



**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU**  
( Research Unit )  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India



## **SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DENOTIFIED/NOMADIC TRIBES (SEED)**

**Good quality coaching, health insurance, livelihoods initiative at community level and financial assistance for construction of houses to be provided**

**Online portal to ensure seamless registration and data storage of these communities**

(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment)

February 25, 2022

*“Today we are developing a system where there is no place for discrimination, we are creating a society that is firmly rooted in the foundation of equality and social justice and we are seeing the emergence of an India whose thinking and approach is new and whose decisions are progressive.”*

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi<sup>1</sup>**

(At Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore program, January 20, 2022)

Denotified Tribes, Nomadic Tribes and Semi Nomadic Tribes are one of the most deprived and economically weaker communities in India. There are historical reasons for this. The misery of these communities began with the enactment of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 during the British rule. This Act was the most draconian law passed by the British colonial state, under which millions of nomadic and semi-nomadic communities were declared criminals and put under continuous surveillance, making their lives impossible. These communities were subjugated, persecuted and neglected. The policies of the colonial government affected lives and livelihood adversely. Little did the colonial state realize the plight of these communities after they were branded as criminals under various colonial Acts. This led to the forcible alienation from their traditional occupations and habitations. They remained hunter gatherers and pastoral/peripatetic.<sup>2</sup>

Historically, these communities never had access to private land or home ownership. These tribes used forests and grazing lands for their livelihood and residential use and had "strong ecological connections. Many of them are dependent upon various types of natural resources and carve out intricate ecological niches for their survival. The changes in ecology and environment seriously affect their livelihood options.<sup>3</sup> These tribes have barely benefitted from the planned developments since the Indian independence. So far, they have been

<sup>1</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1791196>

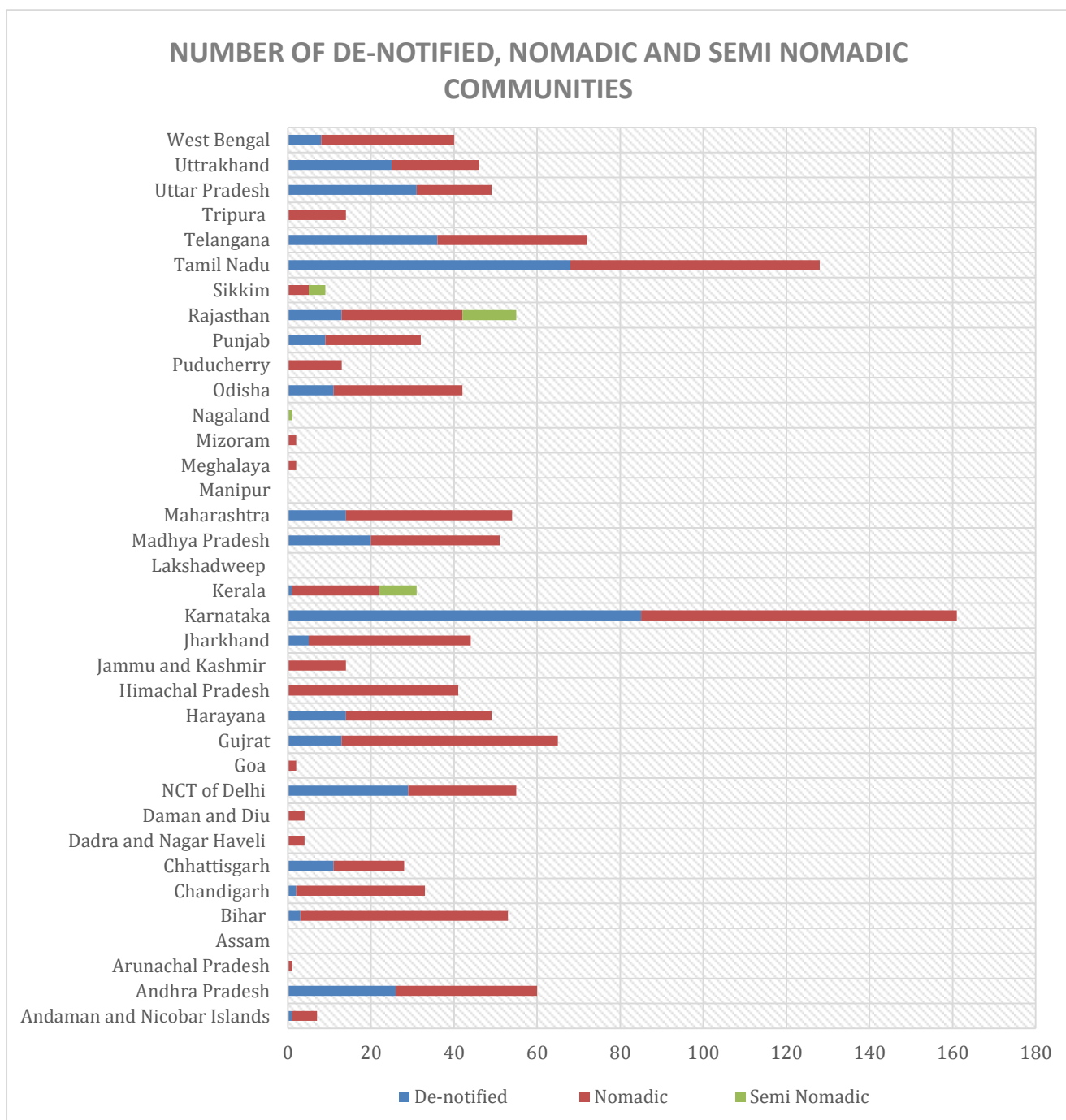
<sup>2</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1798792>

<sup>3</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1798470>

deprived of state support like the SCs/STs. Various efforts are being undertaken by the government for bringing these communities in the main stream.

#### Total Number of DNT, SNT and NT Communities<sup>4</sup>

A National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted by Government of India in February 2014, inter-alia, to prepare a state-wise list of castes belonging to De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes. NCDNT submitted its report on 08.01.2018. As per the report, a total of **1262 communities** have been identified as De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities across the country, details of which may be seen below<sup>5</sup>:



<sup>4</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1796873>

<sup>5</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1796873>

The data belongs to the report of National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes submitted in December 2017. There are a total of **425 Denotified Tribes, 810 Nomadic Tribes and 27 Semi Nomadic Tribes in India.**

### **Various Committees Set up for Empowerment of DNTs**

#### **1. Ayyangar Committee, 1949<sup>6</sup>**

After the independence of India, there had been a persistent demand by the Central Legislature that the Criminal Tribes Act be repealed as it seeks to classify particular classes of people as criminals and is not aligned with the dignity of free India. For this, The Criminal Tribes Enquiry Committee was set-up 1949-1950 chaired by M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. After a detailed study of the working of the Criminal Tribes Act throughout the country, it submitted its report in 1950, in which it made several recommendations for the repeal of the Act. The Committee also emphasized the need for allocation of adequate funds for their welfare and rehabilitation.

The Government of India accepted some of the recommendations of the Ayyangar Committee. It repealed the Criminal Tribes Act with effect from 31 August 1952 by the Criminal Tribes (Repeal) Act, 1952 (Act No XXIV of 1952).

#### **2. Kalelkar Committee, 1953<sup>7</sup>**

The first Backward Class Commission was appointed on 29 January 1953 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kakasaheb Kalelkar. This Commission in paragraph 48 of its report suggested that the erstwhile ‘Criminal Tribes’ should not be called ‘Tribes’ nor should the names ‘Criminal’ or ‘Ex-Criminal’ be attached to them. They could be called ‘Denotified Communities’. The Kalelkar Commission further recommended that “these groups may be distributed in small groups in towns and villages where they would come in contact with other people, and get an opportunity for turning a new leaf. This would help in their eventual assimilation in society”.

#### **3. Idate Commission, 2014<sup>8</sup>**

In February 2014, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment took a historic decision to constitute a National Commission for De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes for a period of three years. This National Commission was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhiku Ramji Idate. The Commission gave its report in December, 2017. In its report, the commission prepared draft lists of DNT/NT/SNT Communities. This Commission was tasked among others to identify and proper listing of these communities in different states, to evaluate the progress of development of these communities in the states so that a systematic approach can be developed for the development of these communities.

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<sup>6</sup>[https://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/NCDNT2008-v1%20\(1\).pdf](https://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/NCDNT2008-v1%20(1).pdf)

<sup>7</sup>[https://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/NCDNT2008-v1%20\(1\).pdf](https://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/NCDNT2008-v1%20(1).pdf)

<sup>8</sup><https://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/Idate%20Commission.pdf>

Based on the recommendations of the Idade Commission, the Government of India constituted the **Development and Welfare Board for DNTs, SNTs &NTs (DWBDNCs)** in 2019. A committee has also been set up by the NITI Aayog to complete the process of identification of the De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DNCs)<sup>9</sup>. The survey work of identification of DNT Communities and placing them in a category of SC/ST/OBC is also under process in NITI Aayog and Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI).

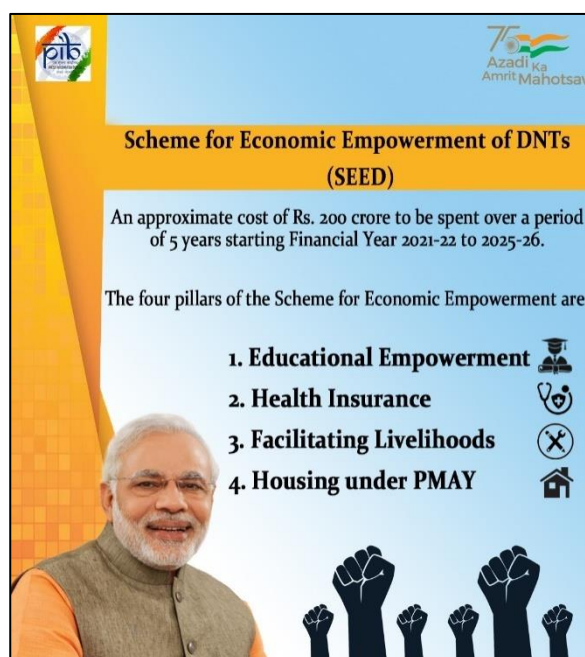
The Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNCs) was mandated to formulate and implement welfare and development programmes for these communities. A Scheme for empowerment of DNT communities have been formulated for families having income from all sources of Rs.2.50 lakh or less per annum and not availing any such benefits from similar schemes of Centre Government or the State Government.

### **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)**

On February 15, 2022, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr.Virendra Kumar launched the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)** for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.

The SEED Scheme with an approximate cost of Rs. 200 crore is to be spent over a period of five years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The four components of the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs are<sup>10</sup>:



**1. Educational empowerment:** A component of free Coaching for DNT Students has been envisioned for the educational empowerment of these communities. The objective of this component is to provide good coaching quality for DNT candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations/ admission to professional courses like medicine, engineering, MBA etc. for obtaining an appropriate job in public/private Sector. The selection of the candidates for each course will be based on system generated merit list through the online portal. Approximately 6250 students will be provided free coaching under this component in five years. The total funds spend in the five years will be Rs.50 crores.

**2. Health Insurance:** It is most likely that members of DNT/NT/SNT communities have little or no access to medical facilities and other benefits available under the mainstream health policies. The primary objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to National Health Authority (NHA) in association with State Health Agencies (SHAs) for

<sup>9</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1739418>

<sup>10</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1798792>

undertaking providing a health insurance cover of Rs.Five lakhs per family per year to DNT, NT and SNT families as per norms of “Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.” Approximately, 4,44,500 families will be covered under health insurance in five years. The total funds spent in the five years will be Rs.49.0 crores.

**3. Facilitate livelihoods:** The decline of traditional occupations of DNT/NT/SNT communities has exacerbated their poverty. A focus to support livelihood generation for these communities is required. The primary objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for undertaking institution building in association with State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) of state Governments/UTs at community level. A livelihood initiative to enhance productivity growth in key livelihood sectors for employment generation for DNT/NT/SNT communities through investments in institutional support and technical assistance is being carried out. Approximately, 2000 clusters will get benefit under this component in five years.

**4. Housing:** At present, a very large number of families belonging to the DNT/NT communities are without permanent shelters. In view of their changing socio-economic scenario, a large number of DNT communities are trying to settle themselves and take to alternative professions. It has been found that DNTs are living in slum conditions all over the country both in urban and rural areas. Considering the shortage of houses for DNTs, it has been proposed to earmark a separate outlay for PMAY to support specific importance in providing houses only for DNTs living in rural areas who have not taken benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The admissible support is Rs 1.20 lakhs in plains and 1.30 lakhs in hilly areas (per unit assistance). Approximately, 4,200 houses will be constructed under this component in five years. The total funds spent in the five years will be Rs.50 crores.

## **Implementation<sup>11</sup>**

The Scheme will be implemented through an **online portal**, developed by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. The portal consists of two modules - Registration Module and Scheme Module.

- First, the applicants can register with details of his family, income, occupation, Aadhar and bank details, caste certificate, etc. Upon completing the registration, the applicants will be assigned a unique ID (UID) number. This will be their permanent registration number. With this UID, the applicants can apply to one or more components of the scheme, subject to eligibility.
- The second part consists of the scheme component for which the applicants want to seek benefit. The portal will create a permanent database and can be retrieved whenever the applicant desires to enrol for a new component.

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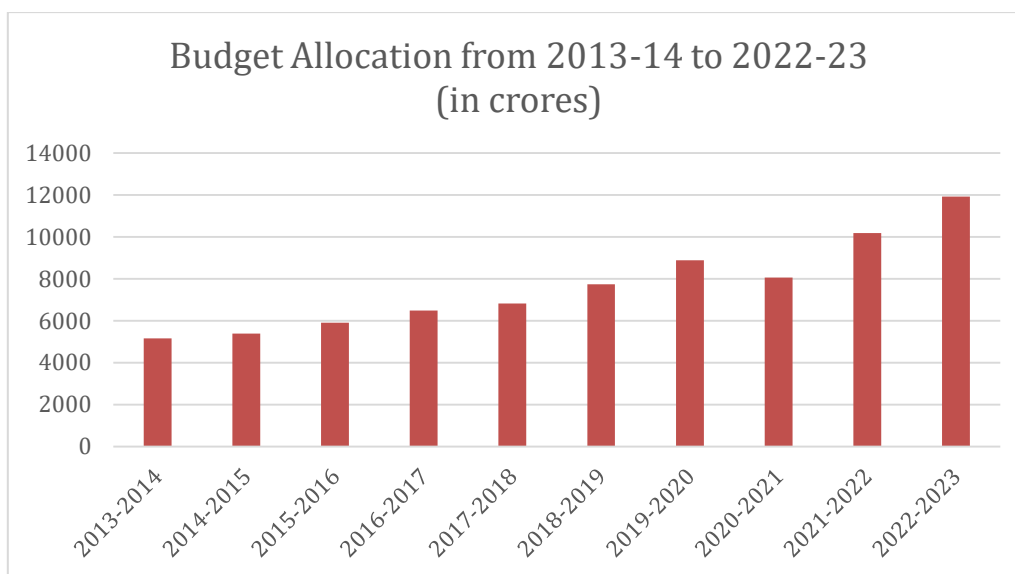
<sup>11</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseSelfframePage.aspx?PRID=1798470>



The funds will be transferred directly to the beneficiaries in their account. The other implementing agencies are Ministry of Rural Development, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and National Health Authority (NHA).

### **Budget Boost for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment<sup>12</sup>**

The Budget Outlay for the Financial Year 2022-2023 has earmarked an enhanced Budget Outlay of Rs. 11922.5 crores for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which is a substantial increase of 14.6 per cent from the previous total budget outlay of 2021-2022 that stood at Rs.10180crores.





### **Various Schemes for the benefit of DNTs, SNTs and NTs:**

#### **1. Nanaji Deshmukh scheme of Construction of Hostels for DNT Boys and Girls<sup>13</sup>**

This is a centrally sponsored scheme launched w.e.f 2014-15 being implemented through State Governments/UT Administrations/ Central Universities. The Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to students belonging to those DNT students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.

The income ceiling for eligibility is Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum. The Central




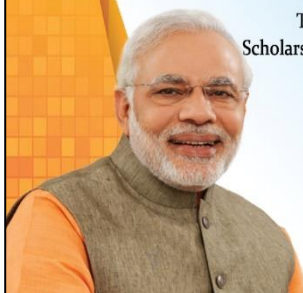
**Central Govt Schemes for DNTs, SNTs and NTs**

**1. Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme for Construction of Hostels for DNT Boys and Girls**

The scheme aims to provide hostel facilities for students belonging to those DNT communities that are not covered under SC, ST or OBC, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.

**2. Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs**

The scheme provides Pre-matric and Post-Matric Scholarships for the upliftment of students belonging to DNT communities.



<sup>12</sup><https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/eb/sbe93.pdf>

<sup>13</sup><https://socialjustice.nic.in/SchemeList/Send/10?mid=32549>

Government will provide a maximum of 500 seats per annum throughout the country. The cost norm under the scheme is Rs.3.00 lakh per seat for the hostel (which is said between Centre and State in 75:25 ratio) and Rs. 5,000/- per seat for furniture.

## **2. Dr.Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs<sup>14</sup>**

A scheme of Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships for the benefit of children belonging to DNTs is being implemented. While benefits of reservations, scholarships etc. were available to SCs/STs/OBCs, no such welfare schemes are available for the welfare of these DNTs i.e. those who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC. The Scheme is for bringing about a focused intervention on these classes so that they are empowered socially and economically and their lives are also improved.

This scheme is continuous and permanent in nature. The scholarship schemes are for individual beneficiaries not covered under any scheme. The financial assistance would be released to the State Governments/UT Administrations/ Universities/Colleges which would cater to the requirements of the students belonging to DNT communities.

### **Sources:**

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- <https://socialjustice.nic.in/SchemeList/Send/10?mid=32549>
- <https://socialjustice.nic.in/SchemeList/Send/5?mid=32549>

### **Further Reading:**

- <https://tribal.nic.in/>
- <https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx>
- <https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/statistics/AnnualReport/AREnglish2021.pdf>
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<sup>14</sup><https://socialjustice.nic.in/SchemeList/Send/5?mid=32549>