

2.32. Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The state has been given emphasis for improving the quality of life of the disadvantaged groups of people in the society, in the successive Five Year Plans. Several steps have been for framing appropriate policies and implementing various welfare programmes for achieving the objective of ensuring the rapid socio-economic development of the SCs and STs. The Constitution provides for special protection to these under privileged population. The Government have emphasized the need for special treatment to these communities for improving their socio-economic status through implementation of welfare programmes under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Steps are being taken in terms of reservation in educational institutions and employment, provision of scholarships, targeted economic incentives to encourage entrepreneurship as well as housing and infrastructure development schemes.

The demographic profile of the SCs and STs in Tamil Nadu is given below:

Demographic profile of SCs and STs in Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Details	Population			Sex Ratio	Literacy Rate		
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
1	SC	0.59	0.59	1.18	999	73.4	53.0	63.2
2	ST	0.03	0.03	0.06	980	50.2	32.8	41.5
3	All	3.14	3.10	6.24	987	82.3	64.6	73.5

Source: Census 2001, Statistical Handbook 2006.

Objectives

In accordance with the Eleventh Plan, the state, in the Annual Plan 2008-09 too, continues to place priority on the three major focus areas to achieve overall development of the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes communities – Education, Economic Development and Housing.

Education

The state proposes to give thrust to improving enrolment and retention of SC/ST students up to the secondary level, especially for girls in order to bridge the literacy gap between SCs/STs and the general population. Further, the state also bestows its attention on improving the pass percentage at the 10th and 12th Std. examinations, improving performance in competitive examinations, and encouraging excellence among students. For attaining these a combined strategy of improving school infrastructure and upgrading quality of teaching, along with continued provision of various incentives and awards to retain students in school and motivate their academic performance is proposed to be adopted

Economic Development

By improving the standard of living and reducing the incidence of poverty among the SCs/STs through various skill development and income generating activities and through enhanced entrepreneurial capacity, it is proposed to improve the socio-economic status of the SC/ST population.

Housing and other activities

The Annual Plan 2008-09 also aims to fulfill the basic housing needs of the SC/ST communities and to ensure the availability of basic amenities in their habitations on par with the rest of the population.

To spread the message of social equality it is proposed to establish another 95 Samathuvapurams with the 145 Samathuvapurams already established in the name of Thanthai Periyar, each having his statue at the entrance of the residential area where all communities live in unity and brotherhood

Schemes

As a significant proportion of the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe population was economically backward and socially marginalized, several welfare programmes for the socio-economic

development of the population have been implemented by the Government with the objective of facilitating their faster socio-economic development.

The schemes implemented 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. The Directorate of Tribal Welfare implements schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes. Besides, TAHDCO, a State Government undertaking, constituted for promoting the economic development of SCs/ STs also implements several economic development programmes.

During the Annual Plan 2008-09, improving the quality of education at all levels of schooling is going to be achieved by implementing various schemes for providing necessary lab equipments to Adi Dravida High Schools, improving the communication skills of students especially in English and providing computers to facilitate e-learning. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan meets the requirements of primary and middle schools. Under the scheme Pre-Matric Education Incentives, Scholarships and stipends will be given to 60000 students during this year. English Language Teaching Resource Centres are proposed to be established to train the teachers of ADW schools in modern language teaching techniques. It is also proposed to improve the computer skills of the students of this underprivileged section of the society. Further 20 new hostels for these students are to be opened and new buildings are proposed to be built in addition to 98 hostels to improving the facilities during 2008-09. The Chief Minister Merit Award to students for pursuing college studies will be given to 3444 SC/ST students. Under this special incentive scheme, the incentives already provided to 60000 Girl Students studying in III to V Std and 30000 Girl students

studying in VI std. will be continued in 2008-09 also. The infrastructure such as provision of drinking water, furniture etc of the GTR Schools will also be improved during the Plan period.

Economic Development

Land purchase scheme, Special Individual Entrepreneur Scheme, Self-Employment Programme for Youth (SEPY) and assistance to self-help groups will be continued during the year 2008-09 also. Special State Assistance Scheme to provide assistance for the economic development of SCs/STs/SC converts to Christianity is also proposed to be implemented. Through TAHDCO, assistance will be provided to the SC/ST beneficiaries under the Special State Assistance Scheme for undertaking development activities.

Housing and Other Activities

Infrastructure facilities like drinking water, link roads, street lights and drainage will be provided to the newly acquired sites where house site pattas have already been distributed to families of SC/ST people. During the year 2008-09, drinking water facilities will be provided to 84 Adi Dravida habitations and 12000 lakh free house site pattas are to be provided under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme connectivity to SC habitations will also be improved.

Welfare of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities

A major proportion of the population in Tamil Nadu belong to other Backward Classes viz., Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities. Various welfare programmes have been implemented for the educational, economic development and social advancement of these socially and economically disadvantaged groups of BCs, MBCs and DNCs. Reservation of posts in Government services and for admission in educational institutions at all levels also ameliorates the poor living conditions of these classes of people. The State Minorities Commission has been constituted to

advise the Government on various measures necessary to safeguard the interests of religious and linguistic minorities. The Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission has been constituted as per the direction of Supreme Court of India to examine and to make recommendations on the request relating to inclusion and exclusion from the list of BCs / MBCs, so as to periodically revise the list of BCs, MBCs in the State. Tamil Nadu Backward classes Economic Development Corporation Ltd., (TABCEDCO), provides loans to the individuals, groups, and societies belonging to the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities at subsidized interest rate for their economic uplift. TABCEDCO is also acting as a state-channelising agency for National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi.

Schemes

For the educational advancement, social emancipation and economic upliftment of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities and Minorities, various initiatives have been undertaken may be grouped under Education, Economic Development and Housing and other activities. These welfare programmes may be grouped under Education, Economic Development and Housing and other activities.

The educational advancement of the children of Piramalai Kallar Community is ensured through Kallar Reclamation Schools in the Districts of Madurai, Theni and Dindigul where the population of Piramalai Kallar community is concentrated. Facilities to the Kallar schools have been improved to bring them on par with the general schools. Computer training is also imparted to the students studying in high schools and higher secondary schools and award of prizes have been introduced to students studying in these schools to score high marks in 10th and 12th. Boarding grant at the rate of Rs.200/- p.m. is given to students belonging to BCs/ MBCs and DNCs

Sewing machines and iron boxes are distributed to the poor people belonging to BCs, MBCs and DNCs for improving their economic status. Job-oriented training courses are also imparted to these youths to enable them to start income generating activities either through wage employment or self-employment elsewhere in the State.

Plan Outlay for 2008-09

The outlay approved for the Eleventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 3569.59 crore. The total outlay of Rs.559.50 crore for SCs, STs and OBCs for the year 2007-08 is expected to be spent. The outlay approved for 2008-09 is Rs. 835.82 crore. Of this, the outlay approved for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan are Rs.442.06 crore and Rs. 1.12 crore respectively.