

## **2.27. Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes**

### ***Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare***

**2.27.1.** The emphasis in the successive Five Year Plans has been to bring about economic and social development of disadvantaged group of people in the society. The socially disadvantaged groups, viz., Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have received special focus over the years for their social and economic advancement. Concerted efforts have been taken by the Government to raise their social and economic status and to bring justice to the downtrodden and neglected communities and to help them to attain equality in the society through socio-economic development schemes. The strategy followed for the development and welfare of weaker and vulnerable sections of the society has been to implement special target group-oriented programmes by earmarking funds, providing subsidies and reservation in services, legislature & local bodies and educational institutions also.

**2.27.2.** According to 2001 Census, against the State's total population of 6.24 crore, the population of Adi-dravidars is 1.19 crore constituting 19% of the total and that of Scheduled Tribes is 0.07 crore, constituting 1.04%. Nearly 70% of the Scheduled Castes and 88% of Scheduled Tribes are living in the rural areas. The districts of Thiruvarur, The Nilgiris, Perambalur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore and Villupuram have the largest proportion of Scheduled Castes. The tribal population in the State is largely concentrated in The Nilgiris, Salem, Namakkal and Thiruvannamalai. The sex ratio among the Scheduled Castes is 999, which is much higher than the general sex ratio, (986) of the State. The sex ratio of STs is 980, which is lower than the general sex ratio of the State.

**2.27.3.** In earlier decades, a significant proportion of the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe population was economically backward, in some areas socially marginalized, lacking in resources and their access to education, employment and other income earning opportunities was limited. Several welfare programmes for the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe population have been implemented by the

Government with the objective of facilitating faster socio-economic development of SC/ ST population.

**2.27.4.** The major ameliorative measures are broadly grouped as educational development, economic development, housing and other schemes, Special Component Plan programmes and Tribal Sub-Plan programmes. The Directorate of Adi-Dravidar Welfare is looking after all the programmes and schemes implemented for the benefit of scheduled castes. A separate Directorate of Tribal Welfare was formed in 2001 for implementation of schemes for the benefit of tribals. TAHDCO is a State Government undertaking, constituted for promoting the economic development of SCs/ STs.

**2.27.5.** As education is a basic requisite for the empowerment of SCs/ STs, efforts are being made to arrest the school dropout rates and improve the enrolment and retention rates through provision of scholarships, incentives to girl students, basic infrastructure facilities to schools/ hostels, upgradation of schools, construction of additional classrooms and lab buildings, other educational aids and support. Though nearly 70% of the total allocation has been on educational development, the literacy level of the Scheduled Castes (63.2%) and Scheduled Tribes (41.5%) is less than the overall literacy level (73.5% as per 2001 Census). The difference in female literacy level (for SC 53.0% and for Tribals 32.8%) is still more pronounced. The pass %age in X and XII Std in Adi-Dravidar Welfare schools was 57% and 73% in 1997-98 and during 2005-06 it was 70% and 54% respectively. Hence major thrust is laid on educational schemes and specific measures are being taken to improve the quality of education in Adi-dravidar and Tribal schools.

**2.27.6.** To give priority to girls' education and also to reduce the dropout rate and encourage the enrolment among SC/ ST girl students studying in standards III to VI incentives are provided.

**2.27.7.** Textbooks and notebooks are supplied free of cost to all the students studying in ADW/ GTR schools. In order to encourage students for pursuing higher studies, free bicycles were provided to all SC/ ST/

Scheduled Caste Converted Christians studying in XI & XII Stds in Government/ Aided schools.

**2.27.8.** Special coaching is given to the entire X and XII standard students for improving their performance in the public examinations. Also, special guides have been prepared and distributed to them free of cost. Computer facilities are also extended to more number of ADW/ GTR schools every year. Special short term coaching is given to SC/ ST candidates through Directorate of Employment and Training to appear for professional course entrance examination under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 50:50 basis.

**2.27.9.** In the Annual Plan 2007-08 a new scheme to provide scholarships for meritorious SC/ST children to study in private schools is proposed as a pilot.

**2.27.10.** In the field of economic development, financial assistance is offered to these communities from TAHDCO for undertaking economic development activities. Regarding housing, distribution of free house site pattas, construction of houses for poor Adi-Dravidar and Tribals and provision of infrastructure facilities to SC/ ST habitations are the prime priority areas. It shall be the priority of the Government to effectively implement the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan, so as to ensure that there is adequate provision for and dedicated execution of schemes meant for the improvement of the status of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the State.

### ***Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare***

**2.27.11.** Rigidity and stratification have been the unique characteristic of social structure in India for several centuries in the past and a significant and sizeable population was denied vertical mobility in social, occupational, educational and economic status. Realising this malaise, the Indian Constitution has provided adequate protection to these deprived classes of society, under Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution. To ensure social upliftment and economic empowerment of Backward classes, the State of Tamil Nadu has placed the highest emphasis on formulation and implementation of various welfare schemes with special focus on education and economic development. The concept of reservation in appointments in

the State public services and admission in educational institutions has been in vogue in Tamil Nadu for quite a few decades. The strict adherence to the reservation policy by all the Government Departments / undertakings, has contributed to a substantial number of posts in the Government including its undertakings being occupied by members of BCs, MBCs and DNCs.

**2.27.12.** The welfare programmes implemented for Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities may be grouped under Education, Economic Development and Housing and other activities. The objectives of Tenth Plan are improving the literacy rate especially female literacy rate, enrolment rate and reducing the dropout rate at all levels, increasing the employment opportunities for educated youth of poor families and improving the socio economic status of these communities and providing housing assistance to all the poor and downtrodden, extending the distribution of housesite pattas to the houseless poor in rural areas and providing infrastructure facilities.

**2.27.13.** As education is a vital tool for overall development, importance has been given towards the educational advancement of these communities. The Department is running 260 Kallar Reclamation Schools with student strength of 51829 functioning in Government owned buildings with all basic amenities in the districts of Theni, Dindigul and Madurai where the population of Piramalai Kallar community is concentrated. Upgradation of schools, construction of additional classrooms, laboratories, toilet blocks for girl students, supply of laboratory equipments, provision of electricity and drinking water etc. are provided in a phased manner.

**2.27.14.** For the welfare of BCs, MBCs, Minorities and Denotified Communities, the schemes include construction and maintenance of hostels belonging to Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities, provision of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships to promote higher education among BCs, M BCs and DNCs, rewards such as incentives to reduce dropouts among rural MBC/ DNC girl students studying in III to VI standards and to encourage their environment in rural schools, free education up to degree level to Backward Classes/ Most Backward Classes/

Denotified communities. Free education for polytechnic diploma courses is being provided to the first generation BC and MBC students, free education upto professional courses to BC and MBC/ DNC students, supply of free bicycles to all the students belonging to BC/ MBC/ DNC studying in XI and XII standards in Government/ Government Aided schools, provision of house sites as well as infrastructure facilities to all communities of the Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities who live in villages below poverty line. Boarding grant at the rate of Rs.150/- p.m. is given to students belonging to BCs/ MBCs and DNCs staying in 39 recognised subsidised hostels for 10 months in a year.

**2.27.15.** Under Economic Development, supply of sewing machines and iron boxes are distributed to the poor people belonging to BCs, MBCs and DNCs. Job-oriented training courses are also imparted to BC/ MBC and DNC youths to enable them to start income generating activities either through wage employment or self-employment elsewhere in the State. Training is provided in various fields viz., cosmetology, hotel management courses, interior decoration, call centre training programme etc. The training fee is borne in the ratio of 90:10 between the Govt., and the beneficiary respectively.

**2.27.16.** The Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission was constituted as per the directions of the Supreme Court of India to examine and to recommend on the request relating to inclusion and exclusion from the list of BCs/ MBCs and to periodically revise the list of BCs/ MBCs in the State. In addition to this, the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation Limited was formed in 1981 and the Corporation commenced business in 1982. The main aim of this Corporation is to provide loans for the economically and financially viable scheme, trade or project to the individuals, groups, societies of BCs/ MBCs and DNCs at subsidised interest rate for their economic upliftment and getting financial assistance from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi.

**2.27.17.** The State Minorities Commission has been reconstituted to advise the Government on various measures necessary to safeguard the interests of religious and linguistic minorities. Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation Ltd., (TAMCO) was formed in 1999 and it is functioning on the same lines as Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation. It acts as the State Channelising Agency for the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi. The Corporation is working for the socio-economic development of minorities in Tamil Nadu.

**2.27.18.** The total outlay for SCs, STs and OBCs for Tenth Plan (2002-07) was Rs.1882.00 crore. During the Tenth Plan period, anticipated expenditure is Rs.1734.23 crore. The outlay proposed for the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan is Rs.3070 crore. The agreed outlay for 2007-08 is Rs.559.50 crore. Of this, the outlay earmarked for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan are Rs.111.90 crore and Rs.10.74 crore respectively.