

Ministry Name – **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

Date of decision: 30.1.2014.

Subject: **In-principle approval of the Cabinet on the Recommendations of (i) the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) and (ii) the National Advisory Council (NAC).**

Background – The British Government had from time to time declared some of the tribes which, according to them, were involved in criminal activities as Criminal Tribes. The Criminal Tribes Act (CTA), 1871 provided that if a Local Government had reason to believe that any tribe, gang or class of people is addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences, it may, with the authorization of the Governor General, declare such tribe etc. as a "Criminal Tribe". The CTA was revised in 1911 and in 1924. The CTA, 1924, was repealed by the Criminal Tribes Laws (Repeal) Act, 1952 on the recommendations of the Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Committee. As a result, the tribes notified earlier as Criminal Tribes, stood denotified, and the name 'Denotified Tribes' (DTs) has been in use for them since then. Nomads are people who are constantly on the move and have no permanent home. On the other hand, Semi-nomadic groups tend to have a fixed abode for a part of the year and are itinerant in the rest of the year. Most DNTs are categorized as SC,ST or OBC though a few of the DNTs are not covered in any of these categories.

Against the above background, a National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted which had made certain recommendations. In addition, the National Advisory Council (NAC) constituted a Working Group on Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes in 2011 which also proposed a detailed set of recommendations for the DNTs.

The Cabinet, in its meeting held on 30.1.2014 considered the recommendations of the NCDNT and NAC and decided as under:-

- (i) the establishment through an executive order, of a National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes for a period of three years to identify the castes of DNTs which have been included in the lists of SCs/STs/OBCs and the castes which have not been included in any of these categories and to suggest appropriate measures for their development.

- (ii) framing of an appropriate scheme for grant of Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarships and Construction of Hostels for students belonging to Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes not included in the lists of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes after following the requisite process including appraisal by the Expenditure Finance Committee.