

**Minutes of the Meeting taken by Shri Aditya Mishra, Joint Secretary,
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, New Delhi with District Level
officers of Korba (CG) on 27.06.2009.**

A meeting was taken by Shri Shri Aditya Mishra, Joint Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, New Delhi with District Level officers of Korba (CG) at 10.30 hrs at NTPC Guest House, Korba on 27.06.2009 to review various development programmes being run for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. Shri R.K. Dubey, Assistant Director and Shri P.K.Das, Sr. Investigator, NCST, Raipur were also present of the meeting. The list of Officers who attended the meeting is enclosed at Annexure-'A'.

The following issues were discussed in the meeting:

1. Atrocities on Scheduled Tribes:

Shri Aditya Mishra, JS, NCST asked Superintendent of Police, Korba to give account of atrocities committed against the Scheduled tribes during the last three years in the District and the number of cases ending in conviction in the Courts. It was informed that a total of six cases are pending for trial in the District. One case pertaining to the year 2002 is pending due to stay from the High Court and one case is pending since 2008 as the accused could not be traced. It was also informed that there is a designated Court for trial of cases under SC/ST (POA) Act,1989. JS, NCST insisted that challan should be filed in all the pending cases in accordance with the time- frame fixed under the above Act. As the number of cases of conviction and acquittal could not be produced in the meeting, the JS requested the SP to provide the information pertaining to the last three years to the RO, NCST, Raipur at the earliest.

2. Implementation of Forest Rights Act :

During the discussion on the subject, it was informed that 44,000 claims were received under the provision of the Act out of which 21,000 have been rejected. It was also informed that in 18,500 cases, certificates accepting the forest rights have been distributed and certificates are likely to be distributed this year in all the remaining cases. Joint Secretary requested for early action in

this regard as provision of these certificates are very important for tribal upliftment.

3. Implementation of NAREGA:

Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in the District came up for discussion in the meeting. It was informed that recently Govt. of India has directed to make payments to the Job card holders for their work through Post offices and Banks. As the tribal areas of the District such as villages like Lemru, Harsena and Badgoan, Garh Uroda etc. are lacking the facilities of Post Offices and Banks, people do not turn up to perform jobs keeping in view the difficulties in receiving payments. Some times, villagers have to have to run for more than 2-3 days to get payment. It was also reported that the earlier system of making cash payment was better than the present system.

4. Availability of Health services in Tribal areas:

During the discussion, it was informed that there was shortage of 36 Doctors, mainly Specialists in the District. Doctors are not willing to come to villages due to poor salary and lack of facilities. It was agreed that the salary package for Doctors working in the Tribal areas should be made attractive and facilities be improved, failing which the situation will not improve.

5. Availability of drinking water in the tribal villages:

The availability of safe drinking water in the district was also reviewed during the meeting. The Executive Engineer, PHE department, Korba informed that there were 712 villages comprising 350 Gram Panchayats in the District. There are 8750 hand Pumps in the District. About 700 hand pumps have been identified as having excess iron in the water. Four iron removal Plants have already been installed in the Hand Pumps of four different villages and 30 more iron removals plants will be installed in the current year. It was also informed that a total of 600 iron removal Plants are to be installed in the District. Each such unit is costing Rs. 40,000/-. Joint Secretary and the team of officers of the Commission later visited a village and checked the working of

iron removal plant in a village at Katghora Block. The Joint Secretary advised that water quality should be thoroughly checked at regular intervals.

6. Review of Employment Generation Schemes:

During the discussion on the subject, it was informed that a Ply ash brick manufacturing unit consisting of 10 persons of tribal community is successfully running in the District. Some other such units are also in the pipe line. The Deputy Commissioner informed that some projects were pending due to non-availability of electric connection at the project site and the District Collector was monitoring the issue. The Joint Secretary, NCST observed that more than Rs Five lakh. had been spent on the machinery, other equipment and sheds in each project but due to non-availability of electricity, these are lying idle. Even after huge investment of money, the result is nil. Hence, before sanctioning the project, basic requirement for successful operation of the project should be ensured. Later, Commission's team visited Kanwar Ply Ash Bricks Manufacturing unit at Kachna Village which is running successfully. It was observed that the beneficiaries are making about 4000 to 5000 bricks per day in two shifts and earning Rs. 4000/- to Rs 5000/- per month per member. The member are not saving any amount for future expansion and wear and tear of the plant and machinsery. It was also noticed that there is a huge demand of ash bricks in the area as manufacturing of red bricks had been prohibited by the Government. Abundant ash is available free of cost for the bricks manufacturers as waste product of the NTPC, Korba unit. Joint Secretary emphasized the need to facilitate more such units to Tribal youths for their economic upliftment and suggested them to learn the business expanding tactics.