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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

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Report on Revision
of
Schemes For The Welfare
of the
Scheduled Tribes



BY

Tribal Research & Training Institute
Pune 1.

1978

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

R E P O R T O N

R E V I S I O N O F S C H E M E S

F O R T H E W E L F A R E O F

T H E S C H E D U L E D T R I B E S .

TRIBAL RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE, PUNE.

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PREFACE

The Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the Nomadic Tribes and the Denotified Communities (Vinukta Jatis) constitute the core of weaker section of the Indian Society in our country. The problems of every category are of different nature. Especially the problems of the Scheduled Tribes people are of peculiar and precarious nature as they live in the interior and inaccessible parts of every district.

Secondly they lack in the development of local leadership and over and above, they suffer from grinding poverty with the result that they are not able to fulfil the terms and conditions and to reap the benefit of the schemes under the general programmes of Social Welfare schemes and ~~the~~ under the schemes of popular Five Year Plans.

In these circumstances certain schemes of vital importance from the general social welfare programme are selected and their terms and conditions are liberalised and the schemes are revised with the sole object of facilitate the poverty stricken Scheduled Tribes people to derive maximum benefit of these schemes and to assimilate the blessings of civilisation so that the progress of the Scheduled Tribes people in all the fields will be accelerated.

If these schemes are revised as suggested above we shall be able to improve the lot of these poor Scheduled Tribes people who are according to Dr. Verrier Elwin, the reas 'Swadeshi Products of India' who 'were here first' and 'should come first in our regard'.

(G.M.GARE)

Director,

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C O N T E N T S

<u>Name of the Scheme</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Award of Scholarship to the Scheduled Tribe pupils studying in High Schools	1
2. Special Maintenance Allowance to Backward Class students in Military/Sainiki Schools	4
3. Government of India Post Matric Scholarship to Backward Class students	6
4. Financial Assistance to individual and group housing of Backward Classes	9
5. Aid to housing through Zink sheets & Manglore Tiles for repairs	10
6. Backward Co-operative Housing Society Scheme	11
7. Financial Assistance to Backward Class Agriculturists for development of land purchase of Agricultural implements and Fertilizers	14
8. Construction of irrigation wells	16
9. Stipends to Scheduled Tribe pupils undergoing training in Agricultural Courses	18
10. Industrial development of Scheduled Tribe people Grant of loan-cum-subsidy to the Scheduled Tribes for Cottage Industries Professions.	20
11. Construction of quarters for Primary Teachers in Tribal and Hilly Area	22
12. Scheme of Lump Sum Scholarship for the Scheduled Tribe pupils	23

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MAHARASHTRA STATE, PUNE.

The schemes from the General Programme of Social Welfare which need revamping and revision with specific reference to the welfare of tribal people are as follows:-

Educational Programmes for the Scheduled Tribe people

1. Name of the scheme

AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIP TO THE SCHEDULED TRIBE
PUPILS STUDYING IN HIGH SCHOOLS

Description of the Scheme

At present these scholarships are awarded to first two Backward Class students in order of merit in each standard in the school who secure more than 50% marks in their last annual examination. Secondly the payment of scholarship is subject to the availability of funds. The first preference is given to the IX and the X Standards and if funds permit it is extended to the students in other lower standards from Vth till VIIIth.

Pattern of Assistance and amount given

Students fulfilling above conditions are paid scholarships at the following rates:-

For Standard X - Rs.10/- per month per student.

For Standard VIII to IX. - Rs.5/- per month per student.

For Standard V to VII. - Rs.15/- per annum per student.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Though freeship is granted to the Scheduled Tribe pupils they are not able to attend the school for want of proper clothes, books, stationery articles etc. Hence this scheme of scholarship should not be mixed up with the schemes of tuition fee and examination fee.

The scheme of scholarship should be treated as independent and special scheme and specific and independent provision should be made for this scheme as at present only to the first two students from IXth and Xth Standards scholarship is awarded because funds are generally exhausted in granting freeship and examination fees and only when the funds are available this scholarship is awarded.

Secondly at present scholarship is awarded only to the first two students irrespective of any category who satisfy the above said conditions. Students either from Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes get the benefit of the scholarship. Other categories are deprived of this facility. Hence this scholarship should be awarded to the first five students from every category i.e. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Nomadic Tribes, Vimukta Jatis and adequate funds should be made available to award this scholarship to the student right from Vth Standard. In fact all the tribal students from Vth to Xth Standards who secure more than 50% of marks should be awarded this scholarship.

If these new terms and conditions are accepted more students from Scheduled Tribe will be attracted towards education and they will be encouraged and enabled to come up to the level of the rest of the student's community and in the long run these revised rules will enhance the rate of literacy of the Scheduled Tribe people which is to-day very miserably poor.

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2) Name of the scheme

SPECIAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO BACKWARD CLASS STUDENTS IN MILITARY/SAINIKI SCHOOLS

Description of the scheme

Under this scheme financial assistance to Backward Class students studying in military/sainiki school with a view to encourage them to join these schools which impart training with the object of providing potential to the students for their selection for National Defence Academy.

Under this scheme Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribe students whose parent's monthly income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 750/- who are taking education in following sainiki school are granted special maintenance allowance for eleven months in addition to the concessions of free studentship as under:-

Patter of assistance and amount given

The rate of special maintenance allowance is as under at present:-

Sr. No.	Name of the School	Rate per month per school	
1.	Sainiki School, Satara.	Rs. 40/-	Actual expenses are reimbursed by the Government for maintenance of the students who are certified by the school authorities.
2.	Shri Shivaji P.M. School, Pune.	Rs.150/-	
3.	Bhosala Military School, Nashik.	Rs.150/-	

SUGGESTIONS

So far as tribal students are concerned generally they do not seek admission in such school. They have just reached the stage of normal civil school where also the percentage of tribal students is negligible.

Before the campaign of family planning the size of the family of tribal person was already large one. And even though the monthly income of some few families counted by fingers is Rs.750/- They are not able to make both ends meet within this income in these hard days and hence due to this income limit this military education is a wellnigh dream for the tribal students. There is no statistical data available to-day about the spread of military education among the tribal people. Hence this income limit should not be made applicable to the tribal students. Unless this condition of income limit is not removed the tribal students will never be able to avail themselves of the facilities of military education when the percentage of rate of literacy in civil and normal education is negligible inspite of the educational facilities. The Scheduled Tribe students will never be encouraged to join military schools unless the income limit is removed.

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Scheme No. 3

Name of the scheme

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP
TO BACKWARD CLASS STUDENTS

Under this scheme the eligible Scheduled Tribe students are paid maintenance allowance ranging from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 200/- per month according to the category of courses of study and on the basis of the sex and whether the student is hosteller or otherwise the award of scholarship includes maintenance allowance and all non refundable compulsory payable fees.

The following are the important condition of eligibility:-

1. Student's parent's income should not exceed Rs. 750/- per month.
2. Students should not be in full time employment.
3. Repeaters are not eligible for scholarship for the same standard. After passing they are eligible for a higher standard.
4. Only two children of the same parent are eligible, third child is not eligible.

SUGGESTIONS

Ten years back when there was no campaign of family planning, the size of the normal tribal family has been quite large one. In other words there are more than five children in the average tribal family who have attained the age of joining college. But due to this condition of income limit of Rs. 750/- per month the doors of colleges i.e. of higher education are closed for the Scheduled Tribe students. Even the tribal family or any other normal

non-tribal family can not make both ends meet in these hard days of sky-rocketing high prices with the income of Rs. 750/- per month. If the maintenance allowance is not granted to the Scheduled Tribe students because of this income limit condition or the fourth condition i.e. only two children of the same parents are eligible, the tribal parents can not afford to spend for their books, stationery articles and other apparatus and hence the Scheduled Tribe students are deprived of the facility of higher education due to these two rigorous conditions. Government should consider the percentage of rate of literacy among the Scheduled Tribe people after 30 years of Independence. In Maharashtra State the general rate of literacy is 40% while the rate of literacy among the Scheduled Tribe people is only 11.74% (19% male and 4% female). This is absolutely dismal and disappointing picture of the progress of education of tribal people. Under these circumstances these two conditions No. 1 and No. 4 should be relaxed in case of Scheduled Tribe students. If the same conditions are continued the rate of literacy among the Scheduled Tribes women will never come on par with the rest of the population. Centuries will be inadequate to equate these two classes in the field of education.

This is a Government of India sponsored scheme. If Government of India does not agree to relax these conditions the State Government may bear the expenses and keep the doors of college open to the Scheduled Tribe students.

If conditions No. 1 and No. 4 are continued in respect of this scheme, not even fifty graduates from Scheduled Tribe women will come out in coming many years. And I feel that if really Government desire to spread education among Scheduled Tribe women these conditions must be removed. The present percentage of literacy among the Scheduled Tribe women in Maharashtra is only 4 which is practically nil. If at all the school master wants to be abroad among at least in the Scheduled Tribe women these regorous conditions must be done away with immediate effect.

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Housing Schemes

Scheme No.4

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL AND
GROUP HOUSING OF BACKWARD CLASSES

Generally the Scheduled Tribes are living in remote and hilly areas in Maharashtra State in kachha houses without required amenities. The present scheme of individual or group housing for Scheduled Tribes is not sufficient to meet their requirements due to the inadequate ceiling of Rs. 1000/- out of which is Rs. 750/- subsidy and Rs. 25% personal contribution per house. It is therefore necessary to revise the ceiling and provide good houses to the Scheduled Tribe people in individual or in groups with required amenities.

At present the Scheduled Tribe people are not able to contribute Rs. 250/- per house. Besides the ceiling has been fixed since long back i.e. since the introduction of the scheme. The prices of the material required for the construction have gone up very high with the result that the house which is constructed practically within Rs. 750/- and the contribution of Rs. 250/- is not generally paid by the tribals is of a very short life. The house is practically washed off due to torrential rains in tribal area and the money spent goes practically west. It is therefore necessary that the ceiling of each house should be raised to Rs. 2000/- per house on full subsidy basis. In addition to this the tribals will avail of the forest privileges admissible to them such as timbers and other materials etc. from the Forest Department either free or at concessional rates.

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Scheduled Tribes, Vinukta Jatis and NOMBADIC
previously. But it has been scraped due to the reasons
unknown to us. [It was highly useful scheme for the
tribals to repair their houses according to their need.
The main problem noticed in regard to tribal houses
is that their roofs are required to be rethatched every
year because they are made of grass and leaves which
decay due to heavy down pours resulting into leakages.
Hence it is necessary to provide them with water proof
and fire proof roofing materials by helping them to
purchase country or manglore tiles or G.C. Sheets. When
this scheme was in operation in the past, a subsidy
of Rs. 200/- was sanctioned. In fact this amount at the
time of introduction of the scheme and even to-day is
so scanty that within this amount the required material
can not be purchased. Hence the scheme should be brought
in to operation again as it is of vital importance for
the housing of tribals and the ceiling of subsidy for
the repairs of one house should be fixed Rs. 1000/- in
view of the considerably high prices of the material
which is required for carrying out the repairs of the
houses of the tribal people.

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Scheme No.6

Name of the scheme

BACKWARD COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY SCHEME
(P.W.R.219)

The object of the scheme is to encourage members of Backward Classes to construct houses of their own on cooperative basis by granting them financial assistance on liberal terms.

The scheme has been in operation in the western Maharashtra region since 1948. It was then extended in favour of Scheduled Castes and Vinukta Jatis of Vidharbha and Marathwada during second Five Year Plan. It was proposed to extend the benefits to these categories of all regions and also to tribals of Vidarbha living outside the specified areas and Nao Budhas all over the State.

Since 1971 the B.C.Cooperative Housing Society scheme (P.W.R.219) is implemented under the two pattern viz.old pattern and new pattern. This scheme is implemented by Social Welfare Department since April, 1969.

The loan and subsidy is given to the Backward Class Cooperative Housing Societies as per following pattern:

	Corporation Areas	Municipal Areas	Rural Areas
1. Income limit per annum.	6000	3600	3000
2. Construction ceiling per house	8000	5000	4000

Financial assistance

Category	Area	Loan	Subsidy	Personal contribution
1. Scheduled Castes, Nav Budhas, NTs/SNTS.	Corporati tion.	50%	25%	25%
2. Scheduled Tribes, V. Js.	-do-	37½%	37½%	25%
3. Scheduled Tribes and Nav Budhas.	Munici- pal and rural area.	65%	25%	25% 10%
4. Scheduled Tribes, Vinukta Jatis, N. Ts. and S. N. Ts.	-do-	57½%	37½%	5½ Rural areas.

The loan is interest free and to be returned in 25 equal instalments. In addition, concessions are given in respect of land, development of site, management expenses, Construction can be done by the Housing Society itself or by the Housing Boards.

SUGGESTIONS

Housing Board has not been able to construct a single house of Scheduled Tribe nor of any other category in Rural Area due to some complicated and cumbrous procedure. The society has to pay Rs.500/- for its share to become a member of M.Cooperative Housing Financing Society Limited which is an impossibility for the poor tribals in Rural Area, as they are not able to pay the amount for their own share of the society and hence the whole work of the society is held up. Under these circumstances the Housing Board should be removed from the picture and Government should construct the houses by the contractors or through the agencies like Zilla Parishads or Panchayat Samitis.

In municipal and rural area a Scheduled Tribe member is expected to pay 5% contribution in cash out of which 50% i.e. Rs. 100/- is borne by the Zilla Parishad in rural areas when ceiling is Rs. 4000/-. But the Scheduled Tribe member, it is experienced, is not even able to pay the remaining amount of Rs. 100/- as contribution with the result the construction work of the society is prolonged and delayed thereby the Scheduled Tribe people from rural area lose faith in the scheme and ultimately the object of the Government to encourage the Scheduled Tribe people to construct houses of their own on a cooperative basis is not fulfilled.

Under these circumstances the Scheduled Tribe members should not be required to pay even 50% of the 5% contribution and the whole amount of Rs. 200/- should be paid as subsidy by the Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti or the Government themselves. Otherwise the scheme will not be successful in respect of the tribal people in rural area and the results up till now of this scheme due to these conditions are quite dismal and disappointing. The entire procedure of the scheme is very lengthy. The land matter is a cru of the whole problem. The land is never available in rural area early or in time either in case of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes. The experience tells that the scheme could not deliver any concrete goods to the Backward Class people due to this peculiar procedure. Hence the procedure should be as simple as possible.

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Agricultural Development of Tribal people

Scheme No.7

Name of the scheme

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BACKWARD CLASS
AGRICULTURISTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LAND
PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND
FERTILIZERS.

The object is to encourage the poor and needy Backward Class Agriculturists to produce more from land by using equipments etc.

Under this scheme the financial assistance is given to the poor and needy tribal agriculturists to produce more from the land by using equipments etc. preferably in land.

The loan cum subsidy is granted upto Rs.100/- for agricultural implements as under:-

Item	Subsidy	Loan	Personal contribution
1. Iron plough	25%	50%	25%
2. Dry farming sets.	37½%	50%	12½%

SUGGESTIONS

Firstly the cost of iron plough (Kirloskar) is more than Rs. 100/- to-day. This ceiling price has been fixed from the very beginning of the scheme. Now price has gone up and the ceiling price should be increased upto the price of standard iron plough (Kirloskar).

Secondly the percentage of loan is 50% which is absolutely unbearable for the tribal agriculturists. Likewise 25% contribution also can not be paid by poor agriculturists. Hence the proportion of loan and subsidy should be changed. 75% subsidy should be granted and 25% loan should be fixed and the assistance should be given in kind only in respect of iron ploughs and dry farming sets. The loan amount should be recovered in liberal instalments.

Second aspect of the scheme

Land development

Under this scheme the B.C. cultivator get assistance upto Rs. 500/- for small land development operation such as filling, levelling, clearing ~~planting~~ of shrubs and bunding and tractor ploughing etc. in the form of loan of 25% and subsidy 75%. This scheme is implemented by the Zilla Parishad through Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad.

The percentage of loan and subsidy appears to be reasonable but the ceiling of assistance is Rs. 500/- which is quite inadequate in these days when the labouring charges are considerably high in the rural area also. Besides Rs. 500/- is sanctioned irr-respective of the acarage of land of the tribal agriculturists. This amount may be adequate for the agriculturists having upto 5 acres land. But the tribal agriculturists having more than 5 acres land viz. upto 10 to 15 acres this amount will be quite inadequate for the development purpose of 10 to 15 acres land.

Hence the ceiling should be increased upto Rs. 1000/- when the Scheduled Tribe agriculturists has 10 acres land and Rs. 15000/- if land is more than 10 acres.

Scheme No.8

Name of the scheme

CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION WELLS

Benefit under this scheme is to be extended to the Backward Classes (small holding of the land) agriculturists cultivators to increase the production.

The Backward Classes normally have small holdings of lands. The advantage under this scheme is proposed to be extended to B.C. cultivators having agricultural lands four acres to six acres to increase the productions. Under this scheme the expenditure is to be incurred per new well as follows:-

1. For the construction of a new irrigation well, loan ~~upto~~ upto Rs. 2000/- which can be increased upto Rs. 400/- in special case to be certified by the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad.

2. Subsidy equal to 30% of the cost or Rs. 600/- whichever is less is granted.

3. For the repairs to old irrigation wells, loan upto Rs.1000/- can be granted which can be increased upto Rs.200/- in a special case. No subsidy for repairs is admissible. This scheme is implemented by the Zilla Parishad.

This scheme is meant for the welfare of all categories of Backward Classes. With specific reference to the welfare of the Tribal people the terms and conditions need to be changed basically.

SUGGESTIONS

At present the ceiling cost of the well is Rs. 2000/- and in a special case Rs. 4000/-. Generally in non-tribal areas and specifically in tribal areas a well can not be constructed within Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 4000/-..

According to the present rates of wages and cost of material required for the construction of well the amount of Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 4000/- will be quite inadequate. The ceiling cost should be increased upto Rs. 10,000/- per well. 75% of which should be subsidy and 25% amount should be interest free loan recoverable in 10 annual instalments after completion of the well.

For repairs to the old irrigation well, loan upto Rs. 1000/- and in a special case Rs. 2000/- is sanctioned at present. This amount is also very ~~meagre~~ meagre as the rates of wages and the cost of material have gone up now-a-days like anything and hence the ceiling of Rs. 1000/- or Rs. 2000/- should be increased upto Rs. 4000/- in ordinary case and Rs. 5000/- in a special case.

Even the ceiling of acreage should also be increased. At present the assistance is granted to the agriculturists having 4 to 6 acres of land only. It should be increased upto 10 acres. Because one well can irrigate the land to the extent of 10 acres so that the tribal agriculturists having upto 10 acres of land will be benefited.

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Scheme No.9

Name of the Scheme

STIPENDS TO SCHEDULED TRIBE PUPILS UNDERGOING
TRAINING IN AGRICULTURAL COURSES

At present the Backward Class students (including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) in the following short term courses are given scholarships to enable them to prosecute their studies in :-

1. Oil engines training classes at Pune and Baroda.
2. Poultry training classes at Kirkee and Dhule.

In these days of acute employment problems such short term courses are highly conducive to the Scheduled Tribe pupils from the point of view of getting jobs.

Hence it is likely that many Backward Class students would come forth to undergo training in the above courses. But at present under the scheme the scholarships are awarded at the rate of Rs. 20/- per month in the oil engine course at Pune and Baroda and in the poultry keeping course Rs. 30/- per month in Kirkee and Rs.20/- per month at Dhule. These rates have been fixed from the very introduction of the scheme, i.e. from the year 1955-56.

It is absolutely impossible for the Scheduled Tribe boys to prosecute their studies with this scanty rates which were fixed 20 years back.

Hence all these rates of scholarships need to be revised in view of the present economic situation. The rate of Rs. 20/- for the oil engine course should be raised to at least Rs. 50/- per month and the rate of Rs. 30/- for the poultry course should be raised to Rs. 60/- per month. Within the present rates the Scheduled Tribe pupils can not maintain themselves within such meagre amount in a very big cities like Pune and Baroda.

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Scheme No. 10

Name of the scheme

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBE PEOPLE
GRANT OF LOAN-CUM-SUBSIDY TO THE SCHEDULED TRIBE
PERSONS FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES AND PROFESSIONS

Cottage industries play an important part in the tribal economy as a subsidiary occupation to agriculture. It is therefore proposed to extend financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 1000/- to each tribal entrepreneur to enable him to carry out the subsidiary occupation, as would be viable and economically useful for the tribals. Of this 1/4 is an interest free loan repayable in 50 monthly instalments starting after 18 months of payment of loan and the remaining 3/4 will be in the form of subsidy. These are the facilities given under the present set up of the scheme. The scheme is implemented by the Tribal Welfare Officers under the guidance of Tribal Commissioner.

SUGGESTIONS

To start subsidiary occupation to the agriculture of Scheduled Tribe people the ceiling of assistance is Rs. 1000/- which is quite inadequate. If the Scheduled Tribe agriculturists want to start poultry, this amount will be quite inadequate. The price of good hybrid buffalo is Rs. 3000/- to-day or if the Scheduled Tribe agriculturists want to start poultry for the purchase of equipments, birds etc., the amount is quite inadequate under present scheme. Hence this ceiling of assistance should be raised to Rs. 3000/- at least. The other conditions of loan and subsidy regarding their percentage appears to be quite reasonable and they should be continued.

The above ten major schemes of vital importance have been selected by me for revamping and revision from the entire social welfare programme which is implemented by the Social Welfare Department for the three main categories of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Nomadic Tribes and Vinukta Jatis. But the above mentioned ten schemes are proposed to be revised with reference to the welfare of Scheduled Tribe people only as their problems are rather of different nature and especially of the tribals living in Scheduled Area or Tribal Area or Specified Areas. If the schemes are revised as suggested above the progress of the tribal people will be accelerate.

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Scheme No. 11

Name of the Scheme

CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS
IN TRIBAL AND HILLY AREA

The scheme aims at providing residential quarters to the primary school teachers working in Tribal and Hilly Areas of the State. The teachers working in these areas are reluctant to continue to work in the schools where they are posted as no suitable accommodation is available for residential purpose. Under this scheme a grant of Rs. 10,000/- per quarter on 100% basis will be paid to the Zilla Parishad concerned. An outlay of Rs. 19.04 lakhs has been proposed for this purpose during 1978-79.

This scheme may be applicable to the teachers working in Government Ashram Schools. When they are transferred they will not be hesitant to go to the new station as the problem of accommodation is already solved for him and he will immediately shift his family when transferred. Thereby the education of the tribal children will not suffer.

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Scheme No. 12

Name of the scheme

SCHEME OF LUMP SUM SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE
SCHEDULED TRIBE PUPILS

In order to propagate education among the Scheduled Tribe pupils studying in Zilla Parishad schools from the Standard 1st to VIIth a scheme of lump sum scholarship for the purchase of books, stationery articles, slates etc. was in operation in the past. It has been scraped long back. It should be revised.

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An amount of Rs. 25/- may be sanctioned to every Scheduled Tribe pupil from 1st to the IVth and Rs. 50/- to every Scheduled Tribe pupil from Vth to VIIth studying in all Zilla Parishad Schools. Specific budget provision may be made for this purpose or directives should be given to all the Zilla Parishads to sanction this scholarship from cess funds, or the Government themselves may take up this scheme again and provisions may be made from State funds and the scheme should be implemented by the Zilla Parishad.

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