NATIONAL TRIBAL MIGRATION SUPPORT PORTAL
BACKGROUND NOTE

Migration of workforce is a continuing phenomenon in the country arising out of various push and pull factors. Poverty, unemployment, natural calamities and underdevelopment at the origin place are predominant push factors among others contributing migration besides pull factors that the destination places carry.

India's tribal population is over-dependent on agriculture and forest-related livelihood sources. About 80 per cent of the tribal population survives on these primary sector livelihood sources. However, over the decades, the tribal economy and the livelihood strategies have undergone substantial changes. Slowly, tribes are becoming dependent on urban markets for newer livelihood options. Many of them are leaving their homes and migrating to urban areas, in search of income generation and employment due to limited resources and poor livelihood opportunities at the native places.

Available trends on tribal migration indicate that mostly migration of tribal population is distress-driven. They are joining the informal labour force as contract labourers in the construction industry and domestic workers in major cities and as such the migrants are exposed to new, unfamiliar, difficult and sometimes unsafe conditions and wage harassment issues including ooccupational hazards at the work place etc.

During the census decade, 2001-2011, the number of STs in urban areas increased from 66.19 lakhs to 104.62 lakhs, which is an increase of 5.8 percent per annum. Many of these people are living as wage labourers in urban areas. Most of the tribes in urban areas live in slums, in makeshift homes, houses. These STs who migrate from rural areas to urban areas suffer loss of identity, community solidarity, land, entitlements such as ration cards, and common resources. In such a situation, these STs require handholding support to ameliorate the woes and suffering they are confronted with in regard to their shelter, skill development, income generation, entitlements, health facilities, education facilities etc.

In the light of the above situation Ministry of Tribal Affairs, had commissioned a study to a research organization on 'Tribal Livelihood Migration' during September 2017. The study was conducted in 12 States, comprising of source States – Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat; and destination States – Goa, Punjab, Kerala, NCR Delhi, Telangana. The study was focussed on building in-depth understanding of tribal livelihood migration, reasons of migration, sectors of their employment during migration, corridors of migration, vulnerabilities and plight during migration. The study also investigated existing programme and policy mechanism to address those issues, their successes and gaps in the implementation.

Among other findings one of the major findings of the study is unavailability of migrant's specific real time data due to which it becomes difficult for the government to formulate suitable strategies and policy decision for making existing schemes more effective and beneficiary friendly and for providing immediate support for tribal and other migrant workers in cities for safe and productive migration. Besides, safeguards guaranteed through 'Interstate Migrant Workers Act, 1979' are hardly available to these migrants.

Based on findings of the study and in the light of facts and circumstances came to light in the prevailing COVID19 situation, MoTA has developed National Tribal Migration Support Portal which will be available in web-form and mobile app to capture village level out-migration data. The data set will capture basic socio-economic profile of migrating tribals including skill mapping, their migration pattern which will include duration and season of migration, migration destination, sector of jobs, daily income, how they access basic services during migration (health, education, food security etc.).

The captured data will be electronically available and visible via dashboards at various levels: village-block-district-state and national level. It is envisaged to employ Artificial intelligence (AI) for creating basic and predictive analyses, which will help state and Central Governments to formulate suitable strategies and policies to support migrating tribals.