

REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP

RIGHTS OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND TRIBES

A. PRESENTATION OF WORKING GROUP

1. The absence of basic resources like land and land holdings for SC/ST is the major issue relating to this District. Action must be taken to speed up funding for land and distribute it to eligible landless SC/STs and also monitor the illegal transfer of land to others. There is still a large quantity of land available and also a large number of landless tribals. While allocating land to the tribals, inputs, including fund for cultivating the land, should also be provided.

2. The amount earmarked for providing construction of houses to STs is very small and same criteria are employed for hilly area and plain area. The amount must be increased for construction of houses in hilly areas.

3. For rehabilitating STs especially Paniyar, Kuraman, Kattunaykkas and also when houses are constructed instead of mixing the various tribal groups it was suggested that separate housing for each tribal be provided to enable them to follow their social customs and rights.

4. There is urgent need for effective co-ordination between the departments for right focus and targeting the beneficiaries and to avoid duplication and this can be done at Panchayath level.

2. Currently the Wages for NREGA is not being disbursed weekly hence there is no motivation for the Tribal Card holders to come for work. This may be strictly followed.

3. At present among the Paniyas, Adiyas, Kattunaykkar many of them given APL cards where as they are eligible for BPL cards hence they should be given BPL cards according to their eligibility and this may be looked into by the Panchayath and the Civil Supplies Department.

4. There are large number of incomplete houses among the tribal housing scheme where the contractors have left the houses incomplete due to their negligence hence the incomplete houses to be completed in a time bound manner and action be taken on the contractors and legal action including blacklisting etc.

5. A large number of Tribal people as a family including ladies move to the neighbouring States particularly Kodaku in Karnataka where they are exploited, not paid proper wages, and their health is also get affected due to migration, excessive drinking and many of them die and even their dead bodies not brought to the colonies. This exploitation is very rampant and to be effectively monitored and those who are involved as agents and land owners to be booked under SC/ST Atrocities Act by the Department and the District Administration. The Panchayath can play a leading role in identifying the agents etc.

Annexure 3

6. The illicit distillation and consumption of alcohol has become very high among the tribals including ladies (Paniyas) and many vested interest use the Tribal people for illicit distillation and transporting across the State and this has to be controlled by Excise, Police and Panchayath Departments.

7. The addiction of Tribal people to tobacco in various forms very high and it affects their health very badly and they are susceptible to Cancer, TB, TAO etc.

8. There is a need for De-Addiction centres against Alcohol and Tobacco in the District.

9. Educationally the tribal people are backward hence there is a need for increase model residential schools, hostels particularly post-metric hostels, professional courses including para medical courses for better employment opportunity.

10. The current reservation system of 2% for ST is inadequate in Wayanad District as tribal population is around 17% of population hence has to be enhanced according to their population and also tribe wise reservation be in built to get adequate representation for the neglected Paniyas and Kattunaykkas.

11. For the backward tribes like Paniyas, Kattunaykkas, Ooralis they may not be able to compete in the entrance exams, as like in Tamil Nadu admission be provided on the basis of marks scored in class 12.

12. As the tribal people are living adjoining forest areas or inside the forest areas there are lot of wild life damage for the crops and life hence they should be compensated timely and adequately including insurance and the procedure to be simplified.

13. Currently the SC people were migrated into Wayanad after 1950 are not getting the Caste Certificates by the Revenue Authorities and they are not able to get the benefits hence the cut off year 1950 may be raised to 1980.

B. DISCUSSIONS

- Land available at Sugandhagiri Cardamom Project area must be given to deserving landless tribes inhabited in Vythiri Taluk
- Marumakkathayam prevails in Adivasi Kurichiyar
- For issuing caste certificates to tribes there are some discrepancies which should be rectified by Govt. order. At present caste is identified by KIRTARDS by way of heritable identification which consumes so much time hence benefits not obtained in time bound manner
- Govt. order for appointment of job in Pookode Diary Project is not implemented yet. Job in Pookode Diary must given only for local qualified people residing at Pookode area. Most of the employees at Pookode Diary Project are coming from other Districts hence the local people lost their right for the job in Pookode Diary Project. An enquiry must initiated to verify and job must be given for Govt. order.
- Most of the tribes at Priyadarshini Estate had lost their job opportunity due to the lock out which leads to utter misery for them. Now they were going to other State for seeking job and they were exploited. If the Govt. initiate a scheme to revive (re-open) the estate which will be a boon to the local tribes at Priyadarshini Estate.

- The land lost by the locals for the acquisition of Karappuzha Irrigation Project and Banasura Sagar Project, the rehabilitation process were not completed yet, the concerned authorities must take action seriously. Alternative measures were initiated for these type of Projects when started.
- Most of the tribes have not conscious about the welfare measures and schemes constituted by State and Central Govt.s for uplifting the pathetic condition for the last 62 years. A lot of money had been allotted but no cosmetic effects were noticed yet. Awareness programmes must be given to tribes for the schemes relating to them.

RIGHT TO HEALTH

A. PRESENTATION OF WORKING GROUP

The main requirement of this District is a Medical college. Most of the patients who needs super specialty treatment have to go to Calicut Medical College in Kozhikode District through Ghat road around 100 km which becomes fatal.

2. In this backward District, facilities of the modern consultation equipments like CT Scan, MRI Scan is still not available in the District. District hospitals to be upgraded to Super specialty hospitals with the equipments like CT Scan, MRI Scan and other required Health equipments and facilities.
3. Staff pattern of Taluk hospital must be increased from the present ratio to the sanctioned ratio for better medical care.
4. There is need for medical IC units, it must be provided to all the three Taluk Hospitals, on a priority basis.
5. Number of Cancer patients have increased due to excessive use of pesticides in agriculture which need to be studied and intervention be made.
6. Awareness programmes must be given to ST colonies and also to motivate them to take the medicines rather than depending on their traditional faiths and avoiding medicines etc.
7. The practice of prescribing medicines to be purchased from outside for the tribal people would not materialize as they would not purchase. Hence the medicines to be supplied to the patients by the Hospital authorities and for which fund and allocation should be kept.

B. DISCUSSIONS

- There are 5 Mobile medical units (Tribal) which are visiting the tribal colonies regularly and covering an average of 3000 to 4000 tribal patients per month. The deficiency is the medical mobile unit. Before visiting, should inform the colonies in advance so that the tribal people get the real benefits. This needs to be operationalised and to be monitored. The Panchayath also to be associated and the Tribal promoters should play key role in linking up the patients and the mobile medical units.

- The tribal people are very sensitive and they have to be handled in a humane way so that they are not de-motivated and they could not even convey.
- The health staff as they are dealing with large no. of public especially the patients they need to be sensitized in their conduct and behaviour towards the public patients and particularly the tribal patients. In the District itself the need is felt and under the NRHM training may be started on sensitizing the medical and para medical personnel and to incorporate human right sensitizations in all the training.
- There is overload of patients and inadequate beds in the Hospitals/PHC's which has to be taken into account of bed - staff ratio and infrastructure to be provided/enhanced.
- The JSY Scheme where has been delay in disbursing the amount due to the beneficiaries which has to be expedited and to be disbursed at the earliest.
- The new innovative scheme namely "minus two to plus two" is being implemented to cover all the students in the school and in this year by conducting a comprehensive check up where by the students will be given health card right from their joining the school and it will also be de-handed over to them while along with the TC.
- Though through the NRHM Medical and para medical staff are provided yet there are vacancies of Doctors/Specialist level eg. In Vaithiri Taluk Hospital vacancy of a Gynaecologist, X-ray technicians/Radiographer in Panamaram PHC etc which need to be filled up.
- The DMO may take special care and take quick action in filling up the various vacancies in the Hospitals, Dispensaries etc. and may effectively use the NRHM Scheme. The District is in shortage of availability of medical personnel.
- The Sickle Cell Anaemia which is endemic and prevalent among the tribal communities, the screening has started as a special Project under the Calicut Medical College around 2/3 of the population has been completed and the balance will be completed. Special attention will be given to the trait persons and affected persons. If the Wayanadan Chetties community is not included so far may also be included in the survey.
- As there is no Doctor for treating the Mental patients, an expert Psychiatrist be made available at least once in a month or at a lesser frequency.
- Waste disposal at Panchayat and Municipal level should be taken up and an effective scientific disposal mechanism/Project to be taken up as Wayanad is also a Tourism District which attracts large number of Tourists and results in more generation of waste. Being a hilly Eco Fragile District a good waste disposal mechanism need to be implemented rather than dumping which itself becomes health hazard.
- The Tribal promoters numbering around 350 in position in the District need to be monitored, they should be linked up with the Panchayath members and they should also be trained and they should remain in the field focusing on the overall improvement of the tribal people including Education, Health, Development etc. The Panchayath /Tribal Department/Education/Health at ward level should monitor their work.

RIGHT TO FOOD**A. PRESENTATION OF WORKING GROUP**

Starvation is reported in very few colonies among the tribal people in remote colony particularly Kagagady colony ,Mananthavady colony in Mananthavady taluk, Chembothra in Vyrhiri Taluk

2. The starvation probably is due to lack of purchasing power and despite NREGA cards given not going to work due to inaccessibility.

3. Tribal people need very high level of awareness creation which has to be done continuously and intensively by the department, Panchayat Raj Institutions etc.

4. Currently in this District 1,74,115 cards are issued. The B.P.L card holders get 25 Kg of rice @ Rs. 2/- and AAY card Holders get 35 Kg @ Rs 2/- and A.P.L card holders get 10 Kg @ Rs. 8.90/- and Wheat @ Rs.6.70/-. There is a request for increase in quantum further for the A.PL card holders.

5. The mid-day meal Scheme should be introduced in all the Schools up to class 10.(Currently the mid-day Scheme is up to class 8 only)

6. In the I.C.D.S. Scheme currently for the children from six months to six years 500 calorie equivalent food is supplied which includes proteins.

7. Adulterated food is in the market particularly in food items especially Bakery items etc. poor quality mutton and stale fish is also sold in the market. The food Inspector under the Health department should ensure the quality of the food

8. Due to heavy application of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture and Plantations, the drinking water gets contaminated and there should be severe restriction in its applications.-

9. As the Agricultural economy in the district is affected badly for the farmers a package should be implemented.

10. The N.R.E.G.A Scheme should incorporate the agricultural labour activity in its programme

11. Crop insurance scheme should be implemented in the district for the crops

12. Being a forest covered district there are heavy damage to crops by elephant, wild boar and currently by monkeys also and there should be schemes to compensate or protected from wild life.

13. The Matsyafed which introduced fish rearing has to be expanded and enhanced.

14. Food processing unit should set up for value addition and enhancement of employment.

15. A Nutrition Garden should be promoted for the identified families in the panchayat

16. Wayanad is also a paddy grown district and to encourage and sustain paddy cultivation support price to be provided to paddy.

17. The Legal Metrology department should ensure correct weight and measures

18. Being a potential district for Animal Husbandry activity milk production should be enhanced.

B. DISCUSSIONS

- The soil fertility has come down due to low organic contents in the soil due to soil erosion caused by heavy rainfall and sloppy terrain . Farmers should put more organic manure rather than application of heavy fertilizers.-
- Over all the water table in Wayanad is going down due to reduction in Paddy cultivation and switching over to other crops which needs less water. In order to enhance Paddy cultivation procurement of Paddy programme to be implemented in the district. The recently passed Act namely paddy conversion Regulation and water conservation Act to be implemented.
- The Grain Bank Central Scheme (new) implemented where by the identified tribal beneficiary food grain is advanced as loan and later adjusted
- The traditional ethnic food which were used by the local people especially the tubers, jack and mango, etc to be encouraged including its drying , preservation which was mainly used by the tribal people etc
- There is an apprehension that a large number of cancer patients are in Thavinchal Panchayat due to intense banana cultivation and heavy application of pesticides needs to be studied. The Agricultural friendly frogs and crabs has vanished from the field due to pesticides
- The current forest conservation and tribal forest dwellers Act should be implemented in letter and spirit which could enhance the food security of forest dwellers and tribals particularly in collecting edible tubers from the forest
- The P.D.S. System functioning should be constantly monitored and vigilance committee to be constituted at various levels.
- The Agricultural productivity is gradually coming down, heavy application of fertilizers and pesticides enhances the cost of production and also make the soil un-productive and hence best practices should be adapted in the agricultural sector.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

A. PRESENTATION OF WORKING GROUP

Children have to walk more than 5 K.M to reach the schools. Especially in Thirunelly and Noolpuzha Panchayath. In Thirunelly Panchayath pupil have to travel more than 21 K.M through dense forest from Thirunelly to nearest High school at Kartikulam and there is no sufficient transport facilities. SSA started Alternative schools from Std. 1 to 4 children in remote areas. 55 Multi Grade Learning Centers are functioning in various remote & forest areas with 1417 pupils. A single teacher is engaged to teach pupils from std. I to IV. All the centres are functioning well. Noon Meal Programme is also conducted in the centres. Recently, the breakfast to the pupils by the panchayat is also started. The AS centres are to be converted as primary schools wherever necessary. Then only the pupils will get all the academic support from the

department .After completing education in Std. IV they have to discontinue their further studies for lack of adequate Upper primary/High School Education facilities.

2. The children those who are completing 10th and +2 could not continue their further studies due to lack of higher education facilities in Wayanad District. Majority of the Tribal children are not ready go to other districts for higher education. There is no sufficient facilities for Professional Education in Wayanad.

3. Professional Courses like Medicine, Engineering and Agriculture etc. are to be started in this district and with adequate admission reservation to each tribal groups. Due to the entrance examination majority of children from Wayanad could not get admission for the professional courses.

4. For Employment and Education common reservation pattern is there for all scheduled tribes in this district. Communities like Paniya, Kattunaika, Adiya and Oorali are not getting selection either for education or Employment.

5. Infrastructure facilities in many education institutions are very poor according to the present activity based child friendly classroom.

6. Many private schools have no sufficient infrastructure facilities. There is no support from DPEP, SSA or such agencies to develop their facilities. This is a violation of child right of provision to access the quality education.

7. Many children are 1st generation learners. They will not get any support from either from their parents or from their community. Most of them are backward in academic achievement and leads to dropout.

8. Backward tribes from Wayanad are not getting job even though they are qualified.

9. The narcotic substance are highly marketed in nearby schools and tribal colonies.

10. In Primary schools the headmaster have many duties other than academic duties. He has to engage one class also. These children always miss their teacher. More over teachers are always entrusted many other duties during the academic year. This is also denial of child right.

B. DISCUSSIONS

- Education institutions lack adequate infrastructure which needs to be strengthened. Particularly on higher education there are not adequate seats for the students from Wayanad and they had to go in search of admission to other Districts and States which adds to the burden. Hostels/Residential schools specially for primitive tribes like Paniya, Kattunaika and Adiya to be started. The functioning of existing hostels has to be improved positively. Many primary Schools in remote areas are to be upgraded. There is need for more Model residential Schools and it should be allotted to the most deserving places.
- There are only two Govt.Colleges in this District and number of colleges to be increased by the Govt. at the earliest. Even students secured high marks are not able to secure admission for higher studies in Wayanad. Seats for +2 and Degree courses has to be increased. All High Schools are to be upgraded as HSS. Entrance coaching center has to be started in Wayanad exclusively for tribal children. Separate quota of reservation for primitive tribal groups for education and employment is needed.

- There are lot of problems for the students as the concessions are provided only in private buses and the behavior of the conductor and cleaner is very rude towards the students which needs to be monitored and sensitized. The KSRTC should also provide concessions for the students not only by monthly system but also daily basis. In the Vellamunda Panchayath the transport arrangements are made for the students in private vehicle which is a good success model which could be replicated.
- There are large number of drop outs at class 12 particularly in the tribal community they need counseling and guidance and there is need for vocational courses. Proper orientation are to be given to the tribal parents so as to retain the attendance in schools. (mostly among the communities like Adiya, Oorali, Paniya, Kattunaika etc). A project like 'Padanaveedu' (A space to spent their evening leisure time with peer to do their home works and other reading activities with the help of volunteer). Proper functioning of Padanaveedu will improve the retention of pupils in schools and their learning interest. In total it will be a remedial measure to improve the educational backwardness of this District.
- Around the schools and Education institutions, banned Panparag is being sold which needs to be controlled and action should be taken to stopped by law and effective awareness.
- There is delay in disbursing scholarships to students and it should be disbursed in the same Academic year.

CUSTODIAL JUSTICE

Nowadays Human Rights are being ensured in all aspects in the society and in our district. In the Police Stations a board containing the conditions to be followed while on arrest is exhibited, all the arrest are seen made by following the order of the Honorable Supreme Court of India. Every arrestees are seen allowed to get secure legal aid from an advocate directly or indirectly and also allowed to meet their relatives. No body is seen detained in Police custody more than 24 hours, no torturing either mentally or physically being used in Police Stations while interrogation. Police lockups arranged with enough ventilator and suicide safety measures.

2. Petitions received in the Police Stations especially form SC/ST and women are being attended with due care. Cases registered as per compliant received from SC/ST are being investigated by the Dy. Supdt. of Police, SMS unit with out any delay. Cases registered with the complaint of women are being investigated immediately and properly by the Police.

3. Juveniles who are involved in crime cases are being taken in custody only if it is inevitable and they are being produced in Juvenile Court after keeping all the formalities. They are also provided with maximum freedom while on custody as envisaged in Juvenile Justice Act. The Juveniles who are fond abandoned or wandering are being immediately taken into Juvenile homes and the same intimated to CWC.

4. The Local Administration bodies are serving their best for ensuring the welfare of Juvenile Homes and rehabilitation centres. They also are very serviceable in rehabilitating the wandering mentally disabled persons, abandoned old aged. Etc.
5. The jail authorities of Sub. Jail Vythri is providing maximum of their service to the prisoners with the available minimum facilities in the jail.
6. In the case of excise authorities the conditions or arrest by the Supreme Court of India are being complied in every arrest, but the board containing the conditions are not seen exhibited in some of the excise units.
7. The refreshment fund provided for the expense for custody prisoners is not enough, hence it shall be increased.
8. The Sub.Jail Vythri is provided only with the accommodation facilities for 8 male and 14 female prisoners. But now five times of the above numbers of the prisoners are seen accommodated in the jail. This is due to the lack of another Sub.Jail in the district. Hence the Sub. Jail Mananthavaady be immediately be opened.
9. The Govt. Hospitals in the district shall be equipped with prisoners cell.
10. The traveling batha allowed to the prisoners shall be enhanced.
11. The numbers of staff in jails be increased.
12. Measures shall be taken to curb child labour and to rehabilitate such victims.
13. Measures should be taken to stop illicit liquors and adulterated toddy.

B. DISCUSSIONS

- There is an allegation that in the toddy shop spurious liquor is being sold which is deleterious to the health of the people and particularly among the tribal people Paniya community has become victims. Intoxicating materials are being sold in the toddy shop which the Excise Department should play an active role in controlling unauthorized brewed and spurious liquor
- The peoples committee has to be activated and to be watchful
- A tribal lady namely Ms.Panchaly and Aswathy a tribal student from a tribal hostel has gone missing for the past 1 and ½ years has missing . The police registered the case and information passed on to NCRB and SCRB. It was stressed that their where about should be investigated and case expedited.
- The tribal people are finding extremely difficult for want of possession Certificate / Land tax receipt particularly those who are having 4 cents or less lands which has to be issued by the revenue Department in a time bound manner . This is an essential document to get bail and for want of the possession certificate the tribal people find it extremely difficult to get bail for the people arrested or arrested who are in custody in the jail. This is a serious issue and a human rights issue and denial of right to bail hence in an expeditious manner possession certificate be provided.
- The current Bata (amount) is in adequate for the refreshment of the inmates while taking them to Court/Hospital. The current rate of Rs.4/- for breakfast, Rs.9/- for lunch and Rs. 5/- for dinner is very insufficient and needs to be enhanced urgently by the Govt.

- Due to the arrest of the earning member of the tribal family coupled with difficulty in getting bail deprives the family of their income and puts the family and children to much difficulty. This leads to deprivations and the family is very badly affected economically and emotionally without the earning member.
- There is a need for an improvement and modernization/reform in the Jail and particularly in the Vythiri Jail having a large number of under trails and there is over crowding. The Mananthavady Jail under construction should be completed and operationalised
- While publishing the photos of the alleged culprits the human dignity and the right of the person to be honoured and the photo should not carry the half naked photos of the alleged culprits which is a human Right violation.
- A petition on Police atrocities was submitted in the meeting signed by five ladies namely(1) Araye w/o Anantha kumar,(2) Rani, w/o Manikandan, (3)Velankanny w/o Kumar, Pallikkunnu, Kambalakkad.P.O,(4)Lekshmi ,w/o Rajamani,(5) Rajeswary , w/o chandran, Kindippara, Madakkimala.P.O alleged that on the 21st August 2009 early morning around 3 am while they were sleeping in their houses in the above address around 15 Police persons some in uniform and mafty came in a jeep armed and forcibly entered in the houses and beaten the men and took them forcibly in the jeep even without telling the reason and where they are taken to. Totally six persons and one of them is 15 years old Arjun who is a minor where taken by the Police . The Police in the jeep took them to Palghat in the night and illegally detained them there and later after 18 days they were produced in the court , which they came to know through the Advocate that they have been booked under theft case . The petitioners approached and submitted a petition to the Superintendent of Police on 21st of August 2009 and no information was provided till 16.09.09 to the petitioners. It is logical that when a Police from another District come and lift/arrest the persons that they take the help of the local Police to which the arrested person belongs and in this case the Wayanad district Police should have shared the information invariably to the petitioners . In this case the petition was submitted to the member NHRC on 16.09.09 at Wayanad and the S.P. wayanad conveyed immediately that they have been arrested under the theft case by the Palghat Police under crime no. 379,380,381,382 all under sec 399,380 IPC of the Town North Police station, Palghat. This information the S.P, Wayanad should have informed to the petitioners on the petition submitted
- The petitioners in the complaint requested for action against the Police who have filed false cases, lifted them without information in the night of 21.08.09, and not telling the families/ladies of the arrested persons, illegally detained for 18 days, and physically beaten them, demanded bribe of Rs.10000/- by the Police Palghat. Primafacie there is a lot of Human Right violation committed by the Police
- The ladies signed in the petitions and the children are under great distress and they are approaching through Advocate for Bail. Apparently it seems to a false case and also denial of information by the Police.
- The S.P,Wayanad has also not given reply/information for the petitions submitted to him on 21.08.09. The petitioners have sought Justice from NHRC for the high handedness of the Police

122

Annexure 3

- The issue of nearly 122 people belonging to Wayanad Tribal (mainly Paniyas) community have gone to Kudagu and many died over the past few years have gone as labourers through agents and by certain Land owners who are doing agriculture in Kudagu District. The complaint is that the tribal labourers are subjected to lot of exploitations including the women through liquor etc Having the death occurred in another state many dead bodies are not been brought to Wayanad even for the last rites due to poverty. As a result these tribal's are not able to get the death certificate due to ignorance, non-registrations, etc . Due to this they are not able to get any benefits due to want of death certificates. This is an alarming case of 122 people and no action being taken by the state authorities of Kerala and Karnataka despite the Prevention of SC/ST Atrocities Act 1989. This needs an investigation and also a system of providing death certificate in these cases and also to make accountable and check this exploitation . The district Authorities have to take it as a serious Human Right violation.

REPORT ON INSPECTION VISITS IN WAYANAD

121

VILLAGE OFFICE KANIYAMPETTA

- The village office has a telephone and the locals preferred to call through to seek information. Some villagers, who were around during the visit, complimented the staff for being courteous.
- Though it generally provides information efficiently, many of the locals did not know that there were welfare schemes for patients of tuberculosis and cancer.

Suggestions

- The Panchayats, Village/Block Level Development Officer and Primary/Community Health Centres/Taluk Hospitals could be enlisted to make people aware about these two schemes.

CHITRA MOOLA ANGANWADI CENTRE

- This Anganwadi Centre caters to tribal children. Though thirteen are enrolled, only three were present along with the Helper, who seemed to be taking good care of them. The Helper reported that three lactating mothers and six pregnant women were also registered as beneficiaries of the Centre.
- The challenge faced by the Anganwadi Worker and the Helper was of getting all children below 6 to the Centre.

Suggestions

- The tribal community must be encouraged to send children and other beneficiaries to the Anganwadi. The Child Development Project Officer, Supervisor and the Anganwadi Worker have to work together to gain their trust and confidence. The Panchayats should be closely associated with the implementation of the ICDS Scheme.

KANIYAMPETTA OLD AGE HOME

- The Home was started in 1991 by the Department of Social Welfare. It can accommodate 50, but currently has 18 residents, 10 men and 8 women. The Home was clean and had spacious rooms. The residents were by and large happy to be there.
- Some were very old and the arrangements made to give them palliative care were praiseworthy.
- The residents said that of late they were not being given milk. The staff said this was because funds were short.
- The washing machines (supplied by the Canara Bank) and the solar heater need to be made functional.

Suggestions

- As the Home has spare capacity, word should be spread about it, so that more old people who need care and protection could make use of it.
- The supply of milk must be restored.
- The home needs some basic necessities like umbrellas and urinal pans.
- There should be reliable arrangements for residents to be taken to the hospital for referral and treatment.

CHILDREN CUM OBSERVATION HOME AT KANIYAMPETTA

- The institution functions both as a Children's Home and an Observation Home. It presently has four boys, between the ages of 7 and 12.
- The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) has been functioning for the last three years. There are five members, who meet every Thursday.

Suggestions

- An Observation Home is meant for the temporary reception of juveniles in conflict with the law. It should not be integrated with the Children's Home.

PANAMARAM PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE

- The Primary Health Centre (PHC) has been technically upgraded to the level of Community Health Centre (CHC), but due to lack of staff, space and other factors, is not functioning as well as it should.
- The Medical Officer, Dr. Chandrasekharan, is in charge of the PHC. People visiting the Centre said that he was a committed doctor, who has been brought back on public demand.
- Under the NRHM, the doctors were being appointed on contracts.
- The PHC on an average attended to 150 out-patients a day. It had facilities to provide treatment to 42 in-patients.
- The X-ray machine, the only one in Panamaram, could not be use because the Centre had no technician to run it, so patients have to travel 20 kms for an X-ray.
- The Centre has no gynaecologist.
- The Operation Theatre was not functional.
- There is no ambulance.
- The power supply in the PHC is regular and a generator is installed as well.
- Two computers were currently installed, but these were not enough to process out-patients cards/records/reports etc.
- According to the doctor, illicit liquor and heavy drinking greatly affected the health of the tribals.

Suggestions

- The post of X-ray Technician needs to be filled immediately.
- A Gynaecologist should be appointed without delay.
- More computers should be installed to improve the functioning of the Centre.
- An Ambulance should be provided so that the PHC is linked with other Centres and hospitals for referral of patients and for emergencies.
- Awareness needs to be generated among the tribals about the ill effects of illicit liquor.

MANANTODY GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL

- The SC students receive only a lump-sum grant.
- The ST students got a lump-sum grant as well as a monthly stipend.
- There are more girls than boys in the school. The closure of the Tribal Boys' Hostel in Manantody is one of the reasons for this.
- Since the school stands on 11 acres, it was suggested that a Tribal Hostel be constructed on its premises, which would help students from the distant villages.
- A large number of drop-outs were reported among the ST students in class X, which is a matter of concern.
- Delays were reported in the disbursement of uniforms to ST children. It was also reported that the ST children had not been provided their scholarships for the year 2007-2008 by the Panchayat and Tribal Department, because funds were not available. This problem needs to be addressed immediately.
- The school provides breakfast to ST children and mid-day meal to all children till class VIII. This facility is extended to High School children who are in need.
- The school has introduced some innovative schemes like "save a year". Counselling services were being provided to tribal children through a trained Counsellor, though they were reluctant to use his services.
- The Library functions from a very small space. It needs to be made more spacious and attractive.
- The number of toilets for the girls was inadequate. The toilets for the boys were being rebuilt, but no alternative arrangements had been made for them.

Suggestions

- The Department of Education should look into the lacunae listed above and take remedial steps.
- The Panchayat and Tribal Department to ensure that the children are given their scholarships on time.

MEENANGADI MODEL POLICE STATION

- The station had 35 personnel – 1 Sub-Inspector/Station House Officer, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 6 Head Constables, 23 Constables and 3 Women Constables.
- Out of the three Women Police Constables, one is in charge of the Women Complaint Desk and Reception.
- The Station maintained separate complaint registers for men and women. Anyone making a complaint was handed a receipt for record and follow-up action.
- For cognizable offences, an F.I.R. is immediately registered, with a copy given to the complainant. Complaints on non-cognizable offences, in particular civil matters, are recorded in the General Petition Register and efforts are made to resolve the matter by calling both parties for discussions. If this does not help, they are advised to approach the Civil Court. For petty cases, the police prepared charge-sheets for the payment of fines in the Civil Court.
- The help of the Child Helpline is taken for complaints on missing children. If the child is not traceable within 24 hours, an F.I.R. is registered and a Monitoring Squad is constituted to trace the missing child. The staff reported that so far all missing children had been traced.
- The D.K.Basu guidelines were displayed in the police station. Salient features of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 were also prominently displayed. Instructions about the collection of a receipt/copy of an F.I.R. by complainants were exhibited too.
- The Police Station is currently experimenting with the novel idea of 'Community Policing', i.e. Jan Maitri Police. The intention is to carry out policing with the help of the public.

MEENANGADI COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

- The Community Health Centre (CHC) covers 5 Panchayats and 94 wards. It has 6 PHCs under it. It has 7 doctors and 11 nurses. Four doctors were permanent and three had been appointed under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
- The CHC had a General Physician and other specialists like a gynaecologist, a paediatrician and an ENT specialist.
- 6 doctors did the morning shift from 9 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. One worked from 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. No doctor was available after 8 pm. If an emergency arose at night, one of the doctors was requested to come over to the CHC.
- Two of the nurses were permanent, nine had been appointed ad-hoc under the NRHM.
- The CHC has 52 beds; it presently has 52 in-patients. On the day of the visit, it has treated 600 OPD patients.
- The CHC did not have an ambulance.
- The Centre provided food to the in-house patients only once in the morning, apparently because it does not have a kitchen.

- The Head Nurse reported that both Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families availed of the United Insurance Rashtriya Suraksha Bima Yojana that was introduced in Kerala in 2008. For BPL families, a one-time payment of Rs. 30/-, entitled them to a treatment package of Rs. 30,000/- per year for 5 members. APL families had to pay a premium of Rs. 500/- per year.
- With the increase in the number of out patients and in-patients, the staff reported that the infrastructure could not cope.

Suggestions

- An Ambulance should be provided urgently.
- A doctor must be available at the Centre during the night.
- A kitchen should be built, so that the in-patients are fed all three meals.

BEENANACHI GOVERNMENT UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL

- The school stands on 3 acres next to National Highway 212.
- 550 boys and girls study there from the pre-primary level to the 7th standard. The school starts at 10.00 a.m. and continues till 4.00 p.m.. It primarily caters to children of BPL families.
- All classes till 7th standard have two sections each, one teaching in English, the other in Malayalam.
- The District and Gram Panchayat pays for breakfast to be served to 57 BPL children from the Scheduled Tribes.
- In an extraordinary act of generosity, the Head Mistress pays from her salary for breakfast for the other children.
- The mid-day meal of rice and green gram is given to all children, with funds drawn under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- The school has 20 teachers, including the Head Mistress, a peon and two cooks. It has no administrative staff, so the Head Mistress and other teachers have to do this work as well.
- Children commuted in private transport (auto-rickshaws and private taxis) as the school did not have its own.
- The building has asbestos roofs, though the walls are made of bricks. No classroom has fans. There are ten toilets.
- One of the classroom walls had deep cracks. This could prove to be dangerous during the monsoons.
- Books and uniforms were provided free to all SC/ST school children by the Government. The school had a few sponsors who provided these to poor children from the 'General' category.
- The teacher-student ratio in the school was 1: 40. The Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) was apparently very strong and active.
- The Head Mistress reported that the school did not receive funds on time, because of which teachers were paid their salaries late.

Suggestions

- The school is 52 years old and needs to be renovated or rebuilt. Additional funds need to be sanctioned by the State Government.
- The State Government should sanction administrative staff so that the teachers can concentrate on teaching.
- Since speeding traffic on NH 212 poses a major risk to the children, it would be best for the school to be relocated away from the highway.

MANICHIRAI ANGANWADI CENTRE

- The Manichirai Anganwadi Centre No. 30, part of Sultan Bathery ICDS Project, functions from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
- On the day of the visit, both the Anganwadi Worker and Helper were present. They were giving supplementary nutrition to the children. The ANM from the Health Department too was present as Health Day was being observed at the Centre and the beneficiaries were to be inoculated in the afternoon.
- Eight children were present though 17 are registered with the Centre. About the absentees, the Worker explained that some children were unwell, and the parents of the others kept them at home during Ramzan.
- The children at the Centre were energetic but untidy.
- The Centre was using old charts to record growth and weight. It had no inkling about the new WHO Child Growth Standards adopted by India in 2007, and the new charts based had not been supplied to them by their Supervisor or the Child Development Project Officer.
- The Worker had also not been given a copy of the Handbook for Anganwadi Workers distributed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Suggestions

- All Child Development Project Officers, Supervisors and Anganwadi Workers in Wayanad must be briefed about the new WHO Child Growth Standards. The District Collector should write to the Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi so that workshops are organized for all functionaries at the District/Taluk level.
- The Programme Officer/ICDS Project Officer should also ensure that every Anganwadi Centre is supplied with the latest information about the ICDS Scheme, including the Handbook for Anganwadi Workers.

SULTAN BATHERY TALUK SUPPLY OFFICE

- There are 113 PDS Ration Shops in Sultan Bathery Taluk, supplied by two wholesale dealers chosen by the Collector's Office. There are 27 Village Grain Banks attached to the PDS ration shops.

- Rations are supplied to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) card holders, Below Poverty Line (BPL) card holders and Above Poverty Line (APL) card holders. The Panchayat identifies AAY and BPL families.
- 35 kg of rice per month is given to each AAY card holder @ Rs. 2/- per kg. Each BPL card holder is given 19 kg of rice and 6 kg of wheat per month @ Rs. 2/- per kg. The APL card holders were given rice and wheat if these were available; rice was sold to them @ Rs.8.90/- per kg and wheat @ Rs. 6.70/- per kg.
- AAY and BPL card holders were given 400 gm of sugar per head in a month @ Rs. 13.50 per kg. No sugar was sold to APL card holders.
- 2 litres of kerosene were given at subsidized rates to families whose houses were electrified and 5 litres to those without electricity. Each ration shop catered to about 500-600 card-holders. Their licenses were cancelled and heavy penalties imposed if irregularities came to light.
- The rates of items sold by these shops were published in newspapers every month.

Suggestions

- The selection criterion of BPL families needs to be periodically reviewed by Govt.

NELLARACHAL KURUMA COLONY, AMBALAVAYAL

- Around 20 Paniya families lived here in *kaccha* houses, waiting for their rehabilitation after the construction of a dam. (A hundred other families had been rehabilitated.)
- They received rations and their children went to a nearby school.
- Their houses had no electricity and they were shabbily dressed.
- There was no health facility and they used the services of a tribal *vaidya*.

Suggestions

- These families need to be urgently rehabilitated by the Tribal Department. Health facilities must be provided while they are in the colony.

PANCHAYAT OFFICE, AMBALAVAYAL

- The Panchayat Officer reported that because they had so much to do, his team was not able to look after all the requirements of the villagers.
- The office had no shortage of funds. In fact, they were unable to spend the Rs. 2 crores sanctioned for 2008-09.

Suggestions

- Additional staff may be provided to the office, so that they are able to better respond to local needs and utilize sanctioned funds.

PONKUZZHI, KATTUNAYAKA COLONY

- This colony is 35 km from Kalpetta, and adjacent to NH 212. It is inside the Wayanad Sanctuary and the area is full of wildlife, so the colony is surrounded by a trench 2m deep and 3m wide, built under the NREGA, to ward off elephants.
- This is one of the largest of the 193 Kattunayaka colonies in Wayanad, with 60 families in 49 houses. 20 houses are of traditional construction; the newer houses are of concrete, and cost Rs. 1 lakh each. All houses in future will be of this type.
- The residents have a major problem with drinking water, despite OD wells, hand-pumps and the Kerala Water Authority-implemented drinking water scheme. The officials of the Water Authority do not regularly pump and supply water to the colony, forcing the residents to collect water from a river. The negligence of these officials is a matter of serious concern.
- A random check of a few ration cards showed that some holders have not yet received the new ration cards, and they do not make regular purchases, perhaps because they have little money.
- Their main income is from the seasonal collection & selling of minor forest produce; some have NREGA cards but cannot get the work because of the distances involved.
- It was clear that almost all the residents therefore suffer from hunger and malnutrition, and are susceptible to various diseases. Their health is poor, and all were painfully thin. They should be given thorough periodical medical check-ups, and provided dietary supplements.
- There is an "alternative school" which has 28 children. A local girl who assists the teacher was there, but the teacher was absent. The children were enthusiastic and had some teaching aids to attract them.
- The alternative school is a recent phenomenon in the tribal area, where distances make it hard to send children to school. A single teacher caters to all the students from class I to IV. This is a good stop-gap arrangement, but the standard of teaching is necessarily low.
- The 5 children who go to schools outside the colony have to walk through forest roads infested with wild elephants. They need transport facilities. The Tribal Department or the Panchayat Department should arrange an auto-rickshaw for them, an arrangement in place in some other panchayats.
- An Anganwadi functions in the colony under the ICDS scheme.
- The Tribal Development Officer was asked to look into the problems faced by the residents, including
 - ensuring the regular supply of drinking water;
 - the prompt issue of documents like death certificates and ration cards;
 - pensions for those eligible;
 - the lack of regular employment and their inability to find work under the NREGA.
- The "tribal promoters", who are themselves tribals, also need to work harder with the authorities to address these problems.

Suggestions

- The tribals are the most disadvantaged section of the population of the district, and the problems faced by the residents of this colony are a sample of those they face elsewhere. The District Administration, with the support of the State Government, must give the highest priority to finding urgent and durable solutions to these problems.
- The Tribal Development Officer has been asked to send a report to the NHRC on the steps being taken to give immediate relief to the residents of the colony. This should be sent within two months, and regularly updated thereafter. (Report due by 15.11.2009 from the TDO)

RATION SHOP NO.12

- A ration shop was picked at random for an inspection on the way back from the colony. Ration Shop No.12 has 100 BPL cards and 47 AAY cards out of a total of 833. It opens from 8 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm every day except Sunday. The stock position was displayed and the quality was good. All registers were in place except the Complaint Register.
- Since new cards have been distributed, the shop was advised not to keep the 5 old ration cards found there, and to start a complaint register.

TALUK HOSPITAL SULTAN BATHERY

- This is a well-constructed, modern hospital 2 km from the old Taluk Hospital, catering primarily to the adivasis.
- Doctors and staff are posted under NRHM, and medicines are adequately stocked.
- However, patients were sharing beds, and the hospital was overcrowded.

Suggestions

- Steps need to be taken to relieve the overcrowding at the hospital, which cannot cope with demand. The present system of patients sharing beds is not hygienic.
- Doctors and staff are having to cope with far more patients than they should be expected to. This will inevitably impact on the quality of the care they can give. The sanctioned strength of doctors and staff should be increased, in accordance with government norms.
- A good waste disposal mechanism should be installed.

BOYS TRIBAL HOSTEL, MEENANGADI

- This is run by Tribal Department in a rented building, and used by young Adivasi boys, mostly from the Paniya community, who have come from distant villages to study in local schools. It is supervised by a male Superintendent Warden.

- It has 25 beds and accommodates 46 boys; two boys have to share a bed.
- The rooms were not clean. There were cobwebs in all rooms, beds and bedsheets were dirty. The rooms did not have enough natural or artificial light.
- The dining hall was poorly lit, and the boys ate at long narrow tables and benches, but a menu chart was displayed, and the food was cooked hygienically and well by two women cooks.
- The toilets were filthy.

Suggestions

- The hostel serves a very useful purpose, because it gives boys from the most disadvantaged communities the chance to study up to high school. It therefore must be made a more livable space, with much greater attention paid to cleanliness and lighting.
- The landlord must be asked to urgently renovate the toilets.
- Given the overcrowding at the hostel, it should be moved to larger premises, either rented or owned by the State.

VYTHIRI JAIL

- The jail was built to hold 8 male and 14 female prisoners, but presently has 57 men and 2 women.
- Though it is very well kept, 7 to 8 men share a cell. Though Wayanad is cold in winter, because of its altitude, the prisoners are not provided with blankets and they all sleep on the floor on bed sheets.
- The drinking water supply is good. The kitchen needs periodic white-washing because wood is used as fuel.
- More than half the inmates are tribals whose relatives do not know how to apply for bail.
- Some of the inmates alleged that they had been arrested under false cases. They were asked to give this in writing, and four have done so. These will be processed in the Commission.

Suggestions

- The Manatawadi Taluk Jail, which is closed, must be quickly renovated to reduce the congestion in Vythiri.
- Prisoners must be provided blankets and mattresses.
- The kitchen should switch over to gas.
- The District Legal Authority Services should be extended to tribal under-trials at Vythiri, who do not know how the legal system works.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. RIGHTS OF SC/ST

LAND AND HOUSING

- ✓1. 13303 tribal families in the district are landless. This is a matter of concern, since tribal life centres around land. Since both the families who are entitled, and the land that they might be given under projects like Sugandagiri and Pookot Diary, have been identified, allotments should be urgently made and completed within six months, before March, 2010. A monthly report on allotments should be sent to the Commission.

Action – District Collector / Deptt. of Tribal & Revenue, Government of Kerala

- ✓2. Once land is allotted, non-alienable possession certificates & tax receipts should be issued to help the tribals get loans. The development departments – agriculture, soil conservation, animal husbandry, minor irrigation, forest – should coordinate their assistance, so that the land allotted becomes a productive asset. The Tribal and Panchayat Departments should monitor the tribal use of their land and report regularly to the District Collector.

Action – Respective Panchayats / Tribal Department / District Collector

3. There are 8288 homeless tribal families in the district. They need to be urgently housed. Houses for SC/ST left incomplete by agencies and contractors should be listed and completed against a short deadline, with progress monitored by the District Collector, who should send a monthly report to the Commission.

Action – Tribal Department / District Collector / Deptt. of Housing, Govt. of Kerala

FOOD

- ✓4. ST/SC beneficiaries should only be issued BPL Ration cards. Greater efforts need to be made to ensure that all those who are entitled to these cards get them, and thereafter, that they draw rations regularly. This monitoring is essential to prevent the diversion of rations meant for the tribals, and to see if they have the economic means to make purchases.

Action – Deptt. of Tribals / Deptt. of SC / Deptt. of Food / Distt. Collector / Deptt. of Food & Civil Supplies, Govt. of Kerala

HEALTH

- ✓5. Addiction and the easy availability of locally brewed liquor very seriously affect

the health of the tribal people. Panchayats and NGOs should try to educate tribals about the harmful effects of their addiction. Given the current prevalence, it would be useful to start some addiction treatment centres.

Action - Deptt. of Excise / District Collector

- ✓ 6. The tribals do not have the money to buy medicines. Medicines prescribed for tribal patients should be supplied to by the hospital authorities.

Action - Deptt. of Health / Deptt. of Tribal

CONDITIONS AND AVAILABILITY OF WORK

- ✓ 7. Since many tribals cannot take up work under NREGA schemes because of the commute involved, the Collectorate should try to find projects close to their settlements where NREGA card-holders can find employment. Payments must be promptly made.

Action - Panchayat / District Collector

- ✓ 8. Tribals, particularly from the Paniya community, are taken by agents and rich farmers as migrant labour into the neighbouring district of Kudagu in Karnataka to cultivate ginger. There are allegations that they are exploited, proper shelter is not provided, their women are vulnerable and their children drop out of school. The district administration should ensure that no one is forcibly recruited or exploited, and cases must be registered under the SC/ST Atrocities Act if they are. Wages and shelter as per the Labour Act should be enforced and ensured. The panchayats can and must monitor migrations from their jurisdictions.

Action - Deptt. of Tribal / Panchayats / Sr. Supdt. of Police

9. Since there are very high levels of unemployment among tribal youth, they should be counselled on what they should do to find employment, including in defence, para-military, police and forest agencies.

Action - District Collector

- ✓ 10. Educated unemployed tribal children, particularly from the Kattunayakan community (PTG), should be helped to find placements either in Anganwadis or as tribal promoters or in other appropriate jobs; this would also motivate other children to study.

Action - Tribal Department / Deptt. of Social Welfare / District Collector

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

- ✓ 11. Model Residential Schools & Tribal Hostels respond to a felt need, and well-run institutions motivate tribal children to continue with their education. More need to be built, with hostels sited on or near school premises.

Action - Tribal Deptt. / Deptt. of Education, Govt. of Kerala

- ✓12. There are no hostels for post-matric students. The SC-ST and Education Departments should consider opening some.

Action - District Collector / Govt. of Kerala (Deptts. Tribal & Education)

- ✓13. Tribal children cannot pursue engineering, medical or nursing courses as there is no Science stream in the Model Residential Schools. A Science stream must be introduced from the academic year 2010-11.

Action - Deptt. of Education / Tribal / Govt. of Kerala (Deptt. of Tribal / Kerala)

- ✓14. Coaching centres should be set up to help SC/ST children prepare for admissions to professional courses. Vocational and professional courses should be offered locally.

Action - Tribal Department / Govt. of Kerala (Education Deptt.)

- ✓15. The current reservation for the Scheduled Tribes is only 2%, which means most school-leavers cannot get admission in colleges. The quota should be increased from the academic year 2010-11.

Action - Govt. of Kerala (Tribal & Education deptt.)

- ✓16. The corpus fund of the Tribal Department might be used to fund these initiatives to improve standards of education.

Action - Deptt. of Tribal

COORDINATION

17. Since tribals form so large a percentage of the local population and are the most disadvantaged, their upliftment should be the focus of the work of Departments like Social Welfare, Health, Animal Husbandry and Revenue, and receive the highest priority.

Action Panchayat & District Collector

18. All existing schemes for the welfare of tribals have to be more effectively implemented, and the institutions created to help them must be better administered. The quality of the work of the district administration should be judged on how well they respond to tribal needs.

Action - Deptt. of Tribal / Panchayat / District Collector

19. There must be close coordination between all the development departments at the Panchayat level.

Action - All departments under District Panchayats

- ✓20. The Scheduled Tribes & other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right Act) to extend the customary rights of the tribal people should be made operational

in a time-bound manner.

Action - Deptt. of Forest, District Collector

- ✓ 21. A separate package for the overall development for the Paniya and the Kattunayakan communities, the most backward among the tribals, should be urgently considered.

Action - Tribal Department / District Collector / Govt. of Kerala (Tribal & Planning Deptt.)

22. The Police Department should train its personnel to be sensitive in dealing with the tribals, and should play a leading role in protecting them from exploitation.

Action - Supdt. of Police / Govt. of Kerala (Home)

OUTREACH

23. Greater efforts should be made to reach out to the tribals, starting at the panchayat level. Appropriate mechanisms should be found, such as Radio Mattaoli (a programme exclusively for Wayanad), started by an NGO, to raise awareness.

Action - Tribal Department / Panchayats / District Collector

B. RIGHT TO HEALTH

INFRASTRUCTURE AND STAFFING

24. Wayanad needs some super-specialty facilities; it presently depends on Calicut Medical College Hospital, which is 100 km away. Many of the PHCs upgraded on paper as CHCs have not had their staff strength enhanced.

Action – Deptt. of Health / Govt. of Kerala (Health department)

25. Even though infrastructure is being improved, the number of beds and the staff in hospitals have to be increased. In some hospitals, X-ray machines and operation theatres are not being used because there are no radiographers or gynecologists. Medical staff must be posted so that all hospitals offer the full range of services for which they have been equipped.

Action – Deptt. of Health / Govt. of Kerala (Health deptt.)

26. The shortage of psychiatrists is a handicap. If government doctors are not available, the district administration might wish to outsource this service.

Action – Distt. Medical Officer

SURVEYS AND INTERVENTIONS

27. Sickle-cell anemia is a serious problem among the tribals. A survey should be quickly done to identify those affected; medical interventions and counseling should follow. This survey should be done this financial year.

Action – Deptt. of Health / District Collector / Govt. of Kerala (Health Deptt.)

28. An excessive use of pesticides has led to fears of a rise in the incidence of cancer. A study might be done to see if these fears are well-founded.

Action – Deptt. of Health / Govt. of Kerala (Health & Planning Deptt.)

OUTREACH TO THE TRIBALS

29. The mobile medical units visiting the tribal colonies should give advance intimation so that their services are fully utilized. The tribal promoters and the Panchayats should be closely involved.

Action – Deptt. of Health / Deptt. of Tribal / Panchayats

30. The tribals are very sensitive and do not return to hospitals where they feel they have been slighted. Medical and para-medical staff should be trained to handle them with care, so that they do not feel slighted. This sensitization training for medical staff should be started under the NRHM programme in this financial year.

WASTE DISPOSAL

31. The disposal of solid waste at the Panchayat and Municipal levels must be in accordance with the norms prescribed by the Pollution Control Board, Kerala. The Board and the Panchayats must monitor this regularly.

Action – All Panchayats / Kalpetta Municipality / Asst. Environmental Engineer, Kalpetta

C. RIGHT TO FOOD**COUNTERING DEPRIVATION**

32. Some starvation was reported in tribal colonies because of a lack of purchasing power. Every effort must be made by the Tribal department, the Panchayat department and the district administration at the ward and panchayat levels to ensure that no one suffers starvation because of a lack of purchasing power or of employment.

Action - All Panchayats / Deptt. of Social Welfare / Tribal dept./ Distt. Collector

33. Wayanad was very badly hit by suicides of farmers in debt. The Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented.

Action - Deptt. of Agriculture / Nationalised Banks / Distt. Collector

34. Among the tribals, the Paniyas, Kattunaickans and Ooralis are very malnourished and anemic. Food security for them should be ensured through Anganwadis, the mid-day meal scheme, AAY-Programme, PDS or any special scheme -suitable to them etc.

Action - Deptt. of Social Welfare / ICDS / Deptt. of Food & Civil Supplies

FOOD QUALITY

35. The Food Inspector should periodically inspect the quality of mutton, which is not high, and prevent the sale of stale fish. Regular reports should be sent to the respective Panchayats and corrective action taken.

Action - All Panchayats / Municipality/Food Inspector, Deptt. of Health

WATER QUALITY

36. The heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides is polluting ground and surface water; the Pollution Control Board must monitor water quality, create awareness and prescribe corrective actions through the Krishi Bhawans in the Panchayats and through farmers' organizations.

Action - Deptt. of Agriculture / Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Wayanad

CROPPING PATTERNS

37. The water level is going down. The State Government should encourage paddy cultivation by extending the support price system for paddy procurement and other measures. The cultivation of paddy would raise both the water table and local employment.

Action - Deptt. of Agriculture / Govt. of Kerala (Civil supplies department)

38. The cultivation of crops traditionally used by the tribals, particularly tubers, jack-fruit and mango etc, should be encouraged. This would reduce malnutrition.

Action - Panchayats/ Deptt. of Agriculture / Deptt. of Tribal / Deptt. Forest

D. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

39. The norm that children should not have to travel more than 2 km to school is not always implemented, perhaps because Wayanad is so thickly forested and the tribal settlements so widely dispersed, but this affects the tribal children and their right to education. The State Government needs to give some thought to this.

Action - Deptt. of Education / Govt. of Kerala (Education deptt.)

40. Children who are forced to walk long distances should be accommodated in hostels wherever possible and the upgrading of schools in these Panchayats must be given priority.

Action - Deptt. of Tribal / Deptt. of Education / Govt. of Kerala (Education deptt.)

41. The alternative schools started from Class I to IV in tribal settlements are a good initiative but standards have to be maintained so that children can transfer smoothly to regular schools in Class V. The District Collector should prepare a report on the steps the administration proposes to take to meet the challenges outlined above.

Action - Deptt. of Tribal / Deptt. of Education / Distt. Collector

42. The district does not have enough professional institutions for higher education. If a study has already been made of local needs, this should be sent to the Commission, otherwise one should be initiated by the district administration.

Action - District Collector / Higher Education, Govt. of Kerala (Higher Education deptt.)

43. Since the Panias, Kattunaikans and Ooralis are backward even among the tribals and unable to get the benefits of reservation of education or employment, the State Government might consider exclusive reservations for them through an executive order.

Action - Deptt. of Tribal / Govt. of Kerala (General Admn. deptt.)

44. There is a serious shortage of toilets in schools. All educational institutions must have adequate and separate toilets for boys and girls. This must be given priority.

Action - Panchayats / Dy. Director, Deptt. of Education

45. Transport facilities for schoolchildren are inadequate. Some panchayats have earmarked funds for the transportation of children to and from school. This might be replicated in other panchayats.

Action - Panchayats / Deptt. of Education / RTO

46. Scholarships for an academic year should be disbursed in that year, and at the earliest, so that children are motivated and the scholarships act as an incentive.

Action - Panchayats / Dy. Director, Deptt. of Education / Govt. of Kerala (Local Self Govt. & General Education)

47. There are heavy dropouts even up to class X both among SC and ST. This is a matter of serious concern. The district administration should examine the problem urgently in consultation with the SC/ST, Education & Panchayat Departments, and draw up a plan to remedy this. The plan and reports on its implementation should be sent to the Commission.

Action - Deptt. of SC & ST / Deptt. of Education / Panchayats / Distt. Collector

E. CUSTODIAL JUSTICE

48. There is a general complaint that spurious liquor is sold in toddy shops, the majority of the tribals, particularly the Paniyas, are becoming addicts, and their health is seriously affected. The Excise and Police Departments, with the support of the Panchayat, should ensure that spurious liquor is neither brewed nor sold.

Action – Deptt. of Excise / Supdt. of Police / Govt. of Kerala (Home Deptt.)

49. Two tribal girls have been missing for a year, one of them a student from a tribal hostel. The police must give women a greater sense of security. These cases must be investigated seriously and on priority.

Action – Supdt. of Police, Govt. of Kerala (Home Deptt.)

50. Fair trial and a right to bail are part of custodial justice, but many tribals do not have land tax receipts and are unable to get bail. The Revenue Department should in a time-bound manner issue possession certificates and land tax receipts, which are needed for many government-sanctioned schemes as well.

Action – Deptt. of Revenue / Distt. Collector / Govt. of Kerala (Revenue Deptt.)

51. Large numbers of tribal people are in jail. Many either do not know that they can get bail, or how to set about it, or are too poor to put up the money. The District Legal Service Authority should monitor these cases and help bring them to speedy trial. Leading NGOs might also be asked to help.

Action – Wayanad Distt. Legal Service Authority/ Distt. Collector

52. The only jail, at Vythiri, is heavily overcrowded. The Manantavadi jail, which is in the final stage of completion, must be made operational urgently.

Action – Govt. of Kerala (Home deptt.)

53. The food budget for prisoners is Rs. 4 for breakfast, Rs.9 for lunch and Rs.5 for dinner. This is inadequate and should be raised.

Action – Govt. of Kerala (Home deptt.)

54. There was a complaint that 6 tribals from Pallikunnu, in the area of jurisdiction of the Kambalakad Police Station, were arrested by Palghat police without informing the Wayanad police. The relatives allege that the six were booked under false cases, illegally detained for more than 24 hours, and produced after 18 days in the Palghat court. This case needs to be urgently investigated. **Petitions received handed over to Supdt. of Police, Wayanad.**

Action – Supdt. of Police, Govt. of Kerala (Home deptt.)

Annexure 1

55. The SMS service, headed by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, which investigates cases under the SC/STs Atrocities Act, has a very poor conviction rate. From January 1, 2001 till September 31, 2009, 375 cases were reported, 205 were charged, but there were only 20 convictions. In Wayanad, the SC/STs POA Act has not given the tribals the protection they need. The police need to improve their performance in this critical sector.

Action – SP, Public Prosecutor / District Collector/ Govt. of Kerala (Home deptt.)