

7.5. Welfare of the underprivileged

1.Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The emphasis in the successive Five Year Plans has been to improve the quality of disadvantaged groups of people in the society. These groups have been identified and classified as Adi-dravidars, Tribals, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities and Minorities. The strategy followed for the development and welfare of weaker and vulnerable sections of the society has been to initiate special target group oriented programmes by earmarking funds, providing subsidies and reservation in service and educational institutions also.

According to the 2001 Census, against the State's total population of 6.24 crores, the population of Adi Dravidars is 1.19 crores constituting 19% and that of Scheduled Tribes is 0.07 crore constituting 1.04%. Nearly 70% of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 85% of Scheduled Tribes (STs) are living in the rural areas. In the whole country, Tamil Nadu stands in the 6th place among the States having the highest percentage of Adi Dravidars population. The literacy level of the Adi Dravidars is only 63.2% and that of Tribal is 41.5%, which is much lower, compared to the State overall literacy level is 73.5%. The sex ratio among the SCs is 999, which is much higher than the general sex ratio 987 of the State. The sex ratio of STs is 980, which are lower than the general sex ratio of the State.

A significant proportion of the SC/ST population were 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 SC/ST population have been implemented by the Government with the objective of facilitating faster socio-economic development of SC/ST population.

The following table indicates the growth of SC/ ST population to that of total population and SC/ ST literacy rate to that of general literacy rate.

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.

Objective

The Government implements several welfare programmes for the socio-economic development of the Adi-Dravidars and Tribals. The main objective of welfare programmes is to facilitate the faster socio-economic development of the Adi-Dravidars / Tribals who are downtrodden and support them with various welfare measures particularly on their education to end their social seclusion and economic deprivation and speed up the process of integrating them with the national main stream.

Programmes

The major ameliorative activities are broadly grouped as educational development, economic development, housing and other activities, Scheduled Caste Sub Plan programmes and Tribal Sub-Plan programmes. The Directorate of Adi Dravidar Welfare is looking after all the programmes and the 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. Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation (TAHDSCO) is a State Government undertaking, constituted for promoting the economic development of SCs/ STs.

Education

Education alone is the protective weapon for the Adi Dravidar and Tribals to elevate them from this drudgery, efforts are being made to arrest the school drop-out 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 class rooms and lab buildings.

At present 1058 Adi Dravidar Welfare (ADW) Schools and 290 Tribal Residential Schools are functioning. Totally 2.08 lakh children are studying in ADW Schools and 36624 children in Tribal Residential Schools. 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 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.

During the Annual Plan 2009-10, 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. During 2009-10, 4.30 students will be given scholarships/ concession under the scheme of Educational Concession/Scholarship (Pre-matric, Pre-matric (Unclean Occupation) & Post-matric) and Higher Education Special Scholarship. 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 2009-10 also. 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, 25 new hostels will be proposed to construct this year. The Chief Minister Merit Award to students for pursuing college studies will be given to 8500 SC/ST students. Under the supply of Free Bicycles, 73000 girls and 65000

boy students will be benefited this year. Two sets (per student/per year) of free uniform are given every year to all students studying in Std. I to XII in Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare schools. Under the scheme of educational assistance to meritorious Adi Dravidar/ Tribal Welfare students to study in reputed schools, 600 students will be benefited during 2009-10. The infrastructure such as provision of drinking water, furniture etc. of the Government Tribal Residential (GTR) Schools will also be improved during the plan period.

Economic Development

In the field of economic development, financial assistance is offered to these communities from TAHDCO for undertaking economic development activities. Regarding Land Purchase Scheme, Special Individual Entrepreneur Scheme, Self-Employment Programme for Youth (SEPY) and assistance to Self-Help Groups are the prime priority areas. Under innovative training programmes viz., Air Hostess, fashion technology, plastic processing, footwear technology, driver training, Industrial House Keeping, Knit wear based training etc., are being conducted in every year and placements are also tie up with reputed institutions. Financial assistance to candidates who have passed Civil Services Preliminary Examination prior to main examination will be continued during the year 2009-10 also. 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

The existing schemes of housesite pattas, provision of basic amenities like drinking water, link roads, electricity, street lights to the SC/ST habitations, provision of burial ground and pathway to burial ground and Community hall to all the Adi Dravidar habitations will be continued. During the year 2009-10, 11660 housesite pattas will be issued and bore well are being provided instead of ordinary open wells. Pipelines are extended if overhead tanks are available nearby, and 82 drinking water works and construction of 10 Community Hall will be taken this year.

Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)

The Government desires to improve the status of the Adi Dravidar and Tribals through various welfare schemes under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). The basic objective of both these Sub-Plans is to channelise the flow of Plan outlays and benefits from the general sectors for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes atleast in proportion to their population, both in physical and financial terms. Originally, the Scheduled Caste Plan was introduced by the Planning Commission with two features viz. a) flow of resources to the schemes that benefit individuals from these communities for improving their economic condition; and b) flow of resources to programmes that provides infrastructural facilities and services to these weaker sections. The objectives of the Scheduled Caste Plan were fine tuned while introducing the SCSP and TSP.

Welfare of Backward Classes (BCs), Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and Minorities

Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront in protecting the interests of the socially and economically disadvantaged groups of BCs, MBCs and Denotified (DNCs) and has been implementing various welfare programmes for their educational, economic upliftment and social advancement and integration with the society.

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. A separate Directorate has been formed for Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities and Minorities Welfare. 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. The Tamil Nadu Minorities Welfare was established in 2007 to focus attention on the advancement of minorities 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.

Education

As Education is a vital tool for overall development, importance has been given towards the educational advancement of these communities. A major portion of the budget allocation is spent on education pertaining to these departments. Further, the reservation provided in education and employment paves the way for the people of Backward Classes to get admission in higher education and employment in Government Services. The skill development training given in various trades facilitates them to get employment and to establish self employment ventures. Educational advancement enables them to get employment which enhances their economic status and the economic spheres help them to raising their social status.

The educational advancement of the children of Piramalai Kallar Community is ensured through 260 Kallar Reclamation Schools in Madurai, Theni and Dindigul Districts where the population of this community is predominant. Computer Training is also imparted to the students studying in high schools and higher secondary schools to improve their general knowledge and awarded Cash prizes have been introduced to students studying in these schools to score high marks in 10th and 12th Std. Free text books, note books from 1st to 12th and Uniform (2 sets-per student/per year) from 1st to 8th Std. were provided to these students.

For the welfare of BCs, MBCs, Minorities and Denotified Communities, the scheme include construction and maintenance of hostels belong to Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities, provision of pre-matric and post-

matric scholarships and stipends will be given to 6,73,795 students to promote higher education among BCs, MBCs and DNCs, rewards as incentives to reduce dropouts. During the year 2008-09, 25 new hostels were opened. Free education to BC and MBC/DNC students, free bicycles to 3,92,409 (Girls & Boys) belonging to BC, MBC and DNC students studying in XI and XII Std. will be provided during 2009-10. Supply of uniform (2 sets - per student/per year) from 4th to 10th Std. provision of house sites as well as infrastructure facilities to all communities of the MBCs and DNCs who live in villages below poverty line. Boarding grant at the rate of Rs.200/-p.m. is given to students belonging to BCs/MBCs and DNCs.

Economic Development

Under Economic Development, supply of sewing machines to 2950 and iron boxes to 3100 will be distributed to the poor people belonging to BCs, MBCs and DNCs during 2009-10. Job-oriented training courses are also imparted to BC, MBC & 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 field viz., Special training for the Indian Civil services, the Central and State Government undertakings and private institutions imparted in various job oriented courses like Plastic Processing, Machine Operator, Footwear and Leather Goods Production, Apparel and Garment Manufacturing, Apparel Designing, Heavy Vehicle Driving, Hostel Management and Catering Technology etc., The scheme will be continued during 2009-10, to provide skill development training to 10,000 youth. All the above schemes will be continued during the year 2009-10 also.

Plan Outlay for 2009-10

The outlay approved for the Eleventh Five Year Plan is Rs.3569.59 crore. The total outlay of Rs.834.90 crore for Welfare of Underprivileged for the year 2008-09 is expected to be spent. The outlay approved for 2009-10 is Rs.925.26 crore. Of this, the outlays for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Area Sub Plan are Rs.330.49 crore and Rs.9.28 crore respectively.