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SCHEDULED CASTE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES - STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE IN INDIA



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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

The present study is concerned with Scheduled Caste (SC) and its major focus on the development through the state and central governments with their policy implements .the Scheduled Castes Development Bureau, the Ministry implements Schedules Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) which is an umbrella strategy to ensure flow of targeted financial and physical benefits from all the general sectors of development for the benefit of Scheduled Castes. Under the strategy, States/UTs are required to formulate and implement Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes as part of their Annual Plans by earmarking resources. At present 27 States/UTs having sizeable SC population are implementing Schedules

Caste Sub-Plan.

KEYWORDS

Scheduled Caste, Schedules Caste Sub-Plan(SCSP) Special Component Plan (SCP).

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1. INTRODUCTION :

In 1935 the British passed the Government of India Act 1935, designed to give Indian provinces greater self-rule and set up a national federal structure. The reservation of seats for the Depressed Classes was incorporated into the act, which came into force in 1937. The Act introduced the term "Scheduled Castes", defining the group as "such castes, races or tribes or parts of groups within castes, races or tribes, which appear to His Majesty in Council to correspond to the classes of persons formerly known as the 'Depressed Classes', as His Majesty in Council may prefer". [7] This discretionary definition was clarified in *The Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1936*, which contained a list (or Schedule) of Castes throughout the British-administered provinces.

After independence the Constituent Assembly continued the prevailing definition of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, giving (via articles 341 and 342) the president of India and governors of the states a mandate to compile a full listing of castes and tribes (with the power to edit it later, as required). The complete list of castes and tribes was made via two orders: *The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950* and *The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950*, respectively

Article 366: Definitions

"(24) "Scheduled Castes" means such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purpose of the Constitution".

"Article 341: Scheduled Castes

The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory and where it is a State after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union Territory, as the case may be.

Parliament may by-law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification."

The Ministry informed that the criteria followed for consideration of specification of a caste etc. as a Scheduled Caste is extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability.

After promulgation of the Constitution, in exercise of powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 341 of the Constitution of India, the President made following six Orders between 1950 and 1978, for specifying castes as Scheduled Castes in relation to various States/Union Territories:- The Constitution of India has prescribed, protection and safeguards for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other weaker sections; either specially or the way of insisting on their general rights as citizens; with the object of promoting their educational and economic interests and removing social disabilities. These social groups have also been provided institutionalized commitments through the statutory body, the National Commission of SCs and STs.

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The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry to oversee the interests of the Scheduled Castes. Though the primary responsibility for promotion of interests of the Scheduled Castes rests with all the Central Ministries in the area of their operations and the State Governments, the Ministry complements their efforts by way of interventions in critical sectors through specifically tailored schemes. Efforts made by State Governments and Central Ministries for protecting and promoting the interests of Scheduled Castes are also monitored.

Under the Scheduled Castes Development Bureau, the Ministry implements Schedules Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) which is an umbrella strategy to ensure flow of targeted financial and physical benefits from all the general sectors of development for the benefit of Scheduled Castes. Under the strategy, States/UTs are required to formulate and implement Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes as part of their Annual Plans by earmarking resources. At present 27 States/UTs having sizeable SC population are implementing Schedules Caste Sub-Plan.

Another policy initiative for the development of Scheduled Castes is Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan, in which cent percent assistance is given as additive to Schedules Caste Sub-Plan of the States/UTs on the basis of certain criteria such as SC population of the States/UTs, relative backwardness of the States/UTs percentage SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development programmes in the State Plan to enable them to cross the poverty line, percentage of SCP to the Annual Plan as compared to SC population percentage of the States/UTs.

The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) set up under the Ministry provides credit facilities to persons belonging to Scheduled castes living below double the poverty line limits (presently Rs.81,000/- p.a. for rural areas and Rs.103,000/- p.a. for urban areas), for income generating activities.

Another Corporation under the Ministry viz. National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) provides credit facilities to beneficiaries' viz. Safai Karamcharis, scavengers and their dependents for income generating activities for socio-economic development through State Channelizing Agencies.

Ministry implements two Acts for protecting the civil rights of the Scheduled Castes viz.

- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and
- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989).
- The prohibition of employment as Manual Scavengers & their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

The Ministry also deals with the following important issues, with regard to Scheduled Castes Development:

- Monitoring of points 11(A) of 20 point programme - Justice to Scheduled Castes.
- Affirmative Action including reservation in private sector for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Equal opportunity to all, particularly to those who is from disadvantage groups, is an essential component of any development intervention. The mandate of the Ministry of Rural Development is to

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alleviate poverty in the rural areas. The Ministry is implementing various schemes/programmes with the objective to provide avenues of employment to most disadvantaged sections of the society, including SCs/STs. The Ministry has made specific provisions in the guidelines of the programmes to ensure adequate flow of resources to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The details of assistance provided to the poor households from SC/Communities under the major programmes are as under:

Ministry of Rural Development and Scheduled Caste

Ministry of Rural Development has been earmarking the funds for Scheduled Caste Special Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and SwarnJayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/NRLM from 2011-12 onwards. The details of the funds earmarked for SCSP and TSP under these schemes for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are given below:

(\$ in crore)

Schemes	year	Total	SCSP	TSP
CGSY	2011	2681.29	845.06	611.94
	2012	3915.00	1033.76	723.74
IAY	2011	10000.00	3530.00	2470.00
	2012	11075.00	3908.37	2736.63

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a demand driven programme which seeks to provide enhanced livelihood security to the households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to any household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The requirement of funds and employment generation will depend on demand for work. Hence, no specific earmarking of funds is made under SCSP and TSP under MGNREGA.

Similarly, the PMGSY provides rural connectivity to all the unconnected habitations in rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons through good all weather roads and 250 persons and above in the hill States, the Tribal (Schedule V) areas, the desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme) and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts. Since the programme is for overall benefit to the rural people, no earmarking of funds for SCSP and TSP is done under this programme also.

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana/National Rural Livelihood Mission (SGSY/NRLM)

NRLM is a major self-employment programme being implemented all over the country. The guidelines of the Programme stipulate that at least 50% of the Swarozgaris will be SCs/STs. 13 States with high concentration of rural poor including high concentration of SCs and STs have been selected for intensive application of NRLM (and NRLP) resources. States have also been advised to prioritize Integrated Action Plan (IAP) Districts (which also have high incidence of ST population) for NRLM intensive strategy. A Social Management Framework (SMF) for NRLM has been prepared. The SMF focuses on social inclusion, social accountability and social safeguards, particularly focusing on marginalized and vulnerable social

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groups, including the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Each State has been directed to prepare a social inclusion plan to guide their efforts to mobilize vulnerable groups including SCs and STs into SHGs and promote their financial and economic inclusion. Currently a total of 90,917 individual Swarojgaries from SCs/STs group (50% of total no. of individual Swarojgaries) have been assisted under SGSY/NRLM in 2012-13.

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is being implemented at the national level with the objective of providing dwelling units to the people who are living below poverty line in rural areas. Under this programme preference is given to the BPL families belonging to SCs/STs. Sixty percent of the total allocation during a financial year is to be utilized for construction of dwelling units for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

A total of 22,15,637 dwelling units have been sanctioned during the year 2012-13 (as on 22-11-2012) out of which 7,59,254 (34.26%) houses were sanctioned in the name of SC and 40,74,76 (18.39%) houses were sanctioned in the name of ST community.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

As mentioned earlier the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. MGNREGA is a demand driven scheme, therefore, separate earmarking of employment/resources for SCs/STs has not been provided. However, the reports of physical achievements during 2012-13 (up to 27th December, 2012) reveal that out of total employment generation of 134.76 crore person days in the year, employment generated for SCs and STs were 30.28 (22.47%) crore person days and 20.80 (15.43%) crore person days respectively. Thus, 37.9% of the total person days of employment generated in the year were for the SC/ST households.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (Department of Social Justice & Empowerment) is entrusted with the empowerment of the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society. The Target groups of the Department are: (i) Scheduled Castes (SCs), (ii) Other Backward Classes (OBCs), (iii) Senior Citizens and (iv) Victims of Substance Abuse.

Enhancement in Plan Outlay in 2013-14. There was an increase of 1.65% in the Plan outlay of the Ministry from Rs. 6065 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 6165 crore in 2014-15. The Plan Outlay allocated to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) has been enhanced from Rs 11655.20 crore in the 11th Five Year Plan to Rs 29400 crore for 12th Five Year Plan. In 2014, many initiatives were taken to empower these weaker sections as summarized below:

Amendments in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2014, to amend the PoA Act, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16.07.2014. The Bill was listed for consideration by the Lok Sabha on 17.07.2014 and on directions of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, the Bill has been referred to the Departmental Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for

examination and report.

[The Constitution \(Scheduled Castes\) Orders \(Amendment\) Bill, 2014:](#)

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in relation to the states of Kerala (inclusion of two synonymous castes), Madhya Pradesh (inclusion of one synonymous caste), Odisha (inclusion of four synonymous castes), Tripura (inclusion of three synonymous castes) and Sikkim (exclusion of one caste) was introduced in Lok Sabha on 11.08.2014. The Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 27.11.2014 and 8.12.14 respectively. The bill has been sent for assent of the President.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014, which proposes to include eight castes as synonym to Scheduled Castes in relation to the States/UT of Haryana(one), Karnataka(one), Odisha (six), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (one) and substitution of the name of the State from 'Uttaranchal' to 'Uttarakhand' was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 11.02.2014. The said Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for examination and report. The committee in its sitting held on 26.11.2014 heard views of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, besides evidence of the Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Registrar General of India.

Revision of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995: The Rules notified in 1995, were revised on 23.12.2011. Further amendment in the PoA Rules for enhancing the relief amount by 50% i.e. between Rs. 75,000/- to Rs. 7,50,000/- depending upon the nature of offences has been approved on 23.06.2014, and is under notification in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary. Upward revision of financial norms under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for the SCs (last fixed in 1998):

[The Scheme has been revised and informed to the States/UTs vide letter dated 15th July, 2014. Following revisions have been made in the financial norms:](#)

1. Generally 100% enhancement
2. Honorarium of teachers has been revised upward at par with the salary of teachers in Kasturba Gandhi Vidhyalaya.

[Swachhta Udyami Yojana:](#)

As an integral part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' launched by the Prime Minister on 2nd October, 2014, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment launched a new Scheme 'Swachhta Udyami Yojana' of NSKFDC on 2nd October, 2014 for financing viable community toilet projects and sanitation related vehicles to collect garbage.

[Setting up "Dr. Ambedkar International Centre for Social Justice" at 15, Janpath New Delhi:](#) The Government has approved setting up of the Centre at an approximate cost of Rs.195 crore at Janpath. The architectural plan and design of Dr. Ambedkar International Centre has been approved by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on 20.11.2014.

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The Government has also taken a decision to fully develop the Dr. Ambedkar Memorial at 26, Alipure Road, Delhi. The CPWD has already started preliminary work. The architectural Plan has been approved by the Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) on 27.11.2014.

Creation of 'Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurs' Scheme:

The Government has decided to set up a new Venture Capital Fund for SCs. An allocation of Rs.200 crore has been provided for the Fund. A scheme has been finalized in consultation with the IFCI. The Standing Finance Committee (SFC) under the chairmanship of Secretary (SJ&E) was held on 03.12.2014 for appraisal of the proposed Scheme. Competent Authority has approved the Scheme. The fund would be operationalised during remaining part of the year 2014-15 onwards.

Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Young and Start-Up Entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes:

The Finance Minister in his Union Budget Speech for FY 2014-15 made on 10th July 2014, inter-alia, announced that a sum of Rs.200 crores will be allocated towards Credit Enhancement Guarantee for Young and start-up entrepreneurs, belonging to Scheduled Castes, who aspire to be part of neo middle class category, with an objective to encourage entrepreneurship in the lower strata of the Society resulting in job creation besides creating confidence in Scheduled Castes.

The said allocation is under Social Sector Initiatives in order to promote entrepreneurship among the scheduled castes and to facilitate concessional finance to them. The proposed Scheme and Standing Finance Committee (SFC) memo has been concurred on 17.10.2014 by the IFD M/o SJ&E. However, due to non allocation of budget under the Scheme SFC memo has not been circulated for inter-Ministerial consultation.

Implementation of Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) Scheme:

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) vide ID dated 26.3.13 provided the list of 121 districts across the country selected for implementation of DBT. The necessary proforma in this regard were uploaded on the Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System (CPSMS) portal in mid February 2014. Having received the digitally signed digitized lists of beneficiaries forwarded by 8 States/ UTs and 15 Top Class Institutions, in respect of the 3 Scholarship Schemes of the Department in the Financial Year 2013-14, the Department of SJE could disburse Rs 1062.37 lakhs directly into the bank accounts of 45184 beneficiaries.

For the Financial Year 2014-15, till date the Department has been able to credit an amount of Rs 6.43 lakhs directly into the bank accounts of 9 beneficiaries. Around 15 proposals are in the pipeline where scholarships would be disbursed shortly through DBT.

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