CHAPTER V

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL MEASURES FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTH EAST INDIA
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SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT MEASURES FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTH-EAST

In this chapter an attempt is made to study the constitutional provisions and special development measures for the people of North East. According to the 2001 Census, the population of Scheduled Tribes in the country constitute over 8.2 per cent of the total population. Concentrated mostly in the mountain belt and forest tracts of the sub-Himalayan region in the north and north-east, the hilly terrain across central India and in the southernmost parts of the Western Ghats they are isolated from the majority of Indian communities and have remained socially and economically backward.

Speaking in the Constituent assembly about the new approach to the tribal problem, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel remarked: “I would like to make one thing clear-is it the intention of people who defend the cause of the tribals to keep the tribals permanently in their present State? I do not think it is in their interest to do so”.  

The task that confronted the framers of the Constitution was thus to devise a suitable formula which would protect the economic interest of the tribals, safeguard their way of life, and ensure their development so that they might take their legitimate place in the general life of the country.

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1 Report of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission Volume I&II, Year 1960-61, P. 33-34
2 Ibid., P.33
Let us now examine some of the provisions of the constitution which embody this new policy with its message of hope for millions of our citizens hitherto neglected. The generous heart of a new and resurgent India was expressed in the moving words of Article 46 of the Constitution: Special provisions have been made in the Constitution of India for the development of the weaker section, particularly of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes as have been defined in Article 341 and 342 respectively.

Article 46 specially enjoins on the States the special responsibility of promotion with special care of the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes and of protecting them from social injustice and exploitation. So knowledge about the Constitutional provisions for SC/ST is very important for everyone to evaluate and see that how these constitutional provisions have helped the area to develop.

These are the people forming the lowest rung of the society and therefore the Constitution has provided for special provisions (15(4), 16(4), 19(5), 46, 164, 244, 275(1), 330, 332, 334, 338, 339, 341, 342, and Fifth and Sixth Schedule). Article 46 enjoins the state should promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections with particular reference to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; as also protect them from social injustice and exploitation. The approach to tribal development was first laid down by Jawahar Lal Nehru in the form of Tribal Panchasheel, which, besides other things, advocated that the tribals should be allowed to develop according to their own genius, that they should be free to

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3 Ibid. p. 34
5 Ibid. p. 16.
possess and promote their own cultural ethos and objects; that they should be integrated into the national mainstream without the loss of their identity etc.\textsuperscript{6}

The north-eastern region consists of the states of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim. It has almost all types of physical formations ranging from alluvial plains to table lands, low hills and high mountains, narrow valleys and flat ranges. Consequently, two distinct kinds of agricultural practices are popular- settled plough cultivation in the plains, valleys and gentle slopes and Jhum (slash and burn) agriculture elsewhere in the hilly regions\textsuperscript{7}.

The area is inhabited by a large number of tribals. Four out of the eight states are, not only tribal-majority states, but also their economy and society abundantly reflects features significantly different from the other tribal pockets of the country. In the remaining four states, the tribal population is four times more than that of the national average.\textsuperscript{8}

### DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS: 2001 CENSUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>N.E./State</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>ST. Population</th>
<th>Percent age of the total Population in the State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>888,573</td>
<td>839,310</td>
<td>94.5</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>1,990,036</td>
<td>1,774,026</td>
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<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>2,318,822</td>
<td>1,992,862</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>1,097,968</td>
<td>705,158</td>
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<td>Manipur</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>540,851</td>
<td>111,405</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>26,655,528</td>
<td>3,308,570</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: "The Tribes of North East India", Edited by Kaarotemplel Sebastian P. 28


\textsuperscript{7} Bose Ashish, Tiplut Nongbri & Kumar Nikhlesh, 1990 Tribal Demography and Development in North-East India By B.R., Publishing Corporation Delhi-110007, P. 7.

\textsuperscript{8} Ibid. P. 8.
The British administration kept the area isolated to avoid any political influence from the outside world. The Scheduled District Act of 1874 provided a separate administrative set-up for the entire region and the system continued almost unchanged under the Government of India Acts 1919 and 1935. The region was thus either "excluded" or "partially excluded" for political and administrative purposes. The policy adopted by the post-independence government broadly followed the same administrative pattern and certain special provisions were made in the Constitution of India. While Articles 224 and 275 along with the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provide for the politico-administrative structure to suit the genius of the tribal folk, the North-Eastern Council exists as a regional planning body to look after the developmental needs of the people.

In August 1972, the Government set up an Advisory Body known as the North-Eastern Council for the integrated socio-economic development of Assam and other hill States such as Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura etc. This Council is a high level body which consists of the Governor, Chief Ministers of Assam and the hill States, and representatives of the Union Defense, Finance and Home ministries. Its function is to discuss matters of common interests and of national security and to recommend measures for the integrated socio-economic development of the entire hill region including Assam. This Council has its own permanent Secretariat at Shillong and the Union Government gives special funds to support measures which are recommended by it.

On the recommendation of the North-Eastern Council, a number of schemes such as

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investigation of hydel and thermal power, potential ropeways and development of animal husbandry and veterinary sciences have been undertaken during the Fifth Plan period.  

In this connection the Simon Commission also suggested some special measures for the administration of the area. The Commission stated:

"The stage of development reached by the inhabitants of these areas prevents the possibility of applying to them methods of representation adopted elsewhere. They do not ask for self-determination, but for security of land tenure, freedom in the pursuit of the traditional methods of livelihood and the reasonable exercise of their ancestral customs."  

While clarifying the need to have separate provisions for the tribals of the north-east B. R. Ambedkar said:

"I am speaking for Assam and other areas for the moment. The difference seems to be this. The tribal people in areas other than Assam are more or less Hinduised, more or less assimilated with the civilization and culture of the majority of the people in whose midst they live. With regard to the tribals of Assam that is not the case. Their roots are still in their own civilization and their own culture. They have not adopted mainly or in a large part, either the modes or the manners of the Hindus who surrounded them. Their laws of inheritance, their laws of marriage, customs and so on are quite different from that of the Hindus. I think that is the main distinction that influenced us to have a different sort of scheme for Assam from the one we have provided for other territories."

Thus the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution as it stands today applies to the states of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram and not to the other states in the north-east. Since the initial enactment, substantial changes have been made in its

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12 Ibid. P. 12.
applicability so far as the geographical area is concerned. In the states of Manipur and Tripura the State Acts themselves provide for the constitution of district councils for the tribal areas while in Nagaland the traditional village and area councils have been given statutory recognition under the State Act. However, the geographical coverage of the Sixth Schedule extends to the other major tribal areas where it provides for the formation of autonomous district councils and within them autonomous regions. These councils have been given extensive powers and functions with regard to almost all major activities of the tribal communities such as agriculture, animal husbandry, community projects, village planning, management of forests, inheritance of property, marriage, social customs, primary education, health, sanitation and so on.  

**Evolution of tribal Development**

The period between 1947 to 1952 was a transitory period for the tribal people and the development and administration of tribal areas. While British laws were being discarded, search for a new approach was on, which culminated in the incorporation of special provisions in our constitution. 

With the launching of the First Five Year Plan in 1951-52, India began its gigantic efforts towards planned development. With the introduction of the Community development programme, started a massive campaign for rural development. Based on the principle of people's participation, it immediately caught the imagination of the people. This brought the people and the administration closer together. They sat together to plan for the development of their area and worked

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13 Ibid. P. 12
shoulder to shoulder in implementation of programmes. Although in the beginning, general administration itself was given developmental responsibility; gradually separate developmental machinery was set up\textsuperscript{15}.

The first five year plan emphasized additional financial resources through community development approach to address the problems of tribal people rather than that of evolving a clear-cut tribal development strategy and towards the end of the plan (1954), 43 Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Projects (MTDPs) were created. These MTDPs could not serve the interests of the tribal people since the number of schemes, were numerous. This approach continued during second five year plan too. During the third five year Plan, another strategy for tribal development was evolved by converting those Community Development Blocks where concentration of tribal population was 66\% and above into Tribal Development Blocks. By the end of the fourth five year Plan, the number of TDBs in the country rose to 504 but this strategy too was considered to be a failure, as it failed to address the cause of more than 60\% of the tribal population of the country living in blocks outside the Tribal Development Blocks (TDBs).\textsuperscript{16}

\textbf{Five Year Plan periods and the Tribal Development Programmes}

After Independence, successive Five Year Plans have been implemented and the task of overall development of these tribal people has been given due importance. Plan provisions for the welfare of the tribals were made, either directly by the Central Government who sanctioned the funds or by the State Government who also spent money for their amelioration. The schemes were divided into four broad categories,

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid. P. 57.

namely (1) Education, (ii) Economic upliftment, (iii) Health/Housing and other similar Schemes and (iv) Removal of social disabilities.\(^{17}\)

In planning for development of tribals and tribal areas the ethnic diversity of tribal people who constitute 7.76% (1981 Census) of the total population has to be kept in view. Unlike the Scheduled Castes, they are mostly concentrated in certain areas and formulate diverse socio-economic levels of tribal societies.\(^{18}\)

In this context Jawaharlal Nehru suggested five guidelines for promoting the interest of the tribals. These five clauses are popularly known as ‘Panch Sheel’.\(^{19}\) They are: (1) People should develop along the lines of their own genius and we should avoid imposing anything on them. We should try to encourage in every way their own traditional arts and culture. (ii) Tribal rights over land and forest should be respected, (iii) we should try to train and build up a team of their own people to do the work of administration and development among them. Some technical personnel from outside will no doubt be needed, especially in the beginning. But we should avoid introducing too many outsiders into tribal territory. (iv) We should not over-administer these areas or overwhelm them with a multiplicity of schemes. We should rather work “through” and not in rivalry to their own social and cultural institutions. (v) We should judge results not by statistics or the amount of money spent, but by the quality of human character evolved.\(^{20}\)

The First Five Year Plan was started in 1951. Development Programme was started in 1952 as a community Development programme. Various programmes were initiated with particular reference to health, communication and housing. The programme was very comprehensive and the concept was equally applicable to the tribal areas with rest of the country but very soon the government realized that the

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\(^{17}\) Bhowmick Kumar Pradip, *Dynamics of Tribal Development*, Tribal Studies of India Series T 160, Inter- India Publications New Delhi- 110015. p. 57.

\(^{18}\) Ibid. p. 57.

\(^{19}\) Ibid. p.57.

task to be accomplished in the tribal areas was much more difficult. As most of these areas comprise hilly and forest regions and sparsely populated with poor communication and little institutional infrastructure. Therefore, it was decided to supplement the Community Development programme and accordingly 43 Special Multipurpose Tribal Development (TD) Blocks were started during 1954. Special emphasis was given to education in addition to health, agriculture, communication and housing programmes.  

In the Third Five Year Plan (1961-66) the major emphasis was given on economic development along with education, health, housing and communication. At the end of the Third plan it was reviewed and revealed that the programme did not have the desired impact. Therefore, it was decided to add a third phase of five years to Blocks and desist from establishing new ones. The Tribal Development Blocks covered all the areas having more than two-third tribal population. By the end of Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) 39.37 per cent of the total tribal populations were covered in 504 Tribal Development Blocks. On the whole, the areas with more than two-third tribal population got the benefits of this development effort. Upto the end of Fourth Five Year Plan, the remaining tribal population had derived benefits from the general development programme.

A series of programmes were introduced during the Fourth Five Year Plan period. Special attention was directed to individual families in addition to area based programmes. These programmes were: The Small Framers Development Agencies (SFDA), Marginal Farmers Development Agencies (MFDA), and Drought Prone

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22 Ibid. P. 31.
Area Programme (DPAP). In the wake of establishment of these area specific and weaker group oriented projects, the programmes for tribal area were also intensified on a plot basis. Tribal Development Agencies (TDA) were established on the pattern of SFDA. Six TDAs were started during Fourth Plan and two more were added in the Fifth Plan. 

For making the tribal development programme more effective and meaningful these were reviewed by special committees and commissions from time to time. Their experiences and insights enabled the planners and policy makers to think in terms of formulating an integrated tribal development strategy with requisite intimate linkages with a national strategy or socio-economic development. A new phase of tribal development started since Fifth Five Year Plan and may be considered as a turning point in the history of tribal development. During this plan period the concept of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) within the broad frame of State and Central plan took concrete shape.

Briefly, the concept consists of identification of development blocks within a State having more than 50 per cent tribal population launching of massive effort for tribal development in such areas called the Sub-plan area. For the preparation of Tribal Sub-plan the planning Commission issued a set of guidelines to the States. The guidelines spelt out the long term objectives of the Tribal Sub-plan are:

1. Narrowing the gap between the levels of development of tribals and other areas.
2. Speeding up the processes for social and economic development.
3. Building up the inner strength of the people.

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23 Ibid. P. 31-32
24 Ibid. P. 32
Improving their organizational capabilities.

Thus the guidelines laid down the criteria for identification of the sub-plan areas, the approach and strategy for development and also the pattern of funding and formulation of programme in these areas. The guidelines also stated that the sub-plan areas in each State should comprise a number of viable projects. Such unit of planning is an Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) in a State, comprising an aggregate of Development Blocks. The ITDP is being smaller than a district and bigger than a development Block. The lowest unit of performance of the programme as the Development Block. It will have a development team with the Block Development Officer as its leader. Programmes have to be planned for an ITDP in the shape of a sub-plan for the tribal region of the State. Guidelines laid down for the planning should be based on the needs of the area and the people, and, hence, the process has to be commenced at the grass-root level, i.e., the Development Block and funnelled upwards to the ITDP, State and National level.25

**Community Development Programme**

The Community Development (C.D.) Programme was inaugurated in the year 1952 with the following objectives:

1. To provide substantial increase in the country's agricultural production and to improve the system of communications, rural health, hygiene and rural education;

2. To initiate and direct a process of integrated culture change aimed at transforming the social and economic life of the villages.26

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25 Ibid. P. 33
The Community Development Projects were comprehensive in scope and offered a coordinated programme for multi-sided Rural Development. To look after these projects a separate Community Development (C.D) Projects Administration was created at the Planning Commission. Later, in 1953 under similar administrative set-up National Extension Service Blocks (N.E.S.B) were opened. These N.E.S. Blocks were less intensive in scope due to the reduced financial outlay, however the multi-sided approach continued.27

Has the Community development programme has benefited the people of the North East, especially Nagaland?

<table>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How far it benefited the people</strong></td>
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Tribal development in India has assumed greater significance in the context of the villages. The government has become very keen in the upliftment of tribal people on the villages. Since independence, the Government is doing sincere efforts for the upliftment of the tribal society. Government has introduced number of welfare schemes for the various needs of the tribals through VDBs, like construction of foot paths, public wells, toilets etc....

Government efforts for the tribal development through community development programme can only be beneficial if the tribals are well known to the development schemes. This table shows that 55 percent of the total respondents have

27 Ibid. P. 40.
knowledge about the community development programmes. Though this percentage is enough, in respect of tribal awareness, it is confined only to the knowing of names of welfare scheme or just like that. However 40% of the people said that this programme has benefited the villages in many ways, especially through construction of roads and footpaths, toilets, poultry and so on.

Recommendations for Tribal Development

The team for the study of Community Projects and National Extension Service (1957) opined that schemes in all their details should be worked out in consultation with the tribal people, who should feel that not only their advice is sought but also acted upon in all matters. In the case of tribal areas a thorough preliminary survey is important. It is also necessary that the recruited personnel should acquire knowledge of the local dialects, customs and ways of life, the people among whom they work. A similar suggestion was given in the Plan Document for Second Five-Year Plan (1956) that “Details of the development programmes should be formulated, in consultation with the members of advisory councils, opinions of tribal leaders, and institutions engaged in the study of tribal problems. The tribal people should feel that these programmes are in a real sense, a response to their own urge for better standards of living and the development of their culture. If the programmes are implemented with popular support, they will give the tribal people in all parts of the country, a sense of partnership and integration with the nation as a whole. The Report of the study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes (1959) prescribed that the overall order of priority in the welfare and
development of Scheduled Tribes should be as follows: (1) Economic Development and Communication, and (2) Education and Public Health.28

It is suggested that "A careful integrated programme of development of tribal economy based on agriculture, forestry, handicrafts and village industries should be organized. The exact degree of emphasis upon each of them should be determined by a systematic survey of the needs and possibilities in each area".29

The fundamental objectives of planned development in India since independence has been to transform a backward colonial system into a developed modern industrial one. The five-year plans have undertaken these challenge in their own right and every region in the country has felt their long-term impact. In this context, the changing scenario in the north-east today is no different from the rest of the country.30

The establishment of the North-Eastern Council under an Act of Parliament in 1972 has been another significant step in the administrative arrangement of the north-eastern region. The NEC has come to be recognized as an effective regional planning authority for matters relating to the socio-economic development of the region. Its counsel and recommendations form a very significant component of the total development efforts in the area.31 The situation has changed remarkably after independence and numerous special measures have been suggested for the socio-economic advancement of the people of this excluded area.

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28 Ibid. P. 41.
29 Ibid. P. 41.
31 Ibid. P. 12.
Tribal Sub-plan

The tribal situation was again reviewed on the eve of the Fifth Five Year Plan by a task force on “Development of Tribal Areas” constituted by the Planning Commission. It opined that the deficiencies and shortcomings pointed out by the earlier Commissions and Committees had generally remained unattended. It observed that one of the important factors for the failure of the development programmes, is that Scheduled Tribes and tribal areas have been looked upon as a ‘welfare’ problem as distinguished from “development” problem. The welfare of Scheduled Tribes has continued to depend on small outlays under the Backward classes sector and not on general sector outlays. The administrative structure in tribal areas lacks simplicity. It is beyond the comprehension of the Tribals and therefore it does not evoke any response from them. Such a structure of administration may not therefore be suitable for carrying out integrated development of tribal areas. The Task Force recommended that to ensure balanced socio-economic development of the tribal areas, a policy of integrated development would be necessary for the Fifth and subsequent Plans. Therefore, a tribal sub-plan strategy was evolved in 1974-75. This strategy emphasized area development with a focus on improving the quality of life of the tribal communities. Its immediate objectives were elimination of exploitation in all forms, speeding up the process of social and economic development building up of inner strength of people and improving their organizational capabilities.32

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32 Verma R.C., (1990), Indian Tribes Through the Ages, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, P. 156.
For development of tribal economy, the Tribal Sub-Plan strategy recommended giving high priority to agriculture, land reforms, irrigation, improved methods of cultivation and completion of land records; special attention to vulnerable groups like shifting cultivators and forest villages; generation of employment opportunities for better utilization of available manpower through programmes in the fields of horticulture, animal husbandry and allied occupations; development of cottage industries based on the local raw materials.  

Tribal Sub-Plan States & Union Territories.

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Daman & Diu.

The Salient features of the Tribal Sub-Plan Strategy

1. The Tribal Sub-Plan is a plan within the ambit of a state or a Union Territory plan meant for welfare and development of tribals. Such a plan is a part of over all plan of a state or union Territory, and therefore, called sub-plan. The benefits percolated to the tribals and tribal areas of a state or a Union Territory from Tribal sub-plan are in addition to what percolates from the overall plan of a state/UT.  

2. The Tribal sub-plan strategy is in operation in 21 States and 2 Union Territories. In the states like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram & Nagaland,

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33 Ibid. P. 157
the Tribal Sub-Plan concept is non-applicable since in these states tribals represent more than 80% of the population.  

3. The Sub-plans:
   (a) identify the resources for Tribal Sub-Plan areas;
   (b) prepare a broad policy framework for the development; and
   (c) define a suitable administrative strategy for its implementation.

4. The most significant aspect of this strategy is to ensure flow of funds for Tribal Sub-plan areas at least in equal proportion of scheduled tribes population to each of the State and Union Territories.

**Funds for Tribal Development Programmes.**

Funds for tribal development are sourced from

1. State Plan
2. Special Central Assistance
3. Sectoral Programmes of Central Ministries/ departments and
4. Institutional Finance.

State Governments are required to quantify the funds from state plan for tribal areas development, in proportion to the percentage of tribal population in the states. Similarly, Central Ministries should quantify the funds from sectoral programmes for tribal development in proportion to the percentage of tribal population in the country. These funds are to be used for implementing development programmes in the tribal areas primarily for the scheduled tribes, in the fields of

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35 Ibid. P. 26-27
36 Ibid. P. 27.
37 Ibid. P. 27
education, health, agriculture, horticulture, small industries, artisans and other income generating activities.  

**Plans and Programmes of the Ministry**

The Major programmes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of scheduled tribes can be categorized into the following categories:

1. Infrastructure Development and Employment Generation
2. Education and Vocational Training
3. Ensuring Fair Prices
4. Research and Training
5. Prevention of Starvation and Disaster Mitigation

**Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-plan**

In support of Tribal Sub-plan, the Government of India has also been extending Special Central Assistance (SCA) to the States and the Union Territories as an Additive to fill up the gaps, especially in the family based income-generating programmes. As a result, there has been a substantial increase in the flow of funds for the development of Scheduled Tribes, besides enlargement of the share of benefits for Scheduled Tribes under all the development programmes.

The Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-plan is provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to 21 Tribal Sub-plan State Governments and two Union Territories, Administrations including North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur and Tripura.

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38 Ibid. P. 27-28
39 Ibid. P. 28
However, from 2003-04 the Ministry of Home Affairs is releasing the funds under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-plan meant for the Union Territories.\footnote{Ibid. P. 883}

The SCA is to be utilized in conjunction with the TSP flow with a view to meeting the gaps, which are not otherwise taken care of by the State Plan. The objective and scope of SCA to Tribal Sub-plan which was originally meant for filling up of the critical gaps in the family-based income-generation activities of the Tribal Sub-plan, will now be expanded to cover the employment-cum-income generation activities and the infrastructure incidental thereto which may not only be family-based, but also run by the Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/Community.\footnote{Ibid P. 883.}

The ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand-based income-generation programmes and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals in sectors of agriculture, horticulture, land reforms, watershed development/soil and moisture conservation, animal husbandry, ecology and environment, development of forests/forest villages.\footnote{Ibid P. 883.}

During 2004-05, an amount of Rs.497 crore was released to the States.\footnote{Ibid P. 883.}

**Grants under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution**

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provide grants to 21 Tribal Sub-plan and 4 tribal Majority states under the First Proviso to article, 275(1) of the Constitution to meet the cost of such projects for tribal development as may be undertaken by the
state governments for raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas therein to that of the rest of the state.\(^{45}\)

An amount of Rs 330 crore was provided to State Governments for infrastructure projects during 2004-05.\(^{46}\)

**Education of Girls in Low Literacy Pockets:**

The scheme envisages setting up of residential educational complex as from first to fifth standard. This Scheme was launched in 1993-94 with the objective of raising the literacy level of tribal females. The scheme is implemented through the voluntary organizations and State Government schemes.\(^{47}\) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides full assistance for running of the educational complexes. A complex is meant for girls studying in class 1 to V with strength of 30 girls in every class with a provision for training in craft/vocational education. Food and lodging is free for the students. There is a provision for supply of two sets of uniforms per year per student, free periodical medical check-ups for the children and adult education for the parents of the girls in the evening.\(^{48}\)

An Incentive of Rs.50 per student per month is to be paid to the parents for sending their daughters to these educational complexes.\(^{49}\)

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\(^{46}\) India 2006, A Reference Annual, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India, P. 884.

\(^{47}\) Ibid, P. 886


\(^{49}\) Ibid.P. 30
Grant in aid for Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes

This scheme was started in 1953-54. Numerous important projects are being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs through voluntary organizations, which are working for the welfare of the scheduled tribes. The projects include residential schools, hostels, medical mobile dispensaries, computer training units, shorthand and typing training units, balwadies (in areas not covered by the ICDS programme) libraries and audio-visual units for dissemination of vital information relevant to the welfare of scheduled tribes. The grant is generally restricted to 90% of the approved total cost of the project; the balance 10% is borne by the voluntary organizations.50

Vocational Training in Tribal Areas

This scheme under the Central Sector introduced in 1992-93 aims at developing the skills of the tribal youth in order to gain employment/self-employment opportunities. The scheme envisages setting up of vocational training centres (VTCs)51

This scheme is implemented through the state governments/UT Administrators, institutions or organizations set up by government as autonomous bodies, educational and other institutions like local bodies and cooperative societies and non-governmental organizations. Each centre may cater to five vocational courses in traditional skills, depending upon the employment potential skills of the area. Each tribal boy/girl will be trained in two trades of his/her choice, the course in

50 Ibid. P.29
each trade being for duration of three months. Each trainee will be attached at the end of six months, to a Master Craftsman in a semi urban/urban area for a period of six months to learn his skill by practical experience. There is provision for monthly stipend and grant for raw material for the trainees.\textsuperscript{52}

**Scheme for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs):**

A Central Sector Scheme was introduced in 1998-99 for the all-round development of these groups under which financial assistance was made available to Integrated Tribal Development Projects, Tribal Research Institutes and Non-Governmental Organizations for undertaking projects/activities not covered by any of the existing schemes.\textsuperscript{53}

**Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)**

TRIs are engaged in the work of providing planning inputs to the State Governments, collection of data and conducting research and evaluation studies on problems relating to the tribes living in respective States. The Tribal Research Institutes also conduct training, seminars and workshop for the cause of tribal development and also codify customary laws. Most of the Tribal Research Institutes run tribal museum for exhibiting tribal artifacts, etc.\textsuperscript{54}

There are 16 tribal Research Institutes located in different parts of India including Assam and Manipur. Under this scheme grants are provided on 50:50 bases to states for running and maintaining these Institutes.


\textsuperscript{53} India 2006, A Reference Annual, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India, P. 884

\textsuperscript{54} Ibid. P. 884.
During the year 2004-05, a sum of Rs 1.90 crore was released to the State Governments to support these Institutions.\footnote{Ibid. P. 485.}

**Hostels for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Girls**

This is one of the earliest conceived schemes devised to spread education at a fast speed. Started in Third Five-Year Plan period, it caters to provide accommodation to girls studying away from their home. 50% of cost of hostels built is borne by Centre and 50% by States. The Maintenance of the hostels is the responsibility of the state governments. Voluntary organizations could also run these hostels if they pay 10% of total expenditure, the rest being borne by the Centre and States in the ratio of 50:50. There is no cost-wise ceiling on construction of these hostels which is to be done on public Works Department (PWD) rates. Out of 100 inmates in a hostel, 10 are to be from non Scheduled Caste /Scheduled Tribes.\footnote{Goswami .B, (2003) Constitutional Safeguards for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, Rawat Publications New Delhi. P. 76-77}

**Is there any SC/ST Hostels for boys/Girls sponsored by the Central and State Governments?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC/ST Hostels sponsored by the Central and State Governments</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of 100 respondents, 21 percentage of the people said that these hostels helped in increasing the literacy rate of the state, reduced drop outs, especially in rural areas these hostels assisted in the financial constraints of the people and
provided better facilities to the students. But the sad state of the matter is, that 60 percentages of the respondents were not even aware about these facilities. The people those who said ‘don’t know’ are considered to be the educated ones. Even then they are not aware about the fact, then what about the rest of the people in the society? This shows that these kinds of hostels may not be working properly in the state.

The Government initiatives of special educational facilities such as scholarships, book aids, free hostel accommodation etc. have also not played any significant role in increasing their educational level and improving their socio-economic conditions. Economically strong population of this group has been the main participants in utilizing the special incentives for education and economic opportunities.57

Economic development and educational development should be conceived as the two sides of the same coin. Education not only opens up the doors of modernization but also leads to self sufficiency through diversification.58

Some of the hostels are located at quite some distance and inconvenient for the girls because of that many girls could not take advantage of this facility. Moreover the maintenance of these hostels was also reported to be poor. Both these aspects need to be looked into for better results.59

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Hostels for SC and ST Boys

On the pattern of girls' hostels, scheme for boys hostels for SC/ST was also taken up in 1989-90.\textsuperscript{60}

During the year 2004-05, an amount of Rs 13 crore was released for construction of 33 Girls/Boys Hostels. Since the creation of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, a total of 502 Girls/Boys Hostels have been sanctioned.\textsuperscript{61}

Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-plan Areas:

This Centrally sponsored scheme was started in 1990-991 to provide central assistance to the States and Union Territories on 50 per cent and 100 per cent basis respectively.\textsuperscript{62} Since the creation of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, a total of 353 Ashram Schools have been sanctioned.\textsuperscript{63}

Village Grain Bank (Central Sector Scheme):

As a part of Government effort; to prevent deaths of children in remote and backward tribal areas due to fall in nutrition standards, a scheme of village Grain Banks has been launched during 1996-97. A one time grant towards purchase of grains, at the rate of one quintal per family of tribals in such areas, storage facilities for the grains and purchase of weights and scales is provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs through TRIFED, as the canalizing agency. The grain bank is to be managed by a village committee elected by the beneficiaries themselves who as

\textsuperscript{60} Ibid. P. 77.
\textsuperscript{61} India 2006, A Reference Annual, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. P. 885.
\textsuperscript{62} Ibid. P.885.
\textsuperscript{63} Ibid. P.885.
members of the bank can borrow grains from the grain banks at times of scarcity and repay subsequently with a small interest.64

**Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Students:**

The scheme was introduced in 1944 for providing financial assistance to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste students pursuing post-matriculation recognized courses including professional, technical as well as non-professional and non-technical courses. The scheme was implemented by the state governments and UT administrations, which receive 100 per cent financial assistance over and above the committed liability.65 The committed liability is equal to the expenditure reached in the last year of the preceding Plan period. The requirement of committed liability of north-eastern states has been dispensed with from 1997-98.66

The value of existing scholarship includes maintenance allowance, reader charges for blind students, study tour charges, thesis typing/ printing charges, book allowance to students pursuing correspondence courses and compulsory non-refundable fees charged by the educational institutions.67

**National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes (Non-Plan):**

This scheme was introduced in 1954-55. It provides financial assistance to meritorious students for pursuing higher studies abroad in specified fields at Master level, PhD and Post Doctoral research programmes, in the fields of engineering, technology and science for scheduled tribes, de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic

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65 Ibid. P. 31.
68 Ibid. P. 32
tribes. The selected candidates are provided the cost of tuition and other educational fees charged by the foreign University etc., maintenance and other grants along with travel expenses. Those in merit scholarship for post graduate studies, research or training abroad (excluding attending seminars, workshops, conferences) from a foreign government/organization or under any other scheme where cost of passage is not provided can avail passage grant under the scheme.68

Grants under second proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution (Non-Plan)

Fixed grant is provided to the government of Assam in respect of the administration of tribal areas in hill districts of North Cachar and Karbi Anglong.69

Coaching & Allied Scheme for Scheduled Tribes:

The scheme was introduced during fourth five year plan. Under the scheme, free coaching facilities are provided to scheduled tribe students through Pre-examination training centres, to help them complete in various competitive examinations having all-India recruitment character. The Pre-Examination Training course for Scheduled Tribes run by state governments/universities/private coaching institutes are eligible for assistance under the scheme. The scheme provides for stipends up to Rs.500/- per month to the outstation students and Rs.150/- per month for local students for taking coaching at the pre-examination training centers. The fees for the coaching are also covered.70

Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Tribe Students (Central Sector Scheme):

The scheme was introduced during seventh five year plan. The objective of the scheme is to upgrade the merit of Scheduled Tribe students by providing them

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68 Ibid. P. 32-33.
69 Ibid. P. 33.
70 Ibid. P. 33.
remedial and special coaching in classes IX to XII. While the remedial coaching aims at removing deficiencies in various subjects, the special coaching is provided with a view to prepare the students for competitive examinations for seeking entry into professional courses like engineering and medical disciplines. The scheme provides for 100% central assistance to the states/Union Territories. A package grant of Rs. 15,000/- per student per year is provided and the state/Union Territories are not required to bear any financial burden.  

**Book Bank**

This scheme is intended to provide textbooks required for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students pursuing medical and engineering degree courses. The scheme was started from the year 1978-79. Agriculture, veterinary and polytechnic courses have also now been included under the scheme. A group of two students is provided one set of textbooks. The books are provided to the Universities or colleges recommended by state governments. The states or Union Territories implement the Scheme and the expenditure is co-shared on 50-50 basis between the centre and the state governments. The Union Territory administrations receive 100% central assistance.

**Higher Education: University Level**

In accordance with constitutional obligation and the policy of the Government of India, the scheme of reservation in public services for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is also to be extended to admission to institutions of higher level than school, namely, colleges and universities including technical institutions like

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71 Ibid. P. 34
medical and engineering colleges. The broad principle is that such reservation should not be less than their population percentage. In the case of central universities it is 15% for SC and 7.5% for ST. But there are no medical colleges and engineering colleges in Nagaland. As a whole when we take North East, it has only very few colleges like this. So the higher education has not affected North East very much.

**Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India LTD**

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), an apex level co-operative Society, was set up by the Government of India in 1987, under the Multi-State Cooperation Societies Act, 1984. The Bye-laws of the Organization have been changed in 2003, in accordance with the amended MSCS Act, 2002. As per the new Bye-laws, the main objective of TRIFED is to serve the interest of its members in more than one State for the social and economic betterment of its members by conducting its affairs in a professional, democratic and autonomous manner through self help and mutual cooperation for undertaking marketing development of tribal products.

**Share Capital Contribution to TRIFED:**

This scheme of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) was set up by the Government of India, in the year 1987, with the prime objective of providing marketing assistance and remunerative prices

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73 Ibid. P. 79.
to scheduled tribes communities for their minor forest produce and surplus agricultural produce and to prevent their exploitation by private traders.\(^7^5\)

The authorized share capital of TRIFED is Rs.100.00 crores and the paid up capital has gone up to Rs.99.98 crores of which Government of India's contribution is Rs.99.75 crores.\(^7^6\)

**Price Support to TRIFED:**

The price of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and surplus agriculture produce (SAP) are subject to fluctuations. For meeting the unforeseen contingencies of losses because of such fluctuations in the prices and to ensure remunerative prices to the tribal farmers for their produce, the Ministry has been providing financial assistance to the TRIFED to set off part of such losses.\(^7^7\)

**Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce:**

This scheme was started in 1978-79. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) or Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) is an important source of earning for tribals. Most of the states have set up Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations, Minor Forest Produce Trade and Development Federations or Forest Development Corporation for dealing with minor forest produce items. 100% grants are provided to state governments under this scheme for (1) strengthening the share capital base of TDCCS for increasing the volume of procurement of MFPs; (ii) constructions of


\(^7^6\) Ibid. P. 34

\(^7^7\) Ibid. P. 34-35
scientific warehouses; (iii) establishing process industries for value addition to MFP items; and (iv) research and development activities by the state cooperative.  

**State Tribal Development Finance Corporation:**

Eight states have exclusive scheduled tribes Finance and Development Corporations, while others have a combined Scheduled Caste /Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporations. These corporations provide loan cum subsidy to scheduled tribes beneficiaries having income upto double the poverty line, for various economic activities to increase their income generation. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides equity capital to these state corporations to enhance their capital base.  

The equity ratio between central and state government is generally 49:51. In addition these corporations are provided finance by the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation for advancing loans to beneficiaries. The state corporations mainly fund employment oriented schemes in the areas of:

1. Agriculture and allied sector
2. Minor Irrigation,
3. Trades and Services,
4. Transport and
5. Other self-employment schemes.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment were operating the schemes at paras 2.13, 2.14, 2.16 & 2.17 for both scheduled castes and tribes. These schemes...
were bifurcated in November 2000, and the Ministry has been implementing the schemes for scheduled tribes independently since then.81

Exchange of Visits by Tribals:

This is a new scheme launched in 2001-02. The aim is to provide an opportunity to scheduled tribes (living below poverty line) from one state to visit other states to get a greater exposure to development activities and improve their awareness. It provides for a tour of about ten days excluding journey time, and with one official as escort. Three Tier AC train fare and daily allowance is provided for the visit.82

Rehabilitation of Project Affected Scheduled Tribe Families:

A National Policy on the Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families has been formulated and circulated by the Ministry of Rural Development during February 2004. The Policy is in the form of broad guidelines and executive instructions for guidance of all concerned. It is applicable to projects, displacing 500 families or more enmasse in plain areas, and 250 families enmasse in hilly areas, desert development programme blocks, areas mentioned in schedule-5 and Schedule-6 of the Constitution of India.83

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also circulated the policy to all the States. In Addition, the Ministry has formulated a 17-point format for preparation of Relief and Rehabilitation Plan by the Ministry of Rural development.

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81 Ibid. P. 36.
82 Ibid. P. 36
83 India 2006, A Reference Annual, Ministry of information and Broadcasting, Government of India. P. 887-888
As per the Policy, the displaced Scheduled Tribe persons are eligible for special benefits in addition to the provisions made applicable for all displaced persons. The special provisions for the project affected Scheduled Tribe families are as under: (i) Each Project Affected Family (PAF) of Scheduled Tribe category shall be given preference in allotment of land. (ii) Each tribal PAF shall be entitled to get R and R (Relief and Rehabilitation) benefits mentioned under the policy. (iii) Each tribal PAF shall get additional financial assistance equivalent to 500 days minimum agriculture wages for loss of customary rights/usages of forest produce. (iv) Tribal PAFs will be resettled close to their natural habitat in a compact block so that they can retain their ethnic linguistic and cultural identity. (v) Tribal PAFs shall get land free of cost for community and religious gathering. (vi) Tribal PAFs resettled out of the district/taluka will get 25 per cent higher R&R benefits in monetary terms. (vii) The tribal land Alienated in violation of the laws and regulations in force on the subject would be treated as null and void and the R and R (Relief and Rehabilitation) benefits would be available only to the original tribal land owner. (viii) The tribal families residing in the Project Affected Areas having fishing rights in the river/pond/dam shall be given fishing rights in the reservoir area. (ix) Tribal PAFs enjoying reservation benefits in the affected zone shall be entitled to get the reservation benefits at the resettlement zone.  

However, as per the Constitution of India "Land and its Management" falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the States. The Ministry of Rural...
Development has been considering to amend the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 to have a Model Act.\textsuperscript{85}

**Recognition of Forest Rights of Scheduled Tribes:**

Tribals have been living in and around forests for centuries. These are their original habitats for generations from time immemorial. These Forest-Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) are integral to the forest bio-sphere. Unfortunately however the traditional rights of these FDSTs over the land occupied by them were not adequately recognized and recorded at the time of consolidation of State forests during the colonial period and subsequently, after Independence too.\textsuperscript{86}

The condition of FDSTs are becoming precarious day by day- owing to displacement threats in view of the ever-increasing demand for conservation of forests on the one hand, and tardy implementation of developmental activities meant for them. As they do not have a ‘legal’ home they do not have an address. As a result they cannot avail themselves of benefits under various schemes of the Government such as the “Indira Awas Yojana”.\textsuperscript{87}

The tribals inhabiting the forest villages do not get the benefit of various welfare schemes due to non-availability of title of land in their favour and the fact that in many cases the jurisdiction of the block and revenue authorities do not cover forest villages. The forest villages are those villages which were set up in remote and inaccessible forest areas during British period with a view to provide uninterrupted manpower for forestry operations. However many of these villages are not revenue villages. There are around 3000 forest villages in the country. As a result they face

\textsuperscript{85} Ibid, P. 888
\textsuperscript{86} Ibid, P. 888-889
\textsuperscript{87} Ibid P. 889
the threat of eviction. Hence FDSTs feel and are agitated. All these factors have resulted in historical injustice to them.\textsuperscript{88}

The Provisions of the Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA) gives the right of ownership of MFP to the respective local communities. The collection of MFP and its marketing thereof constitute the major source of livelihood for majority tribal populations.\textsuperscript{89}

However, despite the transfer of control and management of natural resources to the STs, the collection and trade in MFP, mainly Tendu leaves, is largely monopolized by Corporations belonging to the Forest Departments of State Governments.\textsuperscript{90}

The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) have issued a circular on 5February 2004 to all the State Governments/UTs to recognize the traditional rights of the tribal population on forest lands under the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 and to send their proposals to the Central Government for diversion of forest lands continuously occupied by any forest dwellers. The aim was to confer unfettered, heritable but inalienable rights over the forest land in respect of those Tribal dwellers who are in continuous occupation of such forest land at least since 31 December 1993. However, due to some Court cases the matter is awaiting final judgments.\textsuperscript{91}

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has accordingly formulated the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005, to redress the historical injustice done to tribal community and for clear assertion of their legal rights to land. The proposed Bill provides for the following matters, namely: (1) it reinforces and

\textsuperscript{88} Ibid. P. 889
\textsuperscript{89} Ibid. P. 889
\textsuperscript{90} Ibid. P. 889
\textsuperscript{91} Ibid. P. 889
utilizes the rich conservation ethos that tribal communities have traditionally shown and cautions against any form of unsustainable or destructive practices; (2) it lays down a simple procedure for recognition and vesting of forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes so that rights, which stand vested in forest dwelling tribal communities, become legally enforceable through corrective measures in the formal recording system of the executive machinery; (3) it provides for adequate safeguards to avoid any further encroachment of forests and seeks to involve the democratic institutions at the grassroots level in the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights; (4) it addresses the long standing and genuine need of granting a secure and inalienable right to those communities whose right to life depends on right to forests and thereby strengthening the entire conservation regime by giving a permanent stake to scheduled Tribes dwelling in the forests for generations in symbiotic relationship with the entire ecosystem. Public reaction/opinion has been invited over the contents of the proposed Bill. Further action to enact the Bill would be taken as per the procedure established for the purpose.92

After India got her independence, the government of India took strong steps to bring sustainable development in North East India (NEI). In order to bring quick and sustainable development in NEI, the Government of India established the North Eastern Council (NEC) under an Act of Parliament (North Eastern Council Act, 1971). From 2003, the NEC gets its budgetary allocations/funds from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, but before 2003 the NEC was getting all its budgetary allocations/ funds from the Ministry of Home Affairs since there was no Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. Besides the NEC, through

92 Ibid. P. 889-890.
different plans, programmes and activities, the Government of India does a lot for sustainable development of the region. The Government of India directly as well as indirectly encourages the State Governments of North-Eastern Region to launch immediate and long term strategies for solving the existing problems of their respective states and to achieve the tasks of development.\(^{93}\)

After sixty years of Independence of India, North East India is not able to achieve the basic and essential tasks of development despite a lot of intervention by central and state governments. The common problems found in the process of development in NEI are given below:\(^{94}\)

**Geopolitical problems, Insurgency, Strikes and Bandhs Migration problems etc.**

It is found that “The government of Nagaland declared ‘Year of Farmers’ for two consecutive years (2006 and 2007). The policy of Nagaland Government for the poor farmers in the rural areas is very good and accepted by one and all. The fund allocation for this program was huge and good enough to bring change in the life of a farmer. However, the failure is not because of the Government’s policy, but the people who execute the decision of the Government. The Officers in Agri-Allied departments are to bear the responsibility of failure or success of this program. For an example nearly four crores of rupees each were distributed to Agri-Allied Departments such as Agriculture, Soil conservation, Horticulture, Land Resources, Irrigation etc in 2006 in addition to their normal State and Central allocation. But to the dismay of the people, and the officers incharge of this programme became the

\(^{93}\) Komal Singha (ed) 2009 *Village Development in North-East India*, Concept publishing company, New Delhi- 110059, P. 120-121

\(^{94}\) Ibid. P. 121
supplier, they became the receivers of the kickback. No formalities were followed. The tenders were done as table tenders so that they can give to anyone who dances according to their music. The economic conditions of officers were lifted up at the expense of the farmers.  

Development of backward tribal areas has been taken up by the government since the beginning of the planning period. A number of schemes have been in operation from time to time. The important central and state government schemes include 'Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Intensive Agricultural Extension scheme, Prime Ministers 20-point programme, Rural Electrification Programme' etc.  

Problems from Educational Standpoints: Educationally unreached, under reached and half reached failures to achieve quality education, science and mathematics education is very poor in the entire hill regions. Illiteracy and ignorance is very common in rural hill areas.  

One would really be surprised when we compare the status of physical sciences, mathematical sciences, engineering sciences and many other basic sciences in Nagaland with the rest of the states in India.

Table -3 (Nagaland)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Medical colleges</th>
<th>B.Sc. Nursing Schools</th>
<th>Engineering College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.83 lakhs</td>
<td>Nill</td>
<td>Nill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

95 Bendangyangger, 4th Mile, Dimapur, Nagaland Post Friday March 28, 2008.  
96 Sisodia . S. Yatindra(1999), Political Consciousness Among Tribals , Rawat Publications, Jaipur and New Delhi, , P.43-44  
North-Eastern region is one of the most neglected regions so far as medical education and medical facilities are concerned.

The following table gives us the sad data about the spread of medical education in the North-Eastern region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Assam</th>
<th>A.P</th>
<th>M.P</th>
<th>Meghalaya</th>
<th>Mizoram</th>
<th>N.L</th>
<th>T.P</th>
<th>Sikkim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. M Colleges</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population As per 2001 Census</td>
<td>266.38 lakhs</td>
<td>10.91 lakhs</td>
<td>23.88 lakhs</td>
<td>23.08 lakhs</td>
<td>8.91 lakhs</td>
<td>19.88 lakhs</td>
<td>31.91 lakhs</td>
<td>5.40 lakhs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: A.P - Arunachel Pradesh

M.P - Manipur

N.L - Nagaland

T.P - Tripura

Problems from Economic Standpoints: Unplanned economic growth, massive unemployment and under employment, lack of well developed industries in the region, very slow industrialization, problems of infrastructure for industrialization, rampant poverty in rural areas, lack of marketing facilities.

Problems from Health and life Style Standpoints: Water crisis in the hilly areas, drug addiction and alcoholism, lack of information and communication, lack of proper transport facilities for goods and services, medical facilities etc are seen in the villages.

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98 Ibid. P. 121
99 Ibid. P. 122
'State faces acute shortage of medicines due to extortion'. Almost 50% of the life saving medicines have run out of stock in the market as the transporters have stopped bringing medicines to Dimapur owing to extortion demand served to them by a certain faction. Medicos said they would be compelled to down their shutters due to non-availability of stocks if the trend continued for more than one week.\textsuperscript{100}

Speaking to pressmen on Friday, May 17\textsuperscript{th} 2009, Nagaland Medicine Dealers' Association (NMDA) general secretary, Basu Damani said it has been 15 days since the transports brought any medicine. He informed that certain faction had demanded a huge amount of money to be paid every month. He also said the transporters have refused to bring medicines to Nagaland since the end of April as they could not pay extra tax to any faction. He said the NMDA President Ato Yepthomi on Friday informed the deputy commissioner Dimapur of the situation and requested him to take initiative in resolving the crisis. Traders alleged that few persons were collecting Rupees 50 every month in the name of DMC.\textsuperscript{101}

It may also be mentioned that in Manipur also, extortion demands had left medicine dealers with no choice but close down as transporters refused to deliver goods.\textsuperscript{102}

Development is also affected because of Problems of land slide in the hill areas and Problem of flood in the valley.\textsuperscript{103}

\textsuperscript{100} Nagaland post, A daily Newspaper, Dimapur, Saturday, May 18, 2009, P. 1

\textsuperscript{101} Ibid. P. 1

\textsuperscript{102} Ibid. P.1

\textsuperscript{103} Komol Singha (ed) 2009, Village Development in North-East India), Concept publishing company, New Delhi- 110059, P. 122
Climatic change and destruction due to jhum/ shifting cultivation and deforestation, destruction of bio-diversity and threat to wild life, desertification of jungles by the common people, green house effect in the entire region etc.  

**Industries in Nagaland**

Growth of industries, trade and commercial activities are very less in the North-Eastern region especially in Nagaland not because of its geographical problems but because of lack of proper training and motivation of its people. Inspite of having 'rich natural /forest and mining resources and agricultural products' Nagaland is still an industrially and commercially undeveloped area. In no part of Nagaland a big industry is found. Vocational and commerce education along with a strong base of political will is necessary in this place in order to make the entire state an industrial and commercial centre. The need to have more industries has been well recognized. ‘At present only very few industries are functioning well. Bricks Co. Ltd, in Dimapur with one lakh capacity of bricks per day has been commissioned.

In any case industrial development in the region has been inadequate. The main reason for this situations may be lack of infrastructural facilities like developed network of communication, power etc.. Another reason is remoteness of the area from the organized market. Uneven hilly terrain hindering easy communication, lack

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104 Ibid, P. 122  
105 Ibid, p. 127  
106 India 2009, A Reference Annual, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India, p. 1099
of entrepreneurial qualities among local people, lack of an adequate inventory of skilled manpower including managerial personnel.  

The problem of unemployment badly affects the Naga youth and the state as a whole. This is an issue with the youth, with the educated youth who are intelligent people, who can become dangerously vocal and influential not to accept any unenviable position lying down but to give constant threat to the security and stability of the State.

It is pointed out that under the backward conditions of the North-Eastern Region special initiative will have to be taken by the governments of the concerned states to improve infrastructure and steps taken by the governments are not sufficient. No policy can be successful unless and until the people’s participation in all respects of development is realized.

After independence the Government of India no doubt implemented many programmes for the development of the tribal people of North-East India. The North Eastern Council was constituted in the year 1971 by an Act of Parliament. This Council is the nodel agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region which consists of the eight states of, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

North East has got its own problems. The special features of this region with economic backwardness, poor communications and lack of trained manpower. Some of the factors that hamper development are the lack of road communication, absence

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of marketing facilities and lack of interest of the people in development programmes itself. The feeling of exclusion from the mainland India is also a real factor. Sometimes there are vested interests that prevent schemes from taking off. Compared to other places there is no rail road connectivity except Dimapur. Most of the capital cities of North East do not have even rail roads and airport connections at all; that in itself is a big problem. Though there are programmes and projects taking place in the Region, the growth is not very much visible compared to other states of India. One of the problems that North East faces is insurgency and smuggling, because of its exposure and vicinity to many neighbouring countries. North East has five neighboring countries like China, Bangladesh, Myanmar Bhutan and Tibet Etc... In the final analysis it is the responsibility of each states and its people, to come up with effective ways and means to improve themselves and their situation to find out ways and means to improve this situation.