

53 So far as Primitive Tribal Groups are concerned we have already formulated specific schemes for their comprehensive development. In fact, the schemes for PTGs are being funded out of Special Central Assistance (SCA) for Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). As per the norms laid down by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the fund under Special Central Assistance is provided as an additive to funds under UT Plan and, the Govt. of India also release fund for economic development of the PTGs under TSP (please refer to highlighted portion of the guidelines placed at page 251-252/c).

54 Under Xth Five Year Plan (2002 - 2007) an outlay of Rs. 1050.50 lakh has been proposed from Special central Assistance while under Annual Plan (2002-2003) an out of Rs. 214.20 lakh has been proposed from Special central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan for the welfare of the PTGs under TSP. Besides there are certain sectors like Health, Education, Housing, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Ports & Harbour and Welfare of SCs, STs & OBCs under UT flow of funds, under which sufficient funds are being spent for providing economic benefits and infrastructure support.

55 So far as the availing fund under "Central Sector Scheme of Development of PTGs" is concerned, it is stated that as per the guidelines laid down by the Govt. of India the Central sector schemes for the PTGs are to be availed when the PTGs are not catered by any existing schemes, State or Central or by guidelines governing utilisation of funds under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan. (please refer to the guidelines of the Central Sector Scheme ~~under~~ placed at page 249-250/c). We do not require any fund under Central Sector Scheme under Special Central Assistance at present as we are getting sufficient fund from SCA to TSP, which includes welfare of the PTGs. However, in case any necessity arises in future, the specific project will be submitted to Govt. of India for release of fund.

56 A separate scheme for providing grant-in-aid to Tribal Council of Nicobars has been drawn up and included under the X<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2002-03 under "Welfare of SCs, STs & OBCs". Necessary draft grant-in-aid rules have been framed and are under process.