

## CHAPTER - XV

### AN OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ORISSA

Orissa is regarded as the *Homeland of the Tribals* having a total tribal population of about 7 million, which is 22.21 per cent of the State's total population according to Census. The State has the third highest tribal population in the entire country, which accounts for roughly 11 per cent of the total tribal population of India. The tribals mostly inhabit the western hilly regions of the State, mainly in or in close proximity to forests. More than 50 percent of Orissa's tribal population is found in the undivided Koraput, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj districts, while Koraput alone accounts for more than 25 per cent of the tribal population of the state.

There are 62 communities listed as Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Orissa under the provision of the Indian Constitution. More than 80 per cent of them live in designated scheduled areas. There are 13 sections of these tribes in the State of Orissa who have been identified as Primitive Tribes, who are very primitive in nature from the cultural and technological standpoints. The tribal population in Orissa is among the poorest, most vulnerable and exploited groups in the State. Most tribal communities are confined to the more hilly and remote areas of the State. These areas have been the habitat for some tribes for centuries, whereas the others have been slowly driven out of the more fertile plains by the non-tribals in recent times. Historically, tribals have had a life style characterised by close dependency on the forest for shifting cultivation, collection of forest produce and hunting. Concepts of money management, savings and planning have traditionally not been of major importance, although the highly developed mixed cropping strategies in shifting cultivation witness conscious strategies of risk-aversion and ecological adaptation. The average literacy rate among the tribal is 22.3 per cent (10.2 per cent for tribal women), much lower than the State average of 49.1 per cent accounting to 1991 census. Maternal, Child and Infant Mortality rates are extremely high among tribal communities in the State.

Tribals in Orissa have never lived in isolation from the surrounding society. During feudal times, many tribal communities were integrated as subjects, tenants and in a few cases, even warriors under the smaller rulers and zamindars. The relationship was that of patron and client. Although it contained a good amount of exploitation of tribals through taxation in kind, it did not challenge the social and cultural integrity of the various tribal communities for territorial control, access to forest produce, taxation and defence. With the abolition of zamindari system, and its feudal arrangements, tribals became the immediate subjects and tenants under the State. As such tribal communities lost the feudal patronage and became exposed to non-tribal infringement on their customary rights to land and forests. However, a number of national and state level legislations have been enacted to protect the traditional entitlements of tribals and also to protect them from exploitation by the non-tribals.

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRIBALS IN ORISSA**

### **Tribal Economy**

The tribal economy in the State of Orissa is primarily subsistence oriented and based upon a combination of agriculture, forestry and wage labour. Although tribals are mainly dependent on agriculture, collection from forest continues to play a major role in household consumption and income generation. But the dependence of tribal on forest resources varies from area to area. In some areas with serious deforestation, such as Koraput district, collection of forest produce is now of declining importance for the tribal economy. In other areas, typically in the interior valleys of dense forests, cash earnings from non-timber forest produce such as sal and tendu leafs (for plates and bidis) is still of great importance for the household economy. The general pattern is that there is more dependence on forests among the shifting cultivators, pastoralists and hunter-gatherers, and least among the settled agriculturists.

With the decline in output from forest produce, as well as shifting cultivation, tribals are increasingly becoming dependent on seasonal wage labour, both as agricultural and unskilled construction workers. Tribals are usually paid the minimum daily wage of **Rs.50** (fixed by government), although there is evidence of tribal women being paid much less than that. Although difficult to establish in monetary terms, the income of most tribal households is

substantially lower (Rs.4,000-6,000, Annual income) than the official poverty line of **Rs.11,000**, accounting to 1992 BPL survey of the Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Orissa.

### **Land Tenure**

In Orissa, the livelihood and survival of tribals largely rests on their access to land and forests. The legal status of tribal land is at times complex, and takes many different forms. Tenure may be in the form of individual ownership based on legal rights (*patta/ryoti rights*) or it may constitute usufructuary rights (i.e. right to collect fruits, leaves, waste wood and timber, etc.) to common property lands, usually set aside for grazing or orchards. In addition to these two categories of tenure, tribals in most parts of Orissa cultivate a considerable amount of so-called encroached land. Encroached land is divided into two categories: government land, which is mainly cultivable waste (Abada Yogya Anabadi). *Podu* (shifting) cultivation is often carried out on cultivable waste or other category of forest land on hill slopes. However, shifting cultivation is not allowed on reserve forestland, except at the discretion of the Forest Settlement Officer. The law entitles ownership (*patta*) to tribals who have cultivated non-objectionable government land continuously for at least 12 years. Another category of encroached land is labelled "objectionable", and includes e.g. land set aside by government for development purposes, *gochar* (community grazing) land, orchard land, and other land for public use.

### **Natural Resources and Agriculture**

Forests are considered common property by tribal communities in Orissa as is elsewhere in India and are shared equally. Tribals have a strong sense of attachment to the forest as their ancestral territory. They maintain de facto usufructuary rights to the forest products and to shifting cultivation in certain designated zones on hill slopes, irrespective of the legal status of the land/forest. However, tribals do not usually practise *podu* in forests declared as Reserve Forests and their collection of forest produce is restricted. Apart from firewood and wood for house construction, the other major forest products upon which tribals are dependent, are honey, *tendu* and *sal* leaves, *mahua* (*madhuca indica*), *tola* (mahua oil seeds). As an example of community forest management, *tendu* trees are pruned by the entire village and leaves collected by individuals are sold to the Forest Department or in the local markets.

Both shifting and settled agriculture are characterised by poor soil quality, traditional technology, crop rotation, and fallow periods. Apart from indigenous systems of terracing and check dams (munda) in the up-hill areas, tribals have little access to government sponsored irrigation schemes in the State of Orissa. Most settled agriculture is carried out on the lower hill slopes, which are usually not included in the larger irrigation schemes. Agricultural practices in most parts of Orissa among the tribals are characterised by rain-fed annual cropping, both on settled and agricultural land and podu land on the higher hill slopes. The common annual food crops are millet, sorghum, maize and pulses.

In Orissa, hill slopes suitable for shifting cultivation are usually defined as common property of a particular village community and the boundaries of the particular area is well defined in relation to neighbouring areas cultivated by other villages. The individual households cultivation on the *podu* land have usufructuary rights. The area cultivated by a household depends on a mixture of the following factors: (i) available household workforce; (ii) status in the community; and (iii) mutual agreement between household, often governed by the village elders or leader(s). There is a clear, and unequal, gender division of labour in shifting cultivation, with men doing the land clearing and women doing all other agricultural operations. A household typically cultivates more than one small patch of land at a time. When soil fertility is reduced, the cultivator shifts to another area. The idea of regeneration period or period of recuperation for the land was traditionally 10-12 years, but with increasing pressure on land, cultivators now usually return to the same plot after only two to three years of interval. In some cases cultivation even becomes permanent, resulting in soil degradation and very low productivity.

### **Social Organisation**

Most tribal villages in the tribal pockets of Orissa consist of compact settlements with close-knit and lineage based communities located near or inside the forest. The habitation pattern itself reflects the strong social organisation in most tribal communities. Village leaders and elders, sometimes formally organised in traditional village councils, are quite powerful in terms of internal cohesion and jurisdiction. This leadership coexists with the statutory Panchayats, but since a Panchayat usually covers more than one village, authority in each tribal village is still vested in the traditional tribal leaders. When a traditional village leader is also Sarpanch and

member of a Panchayat, this usually means mere prestige for the village and the possibility of access to external resources for local development.

### **Status of Women**

Tribal women play an active role in both household affairs and also in providing economic input in some form or the other for survival of families. They contribute the major part of the labour required for agriculture and collection of forest produce. In addition to this, they take up wage labour whenever available. In extreme cases, as is observed in some parts of Orissa, tribal women even work during night shifts in canal and tunnel excavation work for irrigation projects. Women are usually paid less than men for the same labour time. In social and household matters, the status of tribal women is generally higher than that of non-tribals. They are often viewed by outsiders as “strong” and “independent”. But their relative “freedom”, and visibility far away from villages, is tied to a very heavy work burden, and they usually have little influence on village level decision making.

### **STATE LEVEL LEGISLATIONS FOR THE SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ORISSA**

Under the powers vested under the Fifth Schedule, the following regulations have been promulgated in the State of Orissa to protect the interest of the tribals in the State:

#### **The Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956, (as Amended in 1993).**

Under Section 3(1) of the Act alienation of tribal land to other than ST is prohibited, unless permitted in writing by competent authority. Under Sections 3(2) and 3(a), illegal alienation and unauthorised occupied tribal land shall be restored to the tribal owners. The competent authority, now vested with the Tahsildar, has been authorised to initiate proceedings on application by any interested party and to evict unauthorised persons occupying tribal land. In addition, Officers on Special Duty (Land Reforms) have been posted at Sundargarh, Panposh, Baliguda, Parlakhemundi and Koraput exclusively for disposal of such land alienation cases.

**The Orissa Scheduled Areas Money Lender’s Regulation 1967** for controlling and regulating money lending operative in Scheduled Areas is also in operation. Besides

these two Regulations, specifically enacted by the Tribes Advisory Council, the following Acts of Orissa State have been made operative in Scheduled Areas.

**The Orissa Debt Relief Act, 1980** provides relief to ST debtors, by making the loans contracted by small farmers, rural artisans and agricultural labourers before the commencement of the Act as deemed to have been wholly discharged. The properties pledged by a ST debtor shall be released in favour of the debtor forthwith on commencement of the Act. The Civil Courts have been barred from entertaining any suit or proceedings in debt recovery. For this purpose, Sub-Collectors and Tahsildars have been empowered to dispose of cases as Judicial Magistrates in summary trial.

**The Bonded labour System Abolition Act, 1976** aims at liberating and rehabilitating bonded labourers among the ST by the Government of Orissa.

**The Orissa Land Reforms Act, 1960** (section 22 and 23) apply to the ST population living outside the Scheduled Areas and protect them from land alienation. No tribal land can be transferred to a person not belonging to the same community without the written permission of the Revenue Officer. (About 45% of the area of the State is declared as Scheduled Area with 62 different tribal groups.)

**The Orissa Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for and ST) Act, 1975** makes provision of reservation of posts for SCs (16.25%) and STs (22.50%) for initial appointments and promotions in State Government and other authorities under their control. The amended Section 4 of the Act reserves one third of posts in Class II, III and IV for women in direct recruitment from these scheduled categories.

## **EXISTING TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION IN THE STATE**

- The Department of Welfare, headed by a Cabinet Minister, is responsible for the development and welfare of scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other backward Classes in the State of Orissa. Administratively it is headed by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Department, under whom three Directors-cum-Additional Secretaries

are heading the wings of the department for the development of each of the above groups.

- As stipulated in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, a Tribes Advisory Council has been existing in Orissa since 1950. The Orissa Tribes Advisory Council Rules of 1950 guide the functioning of the Council. The Council has upto 20 members, of whom three fourths are scheduled tribe Members of the State Legislative Assembly. The Chief Minister is the Chairman, the Minister of Tribal Welfare, the Vice-Chairman, and the Secretary of the Department of Welfare is the Secretary. The Tribes Advisory Council advises Government of Orissa in all matters regarding tribal development and welfare. The Council examines the applicability of State and Central laws to the Scheduled Areas, delineate the boundary of the Scheduled Areas, recommend new regulations or propose revisions of the Schedule of the scheduled tribes.
- Scheduled Areas constitute more than 44 per cent of the State land area in Orissa. They cover 67 per cent of the tribal population (118 Blocks in 12 Districts). All Blocks with a tribal population of 50 per cent or more are defined as Scheduled Areas, and constitute a Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) area. A TSP receives funds specially allocated for tribal development from all departments, and is administered by the district level Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA). Each Integrated Tribal Development Project under the ITDA is headed by a full-time Project Administrator who reports to a Project Level Committee, a sub-project under the District Welfare Committee (with the District Collector as Chairman and the District Welfare Officer as Secretary). The District Welfare Committee reviews the implementation of tribal projects. At the Block level, the Welfare Extension Officer and the Block Development Officer (BDO), execute the various tribal projects within the Block, and are responsible for residential schools for tribals.
- In Blocks outside the TSP, where a population pocket is 10,000 or more, and where 50 per cent or more are tribals, the Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) is adopted to ensure the development and welfare of scheduled tribes. 47 Blocks in Orissa are covered by MADA. In still smaller pockets of tribal concentration (population of 5,000) of which minimum 50 per cent are tribals are covered under the cluster

approach. Presently 12 Blocks have identified such clusters. Besides these comprehensive programmes, there are several other projects (e.g. 17 Micro Projects) assisting scheduled tribes in securing rights, maintaining traditions and improve the socio-economic conditions.

## **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN FIVE YEAR PLAN PERIODS AND OTHER PLANNED DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS FOR THE TRIBALS OF ORISSA**

### **Approach and Overall Strategy for Tribal Development in the Five Year Plan Periods:**

Soon after the beginning of the **First Five year Plan**, when Community Development Approach was evolved, the areas inhabited by the tribals also received special attention. In the year 1954, Community Development approach in the tribal areas were initiated by setting up a small number of Special Multipurpose Tribal Development (SMTD) Projects covering a limited number of blocks of the State as pilot projects. Subsequently, in the year 1956 there was a reorientation in the approach to Tribal Development (TD) and the functioning of the SMTD were reviewed at the end of the Second Five Year Plan and with the beginning of the **Third Five Year Plan** the concept of Tribal Development Block was introduced and 75 T.D. Blocks were identified for extending special development programmes and this strategy continued until the end of the **Fourth Five Year Plan**. At the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan, it was revealed that the TD Block approach also did not yield any meaningful result as the problems of the tribals varied from place to place and were area specific in nature. As a matter of fact till the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan period, the approach to the tribal development were basically generic in nature and were tried to be achieved through implementation of various sectoral programmes.

With these backgrounds it was decided to formulate a new strategy for the development of the tribal areas through area specific approach right from the beginning of the **Fifth Five Year Plan**. The tribal development problems during the Fifth Plan were visualised as two distinct categories such as (a) areas inhabited by more than 50 per cent tribal population and (b) tribals located in dispersed manner. During this Plan period it was decided by the government to formulate an area development approach with focus on the tribals in case of the former categories of the tribals taking into consideration the local problems and felt needs of the tribals and for the dispersed tribals, family oriented programmes were decided to be extended.



This is how the Tribal Sub-Plan approach came into force with the beginning of the Fifth Five-Year Plan in the State of Orissa. During this period for the implementation of the tribal development programmes, identification of development blocks in the State where tribal population was in majority and such places were covered under one ITDPs with a motive to adopt an integrated and area specific approach of development. For such projects, special funds provisions were made from State Government as well as from the Government of India under special Central assistance.

But during the **Sixth Five Year Plan**, the effort shifted to beneficiary oriented development schemes and during this phase the scope of the Tribal Sub-Plan approach became more focussed and Government adopted the Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) for smaller contiguous areas with a total population of 10,000 where tribal concentration is 50 per cent or more. The same development approach continued during the **Seventh Five Year Plan** and only the dispersed tribals were brought within the purview of the Tribal Sub-Plan during this Plan period.

It is observed that during the above plan periods, until the end of the Seventh Plan period, the basic approach of development followed was Socio-Economic development of tribals through a number of income generating schemes and through **Infrastructure Development Programmes**. Despite all these efforts, it was revealed that the pace of development of the tribals was far from satisfactory and therefore during the **Eighth Five Year Plan** period the State started adopting the Maharashtra Model of Tribal Development through a single line demand through the Tribal Development Department. Under the changed system, instead of the past practice of planning from top to bottom, the exercise got reversed and the approach became from bottom to top. Thus the decentralised system of planning was made for each tribal area with the ITDA as the base. Under such a changed arrangement, the tribal development department could be able to decide the priorities of the schemes to be implemented in the tribal areas on the basis of eliciting their felt needs. This approach adopted during the **Eighth Five Year Plan** proved to be relatively more beneficial as compared to the earlier plan periods.

During the **Ninth Five Year Plan** spanning from 1997-2002, the major thrust of tribal development has been shifted to accelerate growth in employment, provision of basic

minimum services to the people, eradication of poverty, provision of food security. In order to guarantee that the above objectives are achieved and the quality of life of the tribals is increased, the Government of Orissa has given high priority to as many as seven basic services in the tribal inhabited areas. Along with these emphasis has been laid on the Agriculture and Rural Development Sectors for the tribals with a view to bringing them to the mainstream.

## **SPECIFIC STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ORISSA**

As has already been discussed, Orissa has the largest tribal concentration after Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in the entire country. The following are some of the major strategies and programmes, which are under promulgation in the State for the welfare of the tribals.

### **Land Alienation**

In order to prevent exploitation of scheduled tribes by members of other communities relating to landed property and to check and regulate land alienation in the Scheduled Areas, necessary protective regulations have been made through the enactment of the Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956 (Regulation 2 of 1956) which came into force with effect from 4th October, 1956.

Since then a number of cases of alienation has been prevented. The achievements made after promulgation of the regulation since inception and upto the end of March 2000 is as follows:

I	Total No. cases instituted	86999
II	Total No. cases disposed of	84721
III	Total No. scheduled tribes benefited	46439
IV	Total areas restored (in acres)	42497.16

THE ORISSA (Scheduled Areas) MONEY LENDERS REGULATION, 1967: According to the Regulation, prevention of money lending operations in Scheduled Areas are entrusted with Panchayats in conformity with the Central Act which is in force with effect from 24th day of December 1996.

## **Liquidation of Rural Indebtedness**

The State Government have enacted the Orissa Debt Relief Act, 1980 which was given operational effect from 13th March 1981 with a view to providing relief from indebtedness to small farmers, rural artisans and agricultural labourers. Any debt incurred by a scheduled tribe debtor before the commencement of the Act including the amount of interest if any, payable on such debt shall be deemed to have been wholly discharged. No such debt due from a scheduled debtor shall be recoverable from him or from his property either movable or immovable through attachment or sale in execution of any decree or order relating to such debt. No civil court will entertain any suit or proceeding against a scheduled debtor for recovery of debt or interest.

## **Bonded Labour**

With the enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ***the bonded labour system*** has been abolished since 1976. As per the provisions of the Act, liberated bonded labourers are socio-economically rehabilitated with employment opportunities including self-employment so that they do not relapse into bondage. By the end of February 2001; 19167 numbers of STs have been released out of which 18411 have been rehabilitated.

## **Labour Welfare**

With a view to protect the interests of the tribal labourers regarding payment of proper wages for their services rendered, the State Government have posted Rural Labour Inspectors under Centrally sponsored scheme for effective implementation of minimum wages. These officers work in addition to the Assistant Labour Officers and Labour Officers functioning under the Labour and Employment Department in the said areas. These measures adopted in the Scheduled Areas have gone a long way in preventing exploitation of tribals.

## **Forest Policy**

The tribal people usually depend upon various forest produce like timber, fodder and saleable Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items like *tendu* leaves, *sal* seeds, *mohua* flower, resins etc. for their sustenance resulting in a symbiotic relationship with the forests. However, due to their simplicity, they are sometimes subjected to exploitation at the hands of certain unscrupulous middlemen and forest contractors dealing with MFP items. With a view to preventing

exploitation of tribals, a number of measures have been taken, such as abolition of private contractors, purchase of minor forest produce by Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation, etc.

### **The Orissa Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (For SCs and STs) Act, 1975 (ORV)**

The Orissa Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for SCs & STs) Act, 1975 has been in force since 1st July, 1976 for ensuring adequate representation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in posts and services. The percentage of reservation for SCs and STs in initial appointment and promotions for all categories of posts subject to a few exceptions is 22.50 per cent and 16.25 per cent respectively.

### **Micro Project for Development of Primitive Tribal Groups**

At the time of formulation of Tribal Sub-Plan during the Fifth Plan, it was felt that among the tribal groups there are a number of tribes which still continue to be in pre-agricultural state of practising shifting cultivation and are at subsistence level of economy, either dependent on forests or on poor lands. It was further recognized that these tribal communities would need special attention. Many of these tribes are scattered all over the country and their socio-economic conditions differ. In most cases they are adversely affected by changes taking place around their habitat. The primitive tribes residing in the Micro Projects get hundred percent subsidies in individual family beneficiary oriented schemes funded out of special Central Assistance provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. These also aim at developing the core sectors like Agriculture, Horticulture, Soil Conservation, and Animal Husbandry besides facilitating drinking water, education, and health.

At present 17 Micro Projects covering parts of 20 blocks in 12 districts are functioning in the State for the all-round development of 13 Primitive Tribal Groups with a population 59,710.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Monitoring and evaluation are the tools to assess the proper implementation of plans and programmes. Further, monitoring assumes important role when different agencies/departments are involved in the process. At present, arrangements have been made at different levels to monitor and review tribal development programmes regularly, Project Level committees for

ITDA/MADA/Cluster, Governing Body for Micro Projects with officials and Non-Officials as Members have been constituted and functioning. These Committees/Bodies review the programmes periodically.

### **Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs)**

Since the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan, the concept of Tribal Sub-Plan for tribal development is being formulated and implemented in the State. The Subdivisions having 50 per cent or more tribal population were brought under the Tribal Sub-Plan approach. Under this approach, 21 ITDAs covering 118 blocks of 12 districts have been functioning in the State.

### **Modified Area Development Approach (MADA)**

The concept of MADA was evolved towards the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan. Contiguous smaller areas having a population of 10,000 or more with 50 per cent tribal concentration were identified and included under the MADA Scheme. By the end of the year 1990-2000, 46 MADA pockets covering 5,67,071 tribal population have been operating in the State. For their welfare, individual benefit oriented and community benefit oriented schemes are implemented in the ratio of 75% and 25% outlay respectively under Special Central Assistance provided by Government of India.

### **Cluster Approach**

During the Seventh Plan period, the Cluster approach was adopted for contiguous areas having population of 5000, of which 50 per cent or more are tribals. By the end of 1999-2000, 14 Cluster pockets covering parts of 13 blocks of 10 districts were functioning in the State covering 52,793 tribal population. Funds were provided by Government of India under Special Central Assistance for implementation of community benefit oriented and individual benefit oriented schemes.

### **Dispersed Tribal Development Programme (DTDP)**

The tribal families living outside the above project areas like ITDA, Micro Project, MADA, Cluster are covered under the DTDP implemented through the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Finance Cooperative Corporation Limited.

### **The Orissa Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services Act, 1975**

In order to fulfil the obligation embodied in Article 14(4), 46 and 335 of the Constitution of India, Government of Orissa enacted the Orissa Reservation of Vacancies (for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes) Act, 1975 in posts and services and the Rules made there under. The main intention is to give adequate representation to SCs and STs in the posts and services through reservation. In making Act and Rules as provided under the Constitution of India to safeguard the interest of SCs and STs in posts and services, Orissa has become a pioneer State in India. Section-19 of this Act has got overriding effect on all other Acts and Rules and Regulations of the State.

### **Academy of Tribal Dialect and Culture (ATDC)**

The Academy has been functioning at Bhubaneswar since 1979 with the following objectives:

- (a) Preserving and promoting tribal dialect, art and culture,
- (b) Organising tribal dialect training centres,
- (c) Promoting study, dissemination and compilation of tribal literature,
- (d) Preparation of grammar books and primers in tribal languages,
- (e) Conducting cultural programmes like seminars, conferences and tribal exhibitions to depict tribal art, culture and heritage,
- (f) Publication of works on tribal art, crafts, culture and heritage, social customs, language and dialect,
- (g) To encourage and organise adult literacy programmes in tribal areas.

### **Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Research and Training Institute (S.C. & S.T.R & T.I.)**

The Institute is functioning since 1952 at Bhubaneswar primarily with the following broad objectives:

- (a) Research activities for diagnostic and monographic studies of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes,
- (b) Determination of ethnic status of different communities, STs or SCs,
- (c) Identification of primitive tribes and pockets to be covered under ITDP.

## **TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE CORPORATION OF ORISSA LIMITED (TDCCOL)**

The TDCCOL was registered under the Orissa Cooperative Societies Act, 1962 and has been functioning with effect from 4th October 1967 as an apex cooperative organisation. The main objectives of this Corporation are as follows

- i) To procure Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agriculture Produce (SAP) collected by the tribals at fair and remunerative prices and to arrange their marketing.
- ii) To supply essential commodities and other consumer goods to tribals at fair price.
- iii) To arrange for the processing of procured commodities with a view to adding value and creating employment opportunities.
- iv) To advance consumption-cum-production loans to the tribals in order to protect them from moneylenders.

The achievements of the corporation during the year 1999-2000 were the following:

A	Turnover in respect of MFP	Rs. 143.33 Lakhs
B	Turnover in respect of SAP	Rs. 126.86 lakhs
C	Turnover in respect of Consumer Business	Rs. 333.95 Lakhs
D	Turnover in respect of Consumer System	Rs. 68.19 Lakhs
E	Forest Royalty paid	Rs. 20.14 lakhs
F	Purchase and Sales Tax paid	Rs. 8.62 Lakhs

### **Orissa Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Finance Cooperative Corporation Limited**

The Orissa Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Finance Cooperative Corporation Limited is functioning as catalytic, promoter and guarantor for implementation of various economic development programmes for the benefit of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This Corporation is also the sole channelising agency for utilisation of SCA under SCP for scheduled castes and tribes on the sectoral programmes through line organisations / agencies of the State.

## Educational Programmes

The Department of SC & ST Development has the following programmes to promote primary and secondary education in the State for the tribals:

- (a) Scholarship for both Pre-Matric and Post-Matric SC and ST students.
- (b) Hostel facilities for both Pre-Matric and Post-Matric SC and ST students.
- (c) Supply of N.T. Books to Pre-Matric SC and ST students.
- (d) Supply of uniforms, cots beds and utensils etc. to Pre-Matric SC and ST students.
- (e) Special pre-examination and pre-recruitment coaching facilities to SC and ST students.

## Distribution of NT Books to Scheduled Tribe & Scheduled Caste Students

The ST & SC Development Department is supplying NT Books to ST and SC students from Class I to Class V, while the School and Mass Education Department is providing books to students from Class I to Class VII free of cost. The Director Text Book Production and Marketing usually supplies those books at the block level.

Year	Distribution of NT Books to Scheduled Tribe & Scheduled Caste Students	
	No. of Books	No. of Students
1998-99	60,57,000	1514353
1999-2000	5194611	1316932

- Construction of Hostel Buildings for scheduled tribe and scheduled caste students in schools and colleges also have been done in the State, the details of which is given below:

Year	Name of The Programme	No. of Hostels	No. of Seats
1998-99	CSP	23	690
1998-99	KBK Programme	200	8000
1999-2000	KBK Programme	200	8000



### **Construction and Operationalisation of Hostels for ST Girls**

In the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 the Department has received funds to construct 501 hostels (489 for ST Girls and 12 for ST/SC Boys). The Chief Minister had made a public announcement on the eve of Utkal Divas 2000 to operationalise 200 hostels by July 2000. The Department have operationalised most of the hostels by June 2000. For operationalising these hostels fixed costs to the tune of Rs.77.85 lakh and recurring expenses to the tune of Rs.351.25 lakh have also been made.

### **Reconstruction and Repair of Cyclone Ravaged School Buildings and Hostels**

Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs have provided funds to the tune of Rs.296.05 lakh for repair and reconstruction of the Departmental School/hostel buildings. The department has since taken up the reconstruction of 252 school buildings/hostels in the 14 cyclone affected districts. This exercise of repair and reconstruction have been completed by 30th June 2000.

### **YOGA**

It has been proposed to impart yoga training to the ST/SC students in the residential high Schools and Ashram Schools of the State. Three Yoga training camps imparting yoga training to PETs of High Schools and Asst. Teachers of Ashram Schools have already been completed.

### **Functioning of ITC Khariar Road**

Although a sum of Rs.197.08 lakh was spent for construction of buildings, development of infrastructure and purchase of tools and equipment since 1992-93 on the said ITC Khariar Road could not be made functional till 2001. From 2001-2002, the ITC has been made functional.

### **Procurement of Minor Forest Produce**

There was no collection of *Mohua* seed by any State Agency during 1998-99. But from 1999-2000 the T.D.C.C. have been procuring about 2000 MTs of *Mohua* seeds every year, which is involving transfer of funds to the tribals. The procurement of Sal seed for the crop years 1998 and 1999 were 5892 MT and 5568 MT respectively. This year a revised target of 30,000 MT

has been fixed which will involve transfer of funds to the extent of Rs.9 crore to primary gatherers, mostly the tribals.

Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) is an important source of livelihood of tribals who constitute majority of the primary gatherers of NTFP. Most of the primary gatherers are women and have limited access to the market. Therefore they were becoming an easy prey to unscrupulous traders who exploited them. As a result these primary tribal gatherers were deprived of getting fair prices for the produces gathered by them. Against this background, the State Government have formulated a new policy on NTFP, which has come into force with effect from 31.3.2000. With the coming into force of this policy, the ownership rights on 60 NTFP items in forests within the concerned Grama Panchayat area are vested with the Gram Panchayats. Government in Forest Department have formulated a policy relating to oilseeds in pursuance of the announcement made by Hon'ble Chief Minister on the eve of State Level Seminar organised by TRIFED on 23.6.2000.

### **Construction of Museum for Tribal Arts and Crafts**

This Museum was conceived in the year 1987 under the Centrally Sponsored Plan wherein the funding pattern was 50 per cent of Government of India Share and 50 per cent of State Government share. But due to various constraints the work had not progressed. Department in the mean time has taken steps and completed the construction of the museum and the museum has been in operation since 2001.

### **Village Grain Bank Scheme**

The Village Grain Bank scheme was launched in 1996 for the villages in the areas identified by the Central Planning Committee (C.P.C) as vulnerable from the point of view of starvation/malnutrition among the tribals. The C.P.C has identified 69 blocks in undivided KBK districts, i.e., Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi. However, there are many other blocks besides the identified area outside KBK districts where food insecurity is palpable and requires urgent State intervention.

### **Maharashtra Model of Single Line Demand**

22.21 per cent of the entire population in the State of Orissa are tribals. Therefore, 22.50 per cent of the plan allocation should be earmarked for tribal development in the Tribal Sub-Plan

area. The Maharashtra Model of Single Line Demand envisages demarcation of equi-ST population proportionate funds out of total State Plan Outlay for tribal Sub-Plan by Planning and Coordination Department, at the disposal of Scheduled Tribe and Schedule Caste Development Department, which in turn shall allocate such funds among the line departments after deciding inter-sectoral priorities and schemes tailored to the basic felt needs of the tribals. This Maharashtra Model of Single Line Demand has been followed by Government of Orissa and early results indicate that it is becoming beneficial for the tribals.

### **Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

All cases registered under P.C.R Act, 1955 and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (POA) Act, 1989 and related sections of the I.P.C are treated as Special Report Cases. The investigation of these cases is supervised by an officer in the rank of DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) or above and the progress is monitored by the SP through the protection of Civil Rights Cell. At the State Headquarters, the Human rights Protection Cell monitors the progress of investigation of these cases. The allegations of atrocities received from the members of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe are inquired into promptly by the Police Officers of the district and also by the offices of Human Rights Protection Cell. Besides Government in Home Department are reviewing the atrocity cases against ST and SC on quarterly basis to monitor the progress of investigation, completion of joint inquiries and other allied problems of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.

### **DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF THE SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ORISSA**

Although the Development Status of the scheduled tribe population in the State of Orissa is far from satisfactory, yet some improvement has been marked in different spheres. An attempt has been made below to analyse some development indicators to assess the development status of the ST people of Orissa indicating the major areas where significant attempt for tribal development has been made.

#### **Development of Tribal Women**

Scheduled Tribe women constitute about 50 per cent of the total tribal population. The sex ratio amongst scheduled tribe population is 1062 females for 1000 males according to 1991 census. Although the females outnumber males, they are the most neglected

section of the society. They confront specific problems which need to be addressed properly.

In tribal societies, women are burdened with multifarious responsibilities. Apart from being engaged in domestic activities, like rearing of children, cooking etc. they play a major role in economic activities. They are mostly engaged in different agricultural activities, collection of forest produce including firewood and in marketing their surplus agricultural and forest produces. They work more than men in all the socio-economic spheres and are far more concerned than men about the maintenance and the economic well being of the family.

With this background in view, it is proposed to formulate suitable schemes for socio-economic development of tribal women in Sub-Plan area with active participation of Orissa Khadi and Village Industries Board (O.K.V.I) and newly constituted Mahila Bikash Samabaya Nigam. In tune with the recommendations of the Working Group set up during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plan periods women beneficiary oriented income generating programmes will be taken up in crafts such as bamboo and cane work, rope making, tailoring, weaving, leaf cup and plate making, honey extraction, preservation of food and dairy products, etc. by providing financial assistance, technical knowledge and necessary tools and raw materials.

Since the tribal women traditionally do the work of marketing and enter into transactions in respect of their surplus agricultural and forest produces, it is contemplated to organise women cooperative societies in the Sub-Plan area by providing working capital, Membership fees etc. These societies will be responsible for procuring MFP and SAP and other finished products of different traditional crafts and cottage industry for which financial assistance will be provided. Each women cooperative society will have at least 50 tribal women as its members and in each of the 118 tribal Sub-Plan Blocks four such societies will be organised. Besides, in each of the 17 Micro projects one women cooperative society will be formed. For each cooperative society Rs.25,000/- will be provided towards the Membership fees and working capital.

The task of child rearing belongs solely to women. Due to lack of knowledge in health care practices, they are not able to take proper care of their children. As a result, the infants suffer from various types of diseases which could have easily been avoided. Therefore, it is proposed to organise basic training programmes on health and hygiene for tribal women in all the 118 tribal Sub-Plan blocks and 17 Micro Project areas.

## **Agriculture**

Tribals constitute about 26 per cent of the total number of land-holders in the State and operate over an area of 29 per cent of the total operational area. They are, by and large, marginal and small farmers or landless agricultural and non-agricultural labourers. The tribal areas have an undulating topography interspersed with forests. Therefore agriculture in such areas is mostly rain-fed and subject to vagaries of monsoon. The tribal farmers suffer frequently from drought and the crops fail in most of the years. Due to undulating surface of land, the facilities of assured water supply could not be extended to most of the uplands.

The Departmental seed sale centres have been increased from one per each block headquarters to two for easy availability of the seeds. Attempts have been made to increase the sale outlet of fertilizers and pesticides through cooperative and private sector. Soil Testing Laboratories have been established in each district except the District of Kendujhar. The farmers could use chemical fertilizers judiciously on the basis of the soil analysis report of their soil from the soil-testing laboratory.

Incentives have been provided to farmers for free distribution of minikits seed of improved high yielding varieties, for raising high value crops in dug-well ayacuts and for demonstrations on crop substitution and mixed cropping in rain-fed areas.

Funds have been provided for purchase of debentures from Orissa State Cooperative, Land Development Bank with a view to giving lands to the agriculturists for land shaping, land development, horticultural plantation, minor irrigation including dug wells and purchase of agricultural implements for agricultural purposes are taken up.

## **Soil Conservation**

Soil erosion is an acute problem in the hilly terrain of Orissa the inhabitants of which are mostly tribals. The sloppy uplands mostly suffer from topsoil erosion due to want of appropriate conservation measures. Wastelands devoid of vegetation are subjected to severe erosion. As a result, productive lands are sand cast down below. Shifting cultivation is also pre-dominant in hilly slopes causing devastation of valuable forest growth.

To tackle the problem, Soil Conservation Department is implementing different measures on watershed basis with a view to developing watershed for development of natural resources like soil and water and to increase productivity and production and side by side maintain the eco-balance. It has been accepted that watershed based integrated development is the key for overall development of the area. There is a thrust to make the tribals participate right from planning to the execution stage.

## **Horticulture**

The thrust Area for horticulture development in the Tribal Sub-Plan area during the Ninth Plan include production of planting materials in fruit orchards, establishment of mixed orchards etc.

## **Forest Development**

Forests constitute about 36.70 per cent of the geographical area of the State and the tribal population is concentrated close to the forest areas. Forest plays an important role for fodder, timber, medicinal plants and saleable Minor Forest Produce. The life and culture of the tribals are closely linked with the forests.

The policy of the Government is to protect the customary rights of the tribals to collect the NTFP items including fuel wood for bonafide use and consumption. No forest royalty is levied from those primary gatherers. Long-term leases for collection of the Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) items have been given to the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation to protect the interest of tribals in the trade of these commodities.

The World Food Programme is implemented in the predominantly tribal districts and is aimed at income transfer and providing food security to the forest labourers who are mostly tribals. The generated fund under this programme is utilised for welfare measures in tribal areas, such as digging of wells and tube wells, providing medical aid, etc.

Participation of local village community in regeneration and management of degraded forest areas is the cornerstone of Government Policy on forestry. Since tribals reside mostly in forest areas, institutional arrangement have been made to get adequate representation of tribal members of the community in the village level forest committees.

### **Fishery**

The main objectives of development of fisheries in Sub-Plan areas where the concentration of the tribal population is the most are as follows:

- (i) Making tribals fully aware of the modern capture and culture technologies, which would give higher yields in terms of money.
- (ii) Helping them to supplement their earnings through self-employment.
- (iii) Improve the nutrition standard of the tribals through intake of cheap animal protein like fish and to increase the natural stamina to fight diseases.

### **Animal Resources and Dairy Development**

In order to boost up the occupation of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the tribal areas, the following programmes have been taken up during Ninth Plan period (1997-2002).

- (i) Increase in the livestock productivity through cross breeding programme relating to cattle herds in the tribal areas.
- (ii) Boosting up milk production through induction of cross breed cows by means of the Frozen Semen Technology artificial insemination.
- (iii) Training of tribal farmers on live stock management including fodder cultivations.

- (iv) Efforts for upgrading the local breeds of pig, sheep and goats for higher meat production.
- (v) Provision of income generation through small animal rearing.
- (vi) Introduction of the package programme for mobile animal health care units in the tribal areas to reach the remote places in the interest of treatment of livestock.
- (vii) The selection of tribal villages for introduction of cluster programme on fodder cultivation and poultry breeding activities.

### **Land Reforms (Survey & Settlement Operation & Implementation of Land Ceiling Law)**

The necessity for preparation of correct Record of Rights and also updating them need not be emphasized. Since it is a pre-requisite for giving benefits to the confer title and possession, the tribals face difficulties in availing credit facilities from the Commercial/Cooperative Banks as a result the moneylenders of vested interest very often usurp their land. Revenue Courts and Civil Courts also find it difficult to uphold the rights of the tribals in the absence of up-to-date records. It is for these reasons that preparation of land records in the tribal area is considered to be very important.

### **Health Care Facilities**

The primary objective of the Health Policy of the Nation as well as of the State is to provide preventive and curative health care to all sections of the society including the tribals in remote and inaccessible areas. During Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan periods attempts have been made to provide health care at the door steps of the tribals, who are mostly inhabitants of hilly tracts by establishing more numbers of Sub-Centres, P.H.Cs/S.H.Cs and Community Health Centres/Upgraded P.H.Cs, Ayurvedic Dispensaries and Homeopathic Dispensaries under the Minimum Needs Programme in Sub-Plan areas.

In pursuance to the National Health Policy greater attention has been focused on tribal areas for development of rural health infrastructures.



Under the policy, it was decided to establish one P.H.C. for 20000 populations and one Sub-Centre for 3000 populations in tribal areas. The norm for opening of C.H.C. in tribal area is common for both tribal and non-tribal areas i.e. one C.H.C. for every 80,000 to 1.20 lakh population serving as a referral Institution for four P.H.Cs.

To attain the goal of 'Health for all by 2000 A.D.' emphasis was given on wide application of Indian system of medicine for treatment. A number of projects have been sanctioned in the Ninth Plan to provide health facilities in TSP areas.

### **Communication**

Villages in tribal areas are widely dispersed and do not have proper road communication system. Unless a proper network of roads in the widespread tribal areas is developed the tribal areas will remain isolated from the mainstream of economic and social development.

The working group for Development of STs during Ninth Plan, taking into account the special needs of the Tribal areas for accessibility, recommended the following:

- i. Database for coverage of tribal villages and habitations by all weather roads should be generated and maintained by the State Government.
- ii. The present object of covering 50 per cent of villages with population for 200 to 500 in hilly areas and 50 per cent tribal villages with population 500-1000 within a definite time frame of 10 years should be revised to cent per cent coverage of tribal habitations having a population of 100 and above within the next 10 years.
- iii. Backlog of coverage of villages having various densities of population should be made up during the Ninth Plan.
- iv. All the ongoing programmes e.g. Minimum Needs Programme as well J.R.Y. and EAS etc. should be taken advantage of in a coordinated and planned manner to meet the above mentioned objectives.
- v. Culverts on seasonal Nalas and Bridges and others to be provided on priority to be taken up and completed before road construction.

## **Water Resources Development**

A lot of emphasis has been given to water resources development in tribal areas. During the Ninth Plan period it has been programmed to create an additional irrigation potential of 5196 hectares Kharif and 1641 hectares Rabi in the Tribal Sub Plan Area with an investment of Rs.1941.69 lakh. During 2000-01 a sum of Rs.1266.49 lakh has been proposed for the purpose.

## **Cooperative Institutions**

Cooperative institutions have been playing a very significant role in the socio-economic development of tribals. Their exploitation in the field of credit as well as marketing can be checked to a great extent by strengthening the cooperative institutions in the tribal areas. The cooperative institutions have the following three basic objectives.

- (a) To provide timely and adequate credit to the tribal members for improving their economic conditions.
- (b) To procure surplus agricultural and minor forest produce from the members at reasonable prices and provide necessary marketing facilities.
- (c) To supply essential and other consumer articles of daily necessity at fair prices.

## **Working of Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation**

The TDCCOL was registered under the Orissa Cooperative Societies Act 1992 and has been functioning with effect from 4th October 1976 as an apex cooperative organisation. The main objectives of this Corporation are as follows:

- (i) To procure Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agriculture Produce (SAP) collected by the tribals at fair and remunerative prices and to arrange their marketing.
- (ii) To supply essential commodities and other consumer goods to tribals at fair price.
- (iii) To arrange for the processing of procured commodities with a view to adding value and creating employment opportunities.
- (iv) To advance consumption-cum-production loans to the tribals in order to protect them from moneylenders.

- (v) TDCC was set up with a specific objective to purchase Surplus Agricultural Produce from the tribals and the Minor Forest Produce collected by them at reasonable price, arranging for their marketing in a best possible manner and supplying of essential commodities. Thus TDCCOL is not an ordinary Corporation (business entity). It has a vital role in the growth of employment generation in tribal areas. This uniqueness has to be preserved for the benefit of the poor tribals for whom TDCC symbolized economic and in many cases social emancipation. This is especially so in the typical free framework of tribal economy. The Corporation continues its market intervention operations in spite of loss sustained.

### **Panchyati Raj Programmes of Panchayati Raj Department**

Various Income Generating and employment-oriented development schemes are being implemented in the State through Panchayati Raj Department with a view to alleviate poverty of the people including the scheduled tribes. For the purpose of implementation of different developmental programmes the tribal area has been identified as Sub-Plan area.

While preparing The Annual Plan of the Department due weightage have been given for earmarking funds for the Sub-Plan area under different schemes which are executed by the Department. The important Poverty alleviation schemes are as follows: (I) Swarnajayanti Gramswarozogar Yojana, (ii) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, (iii) Indira Awaas Yojana, (IV) Employment Assurance Scheme.

### **Educational Development Programme of ST and SC Development Department**

Education of tribals is one of the cardinal basic inputs, the importance of which cannot be over emphasized. Educational Development will create awareness and rapid economic development among the tribals. Besides, advancement of education will also ensure bringing a sizable section of the population i.e. the tribals to the mainstream of national consciousness.

Due to historical reasons education in the tribal belt of State has been looked after by both the Departments. Education and ST and SC Development. ST and SC Development Department is playing most vital and leading role by providing of special type of schools for education development of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Special types of educational institutions were started in the tribal areas in accordance with the recommendations of the Partially Excluded Area Enquiry Committee.

The ST and SC Development Department have so far established 218 High Schools, 149 Ashram Schools, 143 Residential Sevashrams, 919 Sevashrams, besides 1548 Primary School Hostels with capacity to accommodate 40 students each.

### **Rural Safe Drinking Water Supply**

The problem of providing safe drinking water in the Tribal Sub Plan Area is very acute mainly because the sub-soil water table is very low. All the tribal villages and hamlets that are situated scattered have not been provided with safe drinking water facilities yet. As a result of which tribal women and girls used to cover long distances daily for potable water.

A massive survey of all rural habitations in the State identifying the status of drinking water supply and quality was carried out during 1991-92. Certain fundamental changes were made for the collection of information by the survey. The salient changes were :

- (i) For the first time the unit of coverage was taken as a habitation/basti instead of a Census Village to get a micro-level picture.
- (ii) The concept of partial coverage was introduced to assess the availability of drinking water. The norm fixed for full coverage was the availability of 40 liters of safe drinking water per capita per day from a public source within a distance of 1.6 k.m. or an elevation differential of 100 meters.

Accordingly, 33,941 habitations/ Bastis have been identified in T.S.P. Area out of the total 80,387 habitations/Bastis in the State. By the end of Eighth Plan 1992-97, 26,560 habitations/Bastis have been fully covered, 1817 habitations/Bastis have been partially

covered and 3304 habitations/Bastis are uninhabited. Nevertheless, 2260 habitations/Bastis were still left as drinking water problem village in Tribal Sub-Plan Area at the beginning of the Ninth Plan.

## **MAJOR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE TRIBES OF ORISSA**

The tribals of Orissa in recent times are confronted with a number of serious problems, which are thwarting their survival and lowering down their quality of living. Some of the major problems which this vulnerable section of population is facing in the State of Orissa are the following:

### **Land Alienation**

The biggest problem of the tribals of India in general and Orissa in particular is Land Alienation. According to the latest statistics, nearly 88 per cent of the scheduled tribes are engaged in agriculture and a large section of the non-tribals are grabbing the land of the tribals, which they have been cultivating for ages. In addition to this, by manipulation, the non-tribals are also taking huge chunk of land on lease in the tribal areas. It is surprising to note that there are large number of instances in the State of Orissa where the land encroached by the tribals are also getting alienated in favour of the non-tribals. Thus, truly speaking the problem of land alienation among the tribals is very critical and is becoming more critical day by day. Although the State of Orissa have promulgated a legislation titled "*Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (Scheduled Tribes) Regulation 1956*", land alienation is taking place in the tribal areas in very great numbers by violating the rules and by manipulation of the non-tribals. Since the tribals are thereby getting dispossessed from the land and getting further impoverished, Government of Orissa will have to enforce the regulation in a very meticulous manner in order to protect their interest.

### **Shifting Cultivation**

The second biggest problem the tribals of Orissa are confronted with is the Shifting Cultivation. In fact, Shifting Cultivation or the Slash and Burn Cultivation is an age-old practice among the tribals of Orissa. This in principle means cultivating a plot of land for a temporary period and then leaving it fallow. It consists of clearing the forest slopes, burning the fallen trees and bushes and broadcasting the seeds in the ash covered soil.

Usually after a couple of years of cultivation, the place is deserted and the tribals traditionally used to come back to the same place after a gap of 6 to 10 years. But with the increase in tribal population and consequent pressure on land, this gap has almost reduced to zero and the tribals have started doing cultivation on a very regular basis on such land. This is causing adverse effects on the neighbouring forest and causing large-scale damage to the forest growth. Secondly, with the promulgation of the stringent forest law, Shifting Cultivation as well as the entry of the tribals to the forest have been restricted. This has caused serious problem for continuing the age-old practice of shifting cultivation and the tribals who were largely depending on this type of cultivation are confronted with acute livelihood and food insecurity crisis. Keeping this in view, it is highly desirable for Government to provide viable alternative economic opportunities in place of shifting cultivation for these tribals to ensure them a sustainable livelihood.

### **Indebtedness**

One of the major problems faced by most of the tribals in the State of Orissa is the problem of indebtedness. As a matter of fact, since most of the tribals do not have access to financial institutions in their area and even if it is there in some places, they do not have the working knowledge about the same to take advantage of this. The unscrupulous local moneylenders lend them money with exorbitant rate of interest and exploit them. Thus, once the tribals take loan from these moneylenders they get into the debt trap and become impoverished and submerge in debt. Although there is legislation in the State of Orissa entitled *The Orissa Debt Relief Act, 1980*, tribals are still plagued with the same problem in many areas. In order to give respite to the tribals from this, the existing legislation should be very strictly enforced.

### **Unemployment and Poverty**

Unemployment and Poverty looms large among the tribals of Orissa despite large number of development interventions and poverty alleviation programmes launched for their economic upliftment. It has been estimated that more than 90 per cent of the tribal families are below the official poverty line and the number is ever increasing. The unemployment incidence is also growing thick and fast with the passage of time. Due to this stark poverty marked by acute lack of employment opportunities, large numbers of tribals are migrating out to distant places in search of employment to eke out their living.

## **Large Scale Migration**

As has been indicated above, due to lack of employment opportunities and stark poverty large number of tribals are migrating out to far off places in search of livelihood. In the process many of them are ending up as bonded labourers and majority of them are getting into the impoverishment trap. The migration rates are increasing every year and there has to be some dent made into it, so as to stop the exploitation of this vulnerable group of population from the clutches of the unscrupulous people.

## **Education**

Education is the key to development, but the education scenario among the scheduled tribes of Orissa is in a very bad shape. It has been observed that the literacy level among the tribal people in general and the tribal female in particular is abysmally low. There has been very high rate of school dropouts and the enrolment rate is also equally low among the tribals. It has also been observed that the teachers are very irregular in the schools located in the tribal areas as compared to the general schools. Empirical studies indicate that one of the major reasons contributing to the low literacy level of the tribals is the unsuitable scheduling of the school timing, which clashes with the work schedule of the economic activities of the tribal families in which even the potential school going children participate. Hence, for ensuring more enrolment of children in the school in the tribal areas and also to ensure higher rate retention of children in the school, the time schedule of the schools need to be adjusted in the tribal areas according to their suitability and also to guarantee the regularity of the teachers in schools located in the tribal areas.

## **Housing**

Housing is one sector, which is in very deplorable state in the tribal areas of Orissa. Majority of the houses of the tribals are unfortunately located on Government or Forest land, which are unauthorised and on which the tribals have no legal right. More over, the houses are constructed in such a manner that there is no scope for ventilation and the hygienic condition is at its worst. Along with the human beings the domesticated animals are also housed together. In addition to this, the houses are always swampy and the per person floor space use is so less that it adversely affects the health condition of the members of the family. Thus, housing is a very important sector, which

must be taken care of for the tribals. In fact, each tribal family should be targeted for a well ventilated and hygienic house on authorised land and guaranteeing this will go a long way in improving the quality of life of the tribals in the State.

### **Communication**

Poor communication to most of the tribal areas is also another important factor, which hinders the development of the tribals in the State of Orissa. In fact, there are number of tribal villages in the State which are not accessible throughout the year and there are some villages which are approachable only for four months a year. This inaccessibility is slowing down the pace of development of the tribals and because of this many development interventions are not reaching out to them. Hence, care must be made to improve the communication to the tribal villages, which are having poor communication. One of the first steps that should be taken in this regard is to make investment in improving the physical infrastructure - the road for improving accessibility to the inaccessible tribal areas.

### **Displacement**

In recent times, a large number of development projects are coming up in the State of Orissa. Ironically, these development projects are coming up mainly in such areas where there is predominance of tribal population. Statistical figure indicates that more than 40 per cent of the displaced families in development projects in Orissa are the tribals. There are a large number of such Development Projects, which are in the pipeline and are likely to further displace many more tribals. It also has been revealed from a number of researchers that the tribal displaced families have by and large failed to restore their pre-displaced living standards in the post-displacement stage and they have become further impoverished as compared to their former standards of living. This is precisely because the tribal families are not getting compensated for the land which they were possessing for ages, as they are encroached and have not been settled in their favour. Secondly the tribals are not getting successfully adapted to the non-forest based economy in the new place as they are getting dispossessed from the forest on which their life and living centres around. Therefore, some special provisions and package should be evolved for the sustainable and meaningful rehabilitation of the tribal displaced families of development projects.



## **Health**

The tribals of Orissa are found to be suffering from many chronic diseases but the most prevalent among these taking heavy tolls of them are water borne diseases. This is mainly due to the unsafe and contaminated drinking water. Because of the unsafe drinking water, skin diseases, diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, guinea worm, tapeworms and many other serious consequences, which often becomes fatal occur to the tribals. Due to lack of water drainage system, the water accumulates in the tribal areas and this becomes the breeding place of the mosquitoes. In fact, very fatal type of malaria takes away large number of lives in the tribal Orissa. Coming to the health services, it has been observed that in a large number of tribal pockets there are dispensaries without a doctor. Besides, even if there are doctors and there are health care facilities, in a number of tribal areas the tribals because of their adherence to traditional cultural practices believe more in the traditional healing practices and they do not prefer the modern health care systems. This is precisely due to lack of health education among the tribal people. One of the main indicators of poor health status of the tribals of Orissa is the alarmingly high rate of infant mortality. It has been estimated that there are some tribal pockets where the IMR is as high as 200 per 1000 live births. Keeping all the aforementioned facts in view, to ensure better health status of the tribals, there is an urgency to impart health education to the tribals, provide safe drinking water in the habitations where the tribals stay and also to ensure that the doctors are in place in the tribal areas.

## **REASONS OF FAILURE IN TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT**

Although a lot of efforts have been made by Government for the welfare of the tribals in the State of Orissa from the First Five Year Plan period onwards and a lot of innovative programmes have been drawn up in the tribal areas with a huge budgetary provision, yet most of the programmes have not met with the desired result and the pace of tribal development in the State has been rather very slow. On the basis of close examination, it is observed that the following are some of the key reasons of failure of tribal development in the State of Orissa which needs to be carefully looked into by the administrators and planners at the helm of affairs for taking corrective measures for registering sustainable tribal development in Orissa and for meaningful implementation of different tribal development programmes:

- Top down approach in planning
- Lack of participatory approach in plan formulation and implementation
- Generic and not area specific approach
- Indebtedness of the tribals due to the local moneylenders
- Inaccessibility to the habitations/villages where the tribals reside and where the programmes are meant for implementation
- Illiteracy and lack of awareness among the tribals about the programmes getting implemented
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Lack of proper monitoring and evaluation by an independent external agency of the programmes in operation
- Lack of a perspective plan for a particular tribe or a tribal inhabited cluster/village
- Lack of an integrated approach
- Lack of a culture friendly development approach
- Non involvement of NGOs for the implementation of the development programme
- Land changing hands from the scheduled tribe people to the non scheduled tribe people
- Liquor addiction
- Restriction of entry to the forest (by promulgation of the forest policy) on which the life and living of the tribals depended for ages without providing any viable economic/income alternatives/ opportunities
- Setting up of Development Projects and Consequent Displacement of Tribals without compensating them for the customary land they possess for generations and without resettling and rehabilitating them properly.

As discussed earlier, the above identified factors stand as barriers for the success of the tribal development programmes in general and the development of the tribals in particular in the State of Orissa.

### **SUGGESTED STRATEGIES FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE**

It is a fact that the development of the tribals is taking place in Orissa, but the pace of development has been rather slow. Unless the pace of development of the tribals are speeded

up, the all-round development of the tribals can not be achieved to the desired level within a reasonable time frame. Looking at the factors responsible for the poor and slow development of the tribals and the critical areas that concerns development of this vulnerable section of Orissa's population, the following strategies are suggested which may be adopted by the planners and policy makers for effective implementation of programmes and for sustainable development of the tribals of the State, who are languishing in poverty amidst plenty:

- A perspective plan of 5 years duration to be prepared for each tribal village/group during the 10th Five Year Plan on the basis of the identified felt needs to be elicited from the tribals in a consultative manner.
- Usually any development plan, especially in the State of Orissa is annual in nature, but it will be more meaningful if an integrated annual action plan is drawn up involving all the relevant line departments incorporating quarterly targets/mile stones to be achieved.
- Before making an action plan/perspective plan for a tribal village, Social Mapping of each tribal village indicating detailed interventions needed (village wise) needs to be done.
- One NGO to be associated for each village or a cluster of villages consisting of 500 households for implementing the integrated tribal development perspective action plan.
- An independent external Monitoring & Evaluation Agency (one for each block) to be in place for ensuring timely completion/execution of the perspective action plan.
- Roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder associated in the implementation of the perspective plan will be specified and incentives as well as disincentives should be introduced for the key stakeholders to ensure accountability.
- Before the start of the implementation of the action plan or for that matter any tribal development programme in a given area, orientation training to the key stakeholders should be a prerequisite.
- Before the implementation of a programme in a tribal village, Focussed Group Discussions should be done by the executing agency to explain the people the details of the programme.
- Tribals throughout the State are confronted with the single largest problem, that is they occupy land and cultivate land on which they do not have any recorded rights. The first and foremost step in the direction of tribal development in Orissa is to survey the land in all the tribal areas of the State and the unobjectionable encroached land occupied by them to be settled in their favour.

- Micro credit provision should be introduced in all the tribal villages through the NGOs and it should be managed by the community, which can effectively drive away the private money lenders from the tribal areas.
- To avoid distress sale of land, in case of the tribals which is a regular feature in Orissa, a land bank may be created in each Tahasil and the intending tribals who want to sell their land can sell the land to the Land Bank with market value. Establishment of such a Bank will have two fold benefit for the tribals: firstly, they can get the fair price and secondly, they will not have to go to the middlemen and can be saved from being cheated by them.
- A large number of Development Projects are coming up in the tribal pockets of the State and a very sizable number of tribal families are getting physically displaced on account of these projects. Since the tribals have got only customary rights on the land they cultivate and stay, they are deprived of getting compensation for such land. Secondly, the tribals whose life and living centres round the forest, when physically get displaced and relocated at a new place away from the forest, they lose their life support system and get further impoverished. In order to overcome this trauma and restore the livelihood, it must be made mandatory for any private sector companies setting up a project in tribal areas to give a share of the benefit of the project to the displaced tribals. They should also be paid compensation for the land they have been occupying for ages and on whom they have got customary rights. This will go a long way in redressing the adverse effects of the project on the tribals.
- It has been found that for the spread of a programme such as family planning, immunisation, promoting education of the girl child and programme of the like in tribal areas, posters and photo features are exhibited by Government, UNICEF and many other agencies. In these posters, usually photograph of an urban child or a child belonging to western culture and photograph of a place quite alien to the tribals appear. But if the photo features of the tribals will figure in these posters, it will have more acceptability and the programme will have a considerable degree of impact on the tribals.
- In the tribal areas, during the Princely States, the tribals were irrigating their agricultural land through traditional indigenous irrigation systems. But most of such irrigation systems have become defunct now. One of the priorities that should be envisaged in the tribal development programme in Orissa is to identify such defunct indigenous irrigation systems and renovate/rehabilitate them. Once this is done, about 5000 hectares of land can be brought under irrigation in the tribal areas of the State.

- One of the biggest and effective intervention to overcome poverty in the tribal areas of the State is to have more and more Rain Water Harvesting Structures so that more land can be brought under cultivation and cropping intensity can be enhanced, which will have telling impact on the economy of the tribals. That is why one of the first task in the direction of tribal development should be to identify feasible places for setting up Water Harvesting Structures (WHSs) and to build them in phased manner wherever feasible. One way of grounding these WHSs is to make a tie up with the Water Shed Mission which is operating in the State.
- Usually what is happening in most of the tribal areas of the State is that although a lot of works are taken up, they are being executed by the contractors. The contractors are engaging labourers from outside the area. As a result of which the tribals of the area are not getting employment opportunities. In view of this, there should be some executive decision to get all the developmental work (except the hitech works) executed through the VLCs or VDCs in the tribal areas, which will ensure employment opportunities for the tribals.
- Education is the key to tribal development. Unless the educational level of the tribals in Orissa increase, development will bound to be slow. It is observed that enrolment of children in school is very low and dropouts in the school among tribal children in Orissa is alarmingly high. The main reason of this is that the school timing and the working hour of the tribals normally clash and since the tribal children help support their parents in earning, they either do not enroll in the school or dropout if enrolled. Hence, one of the first requirements to ensure better rate of enrolment and higher retention of school children among the tribals is to change the school timing looking at the work schedule of the tribals.

Although Government is making all efforts to ensure tribal development in the State of Orissa, if the above indicated strategies are followed better results can be achieved in respect of the development of the tribals of the State.