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Q5(b)

Main objective of Tribal sub plan (TSP)

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society
Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Core demand of the question

- Main objective of Tribal sub plan (TSP)
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

TSP earmarks plan funds for Scheduled Tribes in proportion to population.

The objective is to stop Adivasis being leftovers of general development.

It pairs with Schedule and PESA as rights-based integration.

Elwin's protection is recast as a budget shield.

Leakage and elite capture remain the practical failure.

Introduction

The Tribal Sub-Plan's main objective is to channel a dedicated share of public money to Scheduled Tribe areas and people, so general planning does not skip Adivasis. It is integration as budget, not as Ghurye's Hinduisation.

Body**Objective**

- TSP, from the Fifth Plan onward, earmarks funds in proportion to ST population for infrastructure, education, health, and livelihoods in tribal tracts.
- The aim is to close the development gap without treating tribe as a residual of the district plan.
- **It sits with the Fifth Schedule and later PESA:** money plus self-rule, in Elwin's protective spirit recast as citizenship.

Why it was needed

- Mines, forests, and plains politics captured general schemes. Verrier Elwin's warning about unfair contact became a fiscal problem.
- A small tribal elite could still take jobs while the majority stayed land-poor.

Limit

- Diversion of TSP funds and weak Gram Sabha control mean the objective is often missed on the ground.

Flow diagram

Tribal Sub-Plan -> Earmarked funds

Earmarked funds -> Gap closure ST

Diversion -> Earmarked funds

Conclusion

TSP's main objective is protected, population-linked public investment for STs. It works only if funds reach land and school, not only line departments.

Facts & figures

Fifth Plan

Period when TSP was institutionalised as a tribal budgeting device.

Earmarking

The core technique: a share of outlays not to be freely diverted.

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA)

Local self-rule that should steer how TSP-type money is used.

Elwin-Ghurye

TSP is closer to protected integration than to assimilation.

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