



Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Dr. Savita Sengar

National President- WICCI Tribal Welfare & Entrepreneurship Council

15 January 2021

Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

Ministry of Finance

Room No. 134, North Block

New Delhi- 110001

Dear Madam,

At the outset we want to compliment you for soliciting opinions from the Industry, to declare "A budget Like never before, in the last 100 years".

We have been encouraged by your invitation and as the President of the **WICCI Tribal Welfare & Entrepreneurship Council** and we would like to put forward a few suggestions that would contribute towards the all-round transformation of tribal women forming the core of our society.

There are over **10 crore Tribal people** living in our country who are not integrated into the national mainstream of socio-economic activities, invariably leading to their lower educational (41% Illiteracy) and economic attainment (41% Below Poverty Line). There is a dire need to turn their problems into opportunities, there is a rise in entrepreneurship across tribal groups of India by connecting agriculture and forest produce with markets using technology, creation of self-help groups, empowering women, and creating self-sustainable enterprises, changing the face of tribal India.

Please find below some of the recommendations from the WICCI Tribal Welfare & Entrepreneurship Council, for your kind attention to be incorporated in the upcoming budget.

Creation of a comprehensive tribal worker database: We need to create a comprehensive database of tribal workers including micro-enterprise workers like daily vendors, hawkers and traditional artisans across the state. This will help us to do a detailed assessment, build the network, gauge the gaps and provide an effective solution for their financial inclusion. It could be linking up the workforce based on their skill-sets with appropriate & effective means of employment.

Livelihood Extension to Migrant families: As per a Govt. report more than 55% of India's tribal population has migrated to urban areas in search of livelihood. During the pandemic, the plight of migrant workers came into the limelight. In order to provide long-term sustainable income to the migrant families, we recommend Livelihood Extension programs to provide financial, technical & marketing support to them. Government could engage corporates for including migrant work force in their commercial activities to generate employment for curbing the issue.

Create more awareness about Govt. of India schemes for Tribal Empowerment: There is a need to create greater awareness about the tribal welfare schemes as there is a huge lack of awareness and people do not know how to commercialize them and make it profitable through micro-ventures with semi-automated works providing linkages into the market and spending on the right kind of B2B/B2C Marketing.

Village Mart: In line with Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) scheme, we suggest a “Village Mart” at every block-level. This could act as a center to co-ordinate all commercial activities at one place. The Mart would have the following: 1. Collection center 2. Quality Control Center 3. Marketing support Center & 4. Supply Centre. They could provide specific skill training & up-gradation as per requirement of the place for creating better livelihoods.

Creation of a “Pool of Partners” who can partner with the Tribal entrepreneur: We are looking at the right pool of partners ideally from someone having expertise in that field on “*Sweat Equity Basis*” with the tribal entrepreneur.

Parity of GST across herbal plant-based products: Tribal people are attached with forests and there is a growing demand in the cultivation of herbal plants based on its commercial value. But there is a clause in the GST rules which acts as a deterrent. Herbal products based on single herbs is charged at 5% GST while any combination of herbs result in levying of 18% GST. We recommend a parity in the GST across these herbal products as it impacts their income.

We are hopeful that you will make note of our recommendations and demonstrate your commitment towards the tribal women of India by putting in place the financial resources & policy framework to match your commitment.

Warm Regards,

Yours sincerely
Dr. Savita Sengar

About the WICCI Tribal Welfare & Entrepreneurship Council: The Tribal Welfare and Entrepreneurship Council endeavors to promote sustainable livelihood and self-reliance amongst the Tribal Women of the Nation. WICCI Tribal Welfare Council is committed towards developing a sustainable entrepreneurship platform for tribal women. We want to make maximum social ROI out of our every resource invested.

List of our valuable WICCI Tribal Welfare & Entrepreneurship Council Members:

Dr. Savita Sengar - Vice Chancellor, Jharkhand Rai University, Ranchi

- National President- WICCI Tribal Welfare & Entrepreneurship Council

Dr. Kamakshi Raman - Executive Director (HRD) SAIL – Management Training Institute

Ms. Sachi Kamari - Executive Director Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh (CSS) Ranchi

Ms. Harmeet Sehra - Head CSR, Cairn Oil and Gas, Vedanta Barmer, Rajasthan

Ms. Malavika Sharma - Advocate, Social Entrepreneur and Activist

Ms. Aruna Tirkey - Social Entrepreneur & Founder - Director, Ajam Emba Private Limited

Smt. Prawin Mala Hemrom - Chief General Manager (Personnel & Administration) SAIL

Ms. Rupa Sahay Das - Media & Communications Specialist