



भारत सरकार
Govt. of India

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No. Review/5/NEDFI/2024-SSW

Dated: 24.08.2024

To

Shri PVSLN Murty,
Chairman-cum-Managing Director,
North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI),
NEDFI House, G. S. Road,
Guwahati – 781006.
(Assam).

Sub: Review Meeting on implementation of constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes – North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI).

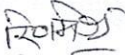
Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of Review Meeting held under the chairmanship of Shri Nirupam Chakma, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), New Delhi on 24.07.2024 at Guwahati, Assam.

It is requested that the action taken / to be taken on the recommendations / suggestion of the Meeting may be intimated to NCST within 30 days from receipt of this letter, for taking appropriate action.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(R. S. Misra)
Research Officer
Ph. 011-24641640.

Copy for information to:

Shri Kunal Brahma & Others,
SC/ST Employees Welfare Association of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.,
NEDFI House, G. S. Road,
Guwahati – 781006 (Assam).

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Member (NC), NCST
- ✓ 2. NIC, NCST – for uploading on the website of the Commission.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Report and recommendations under article 338A (5) (e) of the Constitution of India on the measures to be taken by North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI), Guwahati for effective implementation of constitutional safeguards and review and monitoring of schemes for the protection, welfare, and social economic development of the Scheduled Tribes by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

[File No.: Review/5/NEDFI/2024-SSW]

Date of Review: 24.07.2024, Guwahati, Assam

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is a Constitutional body set up under Article 338A of the Constitution of India to investigate and monitor all matters relating to protection, welfare and socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes in the Country. As per the Constitutional provisions, the Union and every State Govt. shall consult the Commission on all major policy decisions affecting Scheduled Tribes. The Commission presents its Reports to the Hon'ble President of India and all such Reports of the Commission upon the working/implementation of the Constitutional safeguards provided for Scheduled Tribes are to be laid before each House of Parliament along with Memorandum explaining the Action Taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for non- acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

2. In pursuance of the above constitutional mandate, Shri Nirupam Chakma, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, in the presence of Smt. Alka Tiwari, Secretary to Govt. of India, NCST and other Senior Officials of the Commission took review meeting with the Chairman and Managing Director and other senior officers, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) at NEDFI Conference Hall in Guwahati (Assam) on 24.07.2024 to evaluate the working of constitutional safeguards available to the Scheduled Tribes in the NEDFI and review implementation of various service safeguards and other developmental schemes/programmes for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes employees and Scheduled Tribes of the country.

3. Before the Review Meeting on 24.07.2024, the Hon'ble Member, NCST, in the presence of Secretary, NCST, Joint Secretary and other officials of the Commission had interaction with ST employees of NEDFI, as there is no SC / ST Employees Welfare Association in NEDFI. They stated that there are relatively no problems, as far as concerned to ST employees.

4. After meeting with the ST employee of NEDFI, the Hon'ble Member, NCST, in the presence of the Secretary, Joint Secretary and other Sr. Officers of NCST reviewed NEDFI with the CMD and other Sr. Officers of NEDFI regarding issues affecting the Scheduled Tribes employees in NEDFI and welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the North Eastern States and country. After a round of introduction and briefing on the functions and duties of the NCST, CMD, NEDFI apprised the Commission about the activities being undertaken by the NEDFI for welfare and protection of Scheduled Tribes Employees and welfare of North Eastern States and country.

5. The CMD informed that North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) is registered under Company Act, 1956 on 09 August 1995 and notified as a Public Financial Institution. Its primary objectives are to promote and facilitate the economic development of the North Eastern region of India and to provide financial assistance for industrial and infrastructure projects, support entrepreneurship and foster economic growth in this strategically important but historically underdeveloped region. NEDFI offers various financial



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products and services, including loans and equity investments, to both private and public sector projects, with a focus on sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and small and medium enterprises. In the recent years, NEDFI added value to the development process through multi-disciplinary consultancy and advisory services which provides consulting services to industrial, infrastructure and social development projects in North East of India. The NEDFI was initially under the Ministry of Finance and is now under the administrative control of Ministry of DoNER. The authorised capital of NEDFI for last 3 years constitutes to Rs. 500 Crores and Paid up Capital to be Rs. 100 Crores.

The shareholders of NEDFI are IDBI, SBI, LIC, SIDBI, ICICI, IFCI, SUUTI, GIC and subsidiaries. The NEDFI has 21 branches and 13 Regional Offices in 8 states of North East India. The major activities of NEDFI to credit support to medium and large enterprises; MSMEs (specially targeting 1st generation entrepreneurs); SHG and tiny enterprises (through MFI and NEDFI lending schemes); support to innovative startup and ventures; Coordination and policy support; Nodal agency for Central ministries, advisory and consultancy services, studies under TEDF; Mentoring youths through Advancing North East and Business Facilitation Center, North East Data Bank, Capacity Building and Marketing Support. Under CSR activities focused on women empowerment, livelihood enhancement, craft sector in rural backward areas to facilitates marketing support to artisans through participation in exhibitions, trade fairs and sales from its various showrooms.

The schemes / programmes being implemented by NEDFI are Rupee Term Loan Scheme, Equipment Finance Schemes, Corporate Finance Scheme, Working Capital Term Loan Scheme, Micro-Finance Scheme, Micro-Lending Scheme, NEDFI opportunity Scheme for Small Enterprise, North East Entrepreneurs Development Schemes, Enterprise Development Scheme, Women Enterprise Development Scheme, Healthcare Development Scheme, Self-Employed Professionals Business Loan Scheme, Atmanirbhar Hasthshilpkar Scheme, Assam Specialty Tea Industry Development Scheme. In recent years, the NEDFI is also providing financial assistance for hospitals and hotels and it also marks its presence in Jal Jeevan Mission programme by Govt. of India.

6. Observation of the Commission:

In the reply to NCST Questionnaire, the Commission observed that NEDFI had a total of 139 employees, out of which 33 belonged to the Scheduled Tribes category constituting 24%. The percentages of ST beneficiaries in NER States, as reported, were not as per the percentage of STs of the corresponding States and the projects period was also not mentioned. The Liaison Officer was not well-aware about the reservation rules for Scheduled Tribes and also not familiar with the formulation of ST Employees Welfare Association.

7. Recommendation of the Commission:

After discussion with the CMD, NEDFI, the following recommendations are made:

1. Vision of NEDFI for development of ST in NER may be furnished.
2. Total sanctioned strength (grade-wise) and vacancies in posts reserved for STs in NEDFI may be provided.
3. ST reservation may also be made in the outsourced / contractual posts in the organization.
4. The roster for various posts of the NEDFI may be made online for easy access.
5. Data of ST beneficiaries of the scheme of Enterprise Development and Women Enterprise Development during last 3 years may be provided.
6. Details of Sector Survey conducted by NEDFI may be furnished.
7. Details of activities undertaken by NEDFI in coordination/collaboration with other agencies may be provided.



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8. Details of training organized / imparted for skill development of STs may be furnished.
9. Details of retail shops allotted to ST beneficiaries may be supplied.
10. Impact evaluation of schemes / programmes run by NEDFI may be conducted.
11. 'One District One Product' programme may be identified and boosted for betterment of ST population.
12. District Autonomous Councils of the States (i.e. Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura under 6th Schedule to the Constitution of India) maybe consulted regarding the programmes / schemes to be launched.
13. Details of programmes implemented by NEDFI in field of Horticulture and Agro based products may be provided.
14. A provision may be formulated for extending the incentive to ST farmers, who practice organic farming.
15. The details of CSR activities undertaken by NEDFI during last 3 years for Scheduled Tribes may be provided.
16. The list of ST beneficiaries who have availed 'interest free loans' during last 3 years may be supplied.
17. The 'Training for Trading' programme may be encouraged / introduced in NER States.
18. Details of funds received from Govt. of India in last 3 years may be furnished.
19. The Liaison officer may be nominated for training programmes focusing on Reservation issues relating to STs.
20. Awareness programmes about the schemes implemented by NEDFI may be launched.
21. An Internal Grievance Committee in NEDFI may be constituted to look after the grievances of ST employees, as suggested by NCST in August, 2021.



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सदस्य / Member
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