

New Delhi, the 24th June, 2005
3 Asadha, 1927(s)

Subject : **Constitution of a Cabinet Committee on Tribal Affairs.**

It has been decided, with the approval of the Prime Minister, to constitute a Cabinet Committee on Tribal Affairs with the following composition:-

Shri Shivraj V. Patil
Minister of Home Affairs
Shri P.R.Kyndiah,
Minister of Tribal Affairs and
Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.
Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh,
Minister of Rural Development.
Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi,
Minister of Water Resources.
Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar,
Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and
Minister of Panchayati Raj.
Shri A.Raja,
Minister of Environment and Forests.
Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss,
Minister of Health & Family Welfare.
Special Invitee
Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

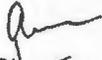
2. The Terms of Reference of the Cabinet Committee on Tribal Affairs would be as under:-

- i) Examination of issues relating to resources ownership of tribals to land historically under their possession and rights to minor forest produce;
- ii) Developing strategies for development that combine the objectives of environmental conservation and economic development of tribal communities.
- iii) Re-orienting the strategy of Tribal Sub Plans to ensure that the historical backlog of tribal people in sectors like education, health, irrigation, electricity, road connectivity, drinking water supply and other basic needs are ensured and developing a Tribal Development Index to monitor this. Measurable targets of crucial indicators should be fixed for tribal areas.
- iv) Consider converting the current Policy of Rehabilitation into a law as far as tribal areas are concerned so that large scale displacement from their habitat is avoided and rehabilitation is effectively ensured.

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- v) Creating powers for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to intervene on matters that vitally impinge on tribal rights to resources guaranteed under existing laws like PESA by restricting other Ministries from unilateral action that may infringe on tribal rights, which would require the concurrence of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
 - vi) Ensuring conditionalities through Centrally Sponsored Programmes that posts in tribal areas in areas like education and health are filled up;
 - vii) Monitoring of implementation of PESA by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
 - viii) Ensuring that possibilities of value addition of NTFP are exploited in favour of tribal population through appropriate policy and programmes.
3. The committee may be serviced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.


(K.L. Sharma)
for Cabinet Secretary
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