even telecommunications.

What was a dream a decade ago, is now a reality. Telegraph and Telephone facilities are available at many Block headquarters. There are now about 150 Post Offices in every nook and corner.

INDUSTRIES

The tribal areas are full of hidden wealth. Rich mineral deposits await exploitation. Coal, Bauxite, Iron ore and Mica are the most valuable minerals available in the tribal belt. The potentialities are immense for industrial growth. What is more: Labour is cheap, water is plenty and climate conducive. There are a few handicaps—lack of skilled man power, transport and communications and power for industries. The Sub-Plan and Integrated Tribal Development Plan will tackle the problems. Soon the tribal belt will attract industries, large and small, and hum with industrial activity.
CHANGING SKYLINE

Tribal areas are endowed with rich mineral wealth. Most of it still awaits exploitation. A Blue Print is ready for establishment of locally available raw material based industries. Here is a modern tile making factory in Aswaraopet T. D. Block.

The tribals have long spells of underemployment. Agro-forest based cottage industries provide gainful seasonal employment. A blueprint for cottage and small scale industries is ready for implementation by Girijan Corporation. Girijan Corporation established employment-oriented processing units in tribal areas. Adda Leaf Stitching Centres, Tamarind Deseeding Centres, Myrabolan Crushing Plant, Oil Extraction and Honey Pasteurisation Plants provide employment to the tribals. A Jute Mill, a Khandasari Sugar Factory, a Match Factory and a Leather Tanning Unit will soon become part of new landscape of tribal Andhra Pradesh.

The Training-cum-Production Centres in various Tribal Development Blocks impart necessary skills to tribal artisans in carpentry, blacksmithy, weaving, cane and rattan work and pottery. The Tribal Welfare Department introduced a novel scheme to encourage tribal
entrepreneurship. Promising tribals are given trade loans to run tea stalls, cycle shops, flour mills etc. During the IV Five Year Plan, 676 tribals were benefited under this scheme.

IMMENSE POTENTIALITIES:

Tribal areas offer various raw materials for agro-forest industries. Cheap labour, traditional skills and raw materials in tribal areas can attract many more industries.

CO-OPERATION AND MARKETING

Co-operatives provide the cure for chronic parasitism of private merchants and moneylenders on tribal economy. 278 Co-operative Societies of various types—Agricultural Credit Societies, Forest Co-operative Societies, Marketing Societies and Stores are catering to the varied needs of tribals.

A landmark in the field of Co-operation and Marketing is however the establishment of Girijan Co-operative Corporation at Visakhapatnam in 1956. It purchases minor forest produce from the tribals and supplies them daily requirements at fair prices through its
FAIR PRICES AND RELIABLE WEIGHTS.

Girijan Corporation supplies domestic requirements to tribals on no profit and no loss basis through a network of 311 D. R. Depots spread all over the tribal areas.

30 Marketing Societies and a network of 311 D. R. Sales Depots spread over 16 Districts. It also caters to the credit needs of the tribals in conjunction with District Co-operative Banks. Its turnover registered a three fold increase crossing Rs. 3 crores mark. Rs. 25.00 lakhs revolving fund and Rs. 40.00 lakhs Reserve Bank of India credit programme channelled through the Girijan Co-operative Corporation cater to credit needs of tribals. The Corporation with its programmes could eliminate the exploitation of moneylenders and middlemen.

The Commercial Banks and Land Mortgage Banks are also established in the heart of tribal areas. Government have given guarantee to the Banks on credit extended to tribals.
PASS PORT TO PROSPERITY

Corporate life and Co-operation are hall marks of tribal life. These are rightly utilised in forming co-operative lift irrigation schemes at various places in tribal areas.

WAR ON MALNUTRITION

The tribal areas were notorious for malaria, yaws, guineaworm and blackwater fever. Thousands fell an easy prey to these deadly diseases. Cholera, small pox, typhoid and other epidemics were also rampant and took heavy toll. The Government have launched intensive drive against malaria, leprosy and yaws. As a result the dreaded disease yaws is eradicated, malaria and leprosy are controlled.

Hospital was unknown in tribal areas two decades ago. Now there are 24 Hospitals with in-patient wards, 19 Dispensaries, 20 Primary Health Centres and 19 Mobile Medical Units. Besides, 21 Maternity Centres, 6 Non-allopathic Dispensaries, 6 Leprosy Centres and 7 N. M. E. P. Centres are also functioning. Tribal’s apathy for medical aid was proverbial a decade ago. Now they line up at the Hospitals for medical aid on shandy days.
TAKE DEEP BREATH

Efficient medical services are part of Tribal Welfare Programmes. As a result of intensive health programmes the endemic diseases Yaws and Malaria are now largely controlled in tribal areas.

Under the Public Health Programme sinking of drinking water wells, provision of protected water supply, vaccination programme and improvement of environmental hygiene are taken up.

The tribals do not lag behind in planning their families. Family Planning programme is extremely popular in tribal areas. One after another, Bhadragiri, Rajavommangi and Araku T. D. Blocks bagged the first prize for best performance in family planning.

To fight malnutrition among the children and women, an ambitious programme of nutrition is in force in tribal areas. Under Special Nutrition Programme about 1,46,000 tribal children under 6 years age and nursing and pregnant women are served nutritious food to make up the deficient calories, vitamin, protein and minerals in their diet through 3,102 Centres.

EDUCATION

Literacy was proverbially low in Tribal Areas. Illiteracy is the root cause of superstition, ignorance and inertia, which many a time stand as insurmountable barriers for socio-economic development of tribals. Two decades ago school was a rare sight and high school was unknown in tribal areas.
Tribal Welfare Department took up the herculean task of educating the tribals. Starting from a scratch, the education programme made rapid progress through sustained efforts. Now there is a Primary School in every big village. 1,279 Primary Schools, 20 Secondary Schools and 2 Junior Colleges provide the educational infrastructure in the tribal areas.

The budget allocations increased several fold over the years. New schemes have been introduced and new institutions were designed. Ashram School is a significant innovation. The school with boarding and lodging facilities is an ideal institution evolved on the lines of Gandhiji’s ‘Nai Talim’ and ancient ‘Guru Kula’ system. Ashram School could successfully solve the triple problems that plagued the education in tribal areas—absenteeism, stagnation and wastage. The

THE CALORIES THAT MATTER: Under-nourishment of children results in physical and mental retardation. There is a deficiency of calories in the daily diet of tribal children as a result of ecological changes in the tribal areas. Special Nutrition Programme has been in force in tribal areas to provide nutritious food to the
CATCH THEM YOUNG: Education starts at Balwadis. These Kinder Gartens initiate the tribal kids through play-way techniques into modern education designed to mould them into a new generation free from superstition and squalor which their older generation inherited.

number of Ashram Schools quickly increased and now there are as many as 255 Ashram Schools.

Besides there are 297 hostels with 12,671 tribal boarders. Study material, dress and bed material are supplied free to tribal children besides sanctioning pre-matric and post-matric scholarships.

The Tribal Welfare Department is not content with traditional education. As a result of its efforts the prestigious educational institutions are now thrown open to the tribal children. There are reservations in Public Schools and Sainik School. Now there are 16 Tribal boys studying in various Public Schools.

The Pre-Examination Training Centre at Hyderabad is imparting special coaching to students appearing for various competitive examinations. Out of 135 students trained so far, 89 secured jobs. Tribal
FREE BOARDING, LODGING AND CLOTHING: There are 297 tribal hostels serving 12,671 tribal boarders. Further 30% of the seats are reserved in Harijan and Vamukta hostels for tribal students. All the inmates are provided free boarding, accommodation, dress, study and bed material.

Youth are given special pre-service training at public sector undertakings to facilitate placements in industrial firms. Stipends are given to defray the expenditure during the training. 35 tribal candidates got unemployment relief, while 50 underwent apprenticeship programme in public sector undertakings. Under Employment Oriented Training Programmes 231, 312 and 60 tribals were trained as Village Officers, Masons and Motor Drivers respectively.

To provide a happy relief from the monotony of routine education, the sublime message of Baden-Powell Movement is now carried to the tribal schools. The character-building Scouting Programme with its play-way techniques, has a great appeal for tribal children. There are now 4500 tribal scouts and guides who excelled in every sphere of scouting. To canalise the inherent talents of tribal children on systematic lines, a programme of developing cultural talents is evolved to impart systematic training by the trained instructors in music, dance and painting to the tribal students.
NEW GENERATION IN MAKING

Here stands a new generation free from traditional constraints. The Scouting through its play way techniques prepares the tribal students in courage, competence and citizenry. There are 4500 Scouts and Guides in tribal areas.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE

The living conditions in tribal areas were appalling. The houses were small and insanitary. They hardly afforded shelter from sun, rain and cold. Better housing is a felt need. They need better houses in tune with their changing life.

Tribal Welfare Department established 23 Housing and Land Colonisation schemes with all amenities to rehabilitate 1,062 displaced tribal families. House sites were allotted and Housing Colonies also constructed for Yerukulas, Yanadis and Sugalis.

The Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Co-operative Housing Federation is now geared to construct houses on
NEW LANDSCAPE

Landscape is fast changing in tribal areas. The old tribal villages with huddled huts are now transforming into new housing colonies with necessary amenities to a massive scale. Out of 55,546 houses constructed in the State, 5,946 belong to tribals.

Of the modern amenities provided in the colonies, electricity is the most important. Power is essential not merely for domestic and street lighting, but for irrigation and industrial development. During the IV Five Year Plan 116 tribal villages were electrified. Electrification facilitated tapping of sub-soil and surface water for irrigation. The cluster scheme of Bore wells at Ranguvarigudem in Aswaraopeta Block in Khammam District and Lift Irrigation Scheme at Manda in Bhadragiri Block in Srikakulam district are shining examples of how electricity can bring prosperity to tribal peasantry.

PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION

In consonance with the spirit of Article 46 of the Constitution, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have launched a two pronged
strategy for the all round development of Scheduled Tribes in the State. It consists of two vital segments—Ameliorative measures and Protective measures. While the economic development programmes are geared to uplift the tribals from age-old backwardness, the protective measures are intended to afford protection for the defenceless tribals from exploiters and ensure proper utilisation of benefits from ameliorative programmes. Even though there are 20 protective regulations in force in tribal areas, 6 are the important regulations: (1) Andhra Pradesh (Scheduled Areas) Land Transfer Regulation, 1959 (as amended in 1970), (2) Andhra Pradesh (Scheduled Areas) Moneylenders Regulation, 1960, (3) Andhra Pradesh Debt Relief Regulation 1960, (4) Andhra Pradesh Muttas (Abolition and conversion into Ryotwari) Regulation of 1969, (5) Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Areas Ryotwari Settlement Regulation, 1970 and (6) Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Debt Bondage Abolition Regulation 1940.

The first three regulations put an end to the exploitation by land grabbers, moneylenders and sowcars. The Land Transfer Regulation prohibits transfer of land in scheduled areas except in case of succession.

LAND RESTORED

Special staff are posted to implement protective legislation in scheduled areas. Large chunks of fertile land alienated by non-tribals is restored to tribals.
and partition. The Moneylenders Regulation prohibits the operation of usurious moneylenders, while the Debt Relief Regulation provides scaling down of outstanding debts.

Andhra Pradesh Muttas Regulation and Ryotwari Settlement Regulation abolished the feudal Muttadari system and facilitated the tribal tenants to become owners of the land they tilled hitherto. These regulations put an end to the serfdom and also created a sense of security of tenure to the tribal peasants.

The Debt Bondage Regulation emancipates the indebted tribals from pernicious system of Debt Bondage (Gothi).

Special machinery has been fabricated at the field level for effective implementation of these protective legislations. Four Special Deputy Collectors with adequate complement of Deputy Tahsildars are working from Bhadragiri in Srikakulam district, Paloancha in Khammam district, Warangal and Adilabad to implement the protective regulations. Special publicity units are established in the heart of tribal areas to give wide publicity to the various provisions of protective regulations and rules with the help of audio-visual media. The publicity literature, posters, photographs, films and slides highlighting various protective regulations and development programmes in a simple and graphic way to enable unlettered tribals to understand, are produced at the Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute to feed the Publicity Units.

An awareness is inculcated among the tribals about the constitutional privileges, provisions of various protective legislations and benefits of development programmes through a variety of training programmes conducted by the Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute.

NEW FILLIP FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

'Removal of Poverty' is the motto of the Government. The V Five Year Plan is evolved to achieve this task. The Government have set it as prime objective of V Five Year Plan to give new fillip to the Development programmes to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Denotified and Nomadic Tribes. Minimum Needs Programme, the Sub-Plan for tribal areas, Girijan Development Agencies and Integrated Tribal Development Plans for Scheduled Areas of each District in the
BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

Fifth Five Year Plan of the State has special programmes for the plains tribes Yerukula, Yanadi and Sugali.

V Five Year Plan mirror the missionary zeal of the Government towards the welfare of this weakest section.

In accordance with the National policy, the State has formulated a plan for tribal development during the V Five Year Plan at an outlay of Rs. 1,131 lakhs. The State Plan envisages:

(1) Implementation of a package programme for the economic uplift of the tribals to improve their levels of income and consumption.

(2) Provision of educational and training facilities on a vigorous scale.

(3) Provision of avenues of public consumption through efficient social services.

(4) Implementation of rehabilitation schemes for Nomadic Tribes with adequate central aid.

New Deal for Nomads:

Andhra Pradesh is the traditional home of several nomadic groups and denotified tribes whose population is well over a million.
HERALDING A NEW ERA

Nomads and Vimukta Jathis will receive better attention and more aid in Fifth Five Year Plan.

Their living conditions are no better than those of Scheduled Tribes. Paucity of funds in the past prevented the Government from launching large scale development programmes for these sections. The programmes for these groups were confined to extension of educational facilities, sanction of scholarships, provision of hostel facilities and housing on a limited scale. The State Plan promises a new deal for Nomadic and Denotified Tribes in all sectors during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

The Sub-Plan for tribal areas of the State with an outlay of Rs. 6402.01 lakhs is an effective instrument for ensuring flow of general sector funds for undertaking major programmes of development.

To put on ground the programmes embodied in the Sub-Plan, Integrated Tribal Development Plans are being formulated for all the meso(Scheduled Districts)areas. Integrated Tribal Development Plan involving an outlay of Rs. 56 crores over 20 years has already been formulated.
for tribal areas of Visakhapatnam district. Similar Plans for Khammam and Adilabad districts are under way. Integrated Tribal Development Plans for Warangal, East Godavari and West Godavari districts will be taken up soon. Each Integrated Tribal Development Plan is a perspective plan formulated on the principles of area planning and on a precise knowledge of the area and people. All Integrated Tribal Development Plans, when completed, provide a blue print for balanced development of all sections of population and all regions of the tribal areas in all sectors of development activity over a period of 15-20 years.

The future looks brighter. Herculean efforts, huge finances and the scientific planning will change the very landscape in tribal areas and bring prosperity and happiness to the tribals.