

fifth five year plan period. As the development of tribes being uneven, it was felt there was a need to identify less developed tribal Communities for channelising the flow of benefits. Generally, the following criteria is followed for being declared as primitive (1) pre-agricultural level of technology, (2) extremely low level of literacy i.e. below 2%; and (3) near stagnant population. It is not necessary that these tribal communities should be poor but those tribal communities which are backward and deprived must also receive adequate attention to join the main stream of society. With this end inview, 75 communities have been identified so far in 15 States/UTs. A list of identified tribal groups scattered over States/UTs is placed at Annexure I.

The level of literacy of each primitive tribal group is placed at Annexure-II.

Preparation of Project Reports

The State Governments were requested in 16th July, 1993 and 22 1994 to prepare comprehensive project report and action plan for each identified primitive tribal group keeping in mind socio-economic, religious and developmental aspects of their lives. The project reports were to clearly indicate after proper survey/studies of theirfelt needs and their capacity to absorb new technology and resources.

The available information indicates that only the State Govts. of Rajasthan, Kamataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Madhya Pradesh have sent the action plan/Project Report. These reports, except Madhya Pradesh, is not in accordance on the lines suggested. Information from other State Governments like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are still awaited.