



Challenges Faced by Nomadic Tribes

Why in News

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, the [Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment](#) stated that a **Development and Welfare Board for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNCs)** was constituted for development and welfare of [Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities](#) in 2019.

- The welfare board was constituted for a period of **three years extendable upto 5 years**.

Key Points

▪ Challenges Faced by Nomadic Tribes:

- There are nearly 1,500 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes and 198 denotified tribes, comprising 15 crore Indians, according to the **Renke Commission, 2008**.
 - These tribes remain **socially and economically marginalised** even now, **depriving** many of them of **basic human rights**.
- The most pressing issue is of their **identity**.
- **Lack of Basic Infrastructure Facilities:** Like drinking water, shelter, and sanitation facilities are not available to the communities. Healthcare and education facilities are also not available.
- **Bad Treatment by Local Administration:** Due to the stigma of Criminals bestowed upon them in the past, they are still treated criminals and tortured by the local administration and police.
- **Lack of Social Security Cover:** Since they are on move frequently, they do not have a permanent settlement. As a result, they lack social security cover and are **not issued Ration Card, Aadhar Card**, etc. and hence they are not getting benefits under the government welfare schemes.
- The **caste categorization is not very clear** for these communities, in some states some of the communities are included under the SC category, in some other states they are included under OBCs.
 - However, most of the groups from these communities do not have caste certificates and hence are not able to avail the benefits of government welfare programs.

▪ DWBDNCs Responsibilities:

- To **formulate and implement Welfare and Development programmes**, as required, for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DNCs).
- To **identify the locations/areas** where these communities are densely populated.
- To **assess and identify gaps** in accessing existing programmes and entitlements and to collaborate with Ministries/implementing agencies to ensure that ongoing programmes meet the special requirements of DNCs.
- To **monitor and evaluate the progress of the schemes** of the Government of India and the States/UTs with reference to DNCs.

▪ Schemes for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities:

- **Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs:**
 - This **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** was launched in 2014-15 for the **welfare of those DNT** (Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes) **students** who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC.
 - The income ceiling for eligibility is Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum.
 - The scheme is implemented through State Governments/UT Administrations. The **expenditure is shared** between the **Centre and the States** in the ratio of **75:25**.
 - The scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship for DNT students is helpful in spreading education amongst DNT children especially the girl child.
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of Construction of Hostels for DNT Boys and Girls:**
 - This Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched in 2014-15, is implemented through State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Universities.
 - The aim of the scheme is to provide **hostel facilities to those DNT students;** who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC; to enable them to pursue higher education.
 - The income ceiling for eligibility is Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum.
 - The Central Government provides a maximum of 500 seats per annum throughout the country.
 - The expenditure is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25.

Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities

- Denotified tribes are those that were notified under the **Criminal Tribes Acts** enforced during British Rule, whereby entire **populations were branded criminals by birth**.
 - In 1952, the Act was repealed and the communities were de-notified.
- The **Nomadic tribes maintain constant geographical mobility** while **semi-nomads are those who are on the move but return to fixed habitations once a year**, mainly for occupational reasons.
 - The distinction between nomadic and semi-nomadic do not involve distinguishable ethnic categories or social groups, it rather describes the degree of mobility practiced by them.

Source: PIB

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/challenges-faced-by-nomadic-tribes>