

# 27 Welfare

THE Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is committed towards educational development, economic empowerment and social empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, victims of drug abuse, aged etc.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL MEASURES**

### **NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES**

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes, a Constitutional body monitors the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and also reviews issues concerning their welfare. The Commission has wide powers to protect, safeguard and promote the interests of the SCs. The Commission has been conferred powers of a civil court trying a suit, to summon and enforce the attendance of any persons from any part of India and examining on oath, receiving evidence on affidavits. The Commissioner submitted its first report on 17-7-2006.

### **NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARMACHARIS**

The National Commission for Safai Karmacharis, a statutory body has, inter-alia, been empowered to investigate into specific grievances as well as matters relating to implementation of programmes and schemes for welfare of Safai Karmacharis.

### **PROTECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, 1955 AND SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) ACT, 1989**

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 provides for preventing any person on grounds of untouchability, from enjoying the rights accruing on account of abolition of untouchability. Provisions for legal aid to Scheduled Castes in cases relating to untouchability have been made by 22 States/Union Territories. Special Cells have been set up in 21 States for initiating and exercising supervision over prosecution for contravention of provisions of the PCR Act. 22 special Mobile Courts have been set up in Andhra Pradesh for expeditious disposal of such cases. Necessary guidelines and instructions are issued to States from time to time for effective implementation of the provisions of the PCR Act.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, specifies offences, which are considered as atrocities, and provides for deterrent punishments for commission of the same. Comprehensive Rules were also framed under the SCs and STs (POA) Act in 1995, which among other things provided for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. It also envisages preventive measures, and State have to evolve schemes, among and Union Territories except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have specified special courts for trial of offences under this Act. 137 Exclusive Special courts have also been set up in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh, 11 States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh) have been identified atrocity prone areas.

Under the Centrally sponsored scheme for implementation of both the Act, State Governments are funded on 50:50 basis and Union Territories are given cent

percent central assistance. During the year 2006-07 Rs. 36.44 crore were released to States/UTs.

A Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment has been constituted for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offences of untouchability and atrocities against SCs and STs and their effective administration/implementation. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 18.09.2006 at New Delhi and the second meeting was also held on 15.01.2007 at Jaipur. The Inter-State Council Meeting was held on 9th December 2006 exclusively on the subject 'Offences of untouchability against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes'. This meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and attended by the Chief Ministers and other senior officials. As a follow up the Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) had addressed a d.o. letter dated 24.4.2007 to all chief Ministers of States to ensure that the year 2007-08 turns out to be an untouchability and atrocity free year.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched National Awards to be given to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or individual Human Rights Activists who have done outstanding fieldwork in the area of eradicating untouchability and in combating offences of atrocities under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. There will be four awards every year. Award to individual activist shall carry an amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs and Rs. 5.00 lakhs to an Institution. The Award will be given to outstanding NGOs or Human Rights Activists in each of the four regions of the country namely North, South, East and West for rendering yeomen services in the said fields. The award may be shared by more than one recipient or organization. The Award was instituted in 2006 and is given annually. The date of receipt of the nominations for the award is 31st October of the respective year. Modalities and other details of the Scheme are available at the website of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

## EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Pre-Matric Scholarships for Children of those engaged in Unclean Occupation :** Under the Scheme, the Children of families engaged in unclean occupations such as scavenging, flaying and tanning are assisted to pursue education upto matriculation level. The scholarship is provided through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Central assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 basis and to the Union Territory Administration on 100 per cent basis over and above their committed liability. Students amongst target groups with disabilities are also assisted. There is no income ceiling prescribed under the scheme.

The scheme provides scholarship of Rs. 40 per month in classes I to V, Rs. 60 per month in classes VI to VIII and Rs. 75 per month in classes IX to X in respect of day scholar; for hostellers Rs. 300 per month in classes III to VIII and Rs. 375 per month in classes IX to X.

The duration of scholarship in an academic year is ten months. The Day Scholars and hostellers are eligible for ad-hoc grant of Rs. 550 and Rs. 600 per students gap annum respectively. During 2006-07 Rs. 20.25 crores has been released to States/UTs for covering about 6.54 lakh students.

**Post-Matric Scholarships for SC Students :** Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to Scheduled Caste students for pursuing studies beyond matriculation

in recognised institutions. The assistance include maintenance allowance for various categories of courses, reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fee charged by the institutions and other allowance such as study tour charges, thesis typing/printing charges and book grant, revisions of income ceiling to Rs. one lakh per annum for eligibility Scholarship is disbursed through respective State Governments and UT Administrations.

The scheme provides for 100 per Central assistance to the State. Governments and UT Administrations over and above the perspective committed liability of the States/UTs. The committed liability of the North Eastern States has, however, been dispensed with. During the year 2006-07 an amount of Rs. 526 crores has been released to the States/UTs for covering over estimated 29.58 lakh students.

**Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme :** A new Scheme named Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste Students has been introduced during the current financial year 2005-06. Fellowships, in the form of financial assistance, are to be provided to students belonging to Scheduled Castes to pursue higher studies leading to award of M.Phil and Ph.D. degree. A student, belonging to Scheduled Caste registered in a regular and full time M.Phil/Ph. D course in a University/Academic institution will be eligible for the fellowship. The fellowships will be on the same scale as that of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Junior Research Fellowships. In total, 1333 fellowships each year are to be awarded initially during 2005-06 and 2006-07. The scheme is being implemented through the University Grants Commission. An amount of Rs. 34.18 crores was released to UGC during 2006-07 under the scheme.

**National Overseas Scholarship and Passage Grants for Higher Education :** Under this scheme assistance is provided to meritorious students for pursuing higher studies of Masters level courses, Ph.D and Post Doctoral research Programmes abroad in specified fields like Engineering, Technology and Science only. Rate of maintenance allowance was enhanced to US\$ 8,200 or Pounds Sterling 5,200 per annum per candidate. The contingency allowance for books, essential apparatus, study tour charges, typing and binding of thesis, etc. was also revised to US \$ 550 or Pound Sterling 400 per annum for candidates in U.K. the scheme provides for air passage, visa fee, equipment allowance, incidental expenses charged by the institution as per actual and insurance premia, etc. The awardees were permitted to undertake research/teaching assistantship. Financial assistance under the scheme is provided for a maximum period of four years for Ph.D. research, for 3 years for Master's Programme. Students whose family income exceeds Rs. 18,000 per month are not eligible for assistance and only one child of the same parents/guardians is eligible to get benefit under the scheme. The prospective awardees should not be more than 35 years of age. During 2006-07, Rs. 1.05 crores was disbursed to 20 students that include 17 SCs, two students from denotified nomadic and semi-nomadic tribe and one student from landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisans.

**Upgradation of Merit for SC Students :** The main objective of the scheme is to upgrade the merit of Scheduled Caste students by providing them with facilities for all-round development through education in residential schools. The scheme provides for 100 per cent Central assistance to States/UTs for arrangement of remedial and special coaching for SC students studying in class IX to XII. Financial assistance is provided to students as package grant of Rs. 15,000 per year per student, out of

which Rs. 5,000 is for boarding and lodging, Rs. 1,000 for pocket expenses, Rs. 2,000 for books and stationery and Rs. 7,000 as an honorarium to Principals/experts involved in providing the remedial/special coaching. SC students with disability enjoy additional benefits. During the year 2006-07 Rs. 3.00 crores were released to the States/UTs.

**Coaching and Allied Scheme for Weaker Sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities :** The scheme aimed to equip aspiring students for preparing them for various competitive exams. Aspiring students take their guidance and coaching from the centers run by State Governments/UTs, Universities and NGOs. These centres are extended Central assistance to provide coaching to students. During 2006-07, Rs. 3.91 crores was released to the implementing agencies in pre-revised schemes.

**Hostels for Scheduled Caste Boys and Girls :** The objective of the Scheme is to provide hostel facilities to SC Boys and Girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and Universities. The financial assistance is provided for construction of hostels. The maintenance of hostel, boarding and lodging of students, however, rest with the respective States/UTs. The Scheme provides for release of Central Assistance to State Govts. on 50:50 matching share basis and 100% to UTs and also 90% to Central Universities. Other Universities can also get Central Assistance upto 45% and the remaining amount has to be provided by their respective States (45%) and themselves 10%. The NGOs also get assistance on the basis of 45:45:10 through their States/UTs for extension of their existing hostels. During the year 2006-07 Rs. 25.23 crores was released for construction of 109 boys hostel and Rs. 28.811 crore for construction of 204 girls hostels.

#### **DR. AMBEDKAR FOUNDATION**

The main objective of the Foundation is to propogate the ideology and message of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar among the masses in India as well as abroad. The following were achievements under different schemes during the year. A sum of Rs. 6.25 lakhs was released for benefiting 25 persons under Dr. Ambedkar Medical Scheme. A sum of Rs. 58.39 lakhs were released for maintenance of Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in Universities/Institutions for research for the year 2006-07. The Foundation also published collected works in Tamil and Urdu under Samajik Samta Kendra Yojana.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) :** Under Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) (earlier known as SCP), cent percent assistance is provided to State and Union territories as an additive to their Special Component Plans. The assistance would be used to give an added thrust to the development programmes for SC persons living below poverty line. During the year 2006-07 Rs. 459.15 crores was released to States/UTs.

**National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation :** The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) provides concessional finance for employment generation to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes living below double the poverty line (i.e. Rs. 40,000 p.a. in rural

areas and Rs. 55,000 p.a. in urban areas), skill development through training, entrepreneurial development and innovative projects. The Corporation is also implementing 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' The Corporation has assisted 53,315 beneficiaries during the year 2005-06.

**National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation :** National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) extends concessional finance assistance to the Safai Karamcharies beneficiaries for establishments 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana'. The Corporation has assisted 77,970 beneficiaries during 2006-07.

**State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation :** State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDCs) are functioning in 26 States/Union Territories. The Central Government contributes 49 per cent to the authorised share capital of the SCDC's against the 51 per cent contributed by the State Government. During the year 2005-06 Rs. 16,902 lakhs was released as Government of India's contribution to benefit anticipated 77,970 beneficiaries.

**Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers :** A new Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation, of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) was launched from January 2007 for rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents by March, 2009 with total expenditure of Rs. 735.60 crores. The Central Govt. has released Rs. 56.00 crores during 2006-07 to NSKFDC as Grant in aid for implementation of the scheme.

**Voluntary Organisations Working for Scheduled Castes :** The objective of the scheme is to utilise the services of capable and reliable voluntary organisations in the process of social-economic development of scheduled casts. Under this scheme, grant-in-aid is given to the voluntary organisations to the extent of 90 per cent of each project cost for activities such as general/technical/vocational education including pre-school education, medical centers, dispensaries and income generating activities.

## DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

The tribal people of India, who come under the category of '*Scheduled Tribes*' (STs) in terms of the provisions of the Constitution of India, number 8.43 crore—constituting 8.2 per cent of the population of the country (Census 2001).

**Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas :** Scheduled Tribes live in contiguous areas unlike other communities. It is, therefore, much simpler to have an area-approach for development activities and also regulatory provisions to protect their interests.

In order to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes with regard to land alienation and other social factors, provisions of "Fifth Schedule" and "Sixth Schedule" have been enshrined in the Constitution.

The Fifth Schedule under Article 244(1) of Constitution defines "*Scheduled Areas*" as such areas as the President may by Order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of the State.

The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 (2) of the Constitution relates to those areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared as "*Tribal Areas*" and provides for District Councils and/or Regional Councils for such Areas. These Councils have been conferred with wide ranging legislative, judicial and executive powers.

**The Fifth Schedule Areas :** The criteria for declaring any area as a “Scheduled Area” under the Fifth Schedule are: (a) Preponderance of tribal population, (b) Compactness and reasonable size of the area, (c) A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk, and (d) Economic backwardness of the area as compared to neighbouring areas.

*The specification of “Scheduled Areas”* in relation to a State is by a notified Order of the President, after consultation with the State Governments concerned. The same applies for altering, increasing, decreasing, incorporating new areas, or rescinding any Orders relating to “Scheduled Areas”.

The advantages of *Scheduled Areas* are that : (a) The Governor of a state, which has Scheduled Areas, is empowered to make regulations in respect of the following : (1) Prohibit or restrict transfer of land from tribal people; (2) Regulate the business of money lending to the members of Scheduled Tribes. In making any such regulation, the Governor may repeal or amend any Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of the State, which is applicable to the area in question. (b) The Governor may by public notification direct that any particular Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of the State, shall not apply to a Scheduled Area or any part thereof in the State or shall apply to such area subject to such exceptions and modifications as he may specify. (c) The Governor of a State having Scheduled Areas therein, shall annually, or whenever so required by the President of India, make a report to the President regarding the administration of the Scheduled Areas in that State and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to the State as to the administration of the said area. (d) Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) shall be established in States having Scheduled Areas. The role of TAC is to advise the State Government on matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the Scheduled Tribes in the State as may be referred to it by the Governor. The TAC will consist of not more than twenty members of whom about 3/4 are from ST-MLAs. (The TAC may also be established in any State having Scheduled Tribes but not Scheduled Areas on the direction of the President of India. (e) The *Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)*, vide which the provisions of Panchayats, contained in Part IX of the Constitution, were extended to Scheduled Areas, also contain special provisions for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes.

**The Sixth Schedule - Tribal Areas :** The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 of the Constitution identifies Autonomous districts in the Tribal Areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. It also makes provisions for recognition of Autonomous Regions within these Autonomous Districts. These have been specified in Parts I, II, IIA & III of the table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule. In other words, areas where provisions of Sixth Schedule are applicable are known as Tribal Areas. The State-wise details of Tribal Areas are as under :-

<b>Part-I</b>	Assam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The North Cachar Hills District</li> <li>2. The Karbi-Anglong District</li> <li>3. The Bodo Land Territorial Area Districts</li> </ol>
<b>Part II</b>	Meghalaya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Khasi Hills District</li> <li>2. Jaintia Hills District</li> <li>3. The Garo Hills District</li> </ol>
<b>Part IIA</b>	Tripura	Tripura Tribal Areas District

<b>Part III</b>	Mizoram	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Chakma District</li> <li>2. The Mara District</li> <li>3. The Lai District</li> </ol>
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The administration of Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions is done through District Councils /Regional Councils. These Councils are elected bodies and have powers of legislation, administration of justice apart from executive, developmental and financial responsibilities. The District or Regional Councils are empowered to make rules with the approval of the Governor with regard to matters like establishment, construction or management of primary schools, dispensaries, markets, cattle ponds, ferries, fisheries, roads, road transport and water-ways in the district.

The Autonomous Councils of the North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong have been granted additional powers to make laws with respect to other matters like secondary education, agriculture, social security and social insurance, public health and sanitation, minor irrigation, etc.

The Councils have also been conferred powers under the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code for trial of certain suits and offences, as also the powers of a revenue authority for their area for collection of revenue and taxes and other powers for the regulation and management of natural resources.

### **PROCEDURE FOR DECLARATION AS ST**

The term “*Scheduled Tribes*” is defined in the Constitution of India under Article 366(25) as “*such tribes or tribal communities or parts of groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution*”. Article 342 prescribes the procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of Scheduled Tribes.

In terms of Article 342(1), the President may, with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, notify tribes or tribal communities or parts thereof as Scheduled Tribes. This confers on the tribe or part of it a Constitutional status invoking the safeguards provided for in the Constitution, to these communities in their respective States/UTs.

Thus, in terms of Article 342(1), only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification will be considered as Scheduled Tribes. Any further amendment in the list is to be done through an Act of Parliament (Article 342(2)). Parliament may, by law, include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes, any tribe or tribal community or parts of thereof.

The list of Scheduled Tribes is State-specific. In other words, a community declared as Scheduled Tribe in one State need not be so in another State.

### **SCHEDULING AND DE-SCHEDULING OF TRIBES**

Thus, the first specification of Scheduled Tribes in relation to a particular State/ Union Territory is by a notified order of the President, after consultation with the State Governments concerned. The above Article also provides for listing of Scheduled Tribes State-wise/UT-wise and not on an all-India basis.

The criteria generally adopted for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are : (1) indications of primitive traits; (b) distinctive culture; (c) shyness of contact with the community at large; (d) geographical isolation i.e. backwardness.

These are not spelt out in the Constitution but have become well established. They take into account the definitions in the 1931 Census, the reports of the first Backward Classes Commission (Kalelkar) 1955, the Advisory Committee on Revision of SC/ ST lists (Lokur Committee) 1965 and the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1967 (Chanda Committee) 1969.

There are over 700 tribes (with many of them overlapping in more than one State) as notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different States and Union Territories of the country. It is worth noting that no community has been specified as a Scheduled tribe in relation to the States of Haryana and Punjab and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry.

## **ASCERTAINING ST STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS**

### **General**

Where a person claims to belong to a Scheduled tribe by birth, it should be verified: (a) that the person and his parents actually belong to the community claimed; (b) that the community is included in the Presidential Order specifying the Scheduled Tribes in relation to the concerned State; (c) that the person belongs to that State and the area within that State in respect of which the community has been scheduled; (d) he may profess any religion; (e) that he or his parents /grandparents, etc., should be permanent resident of the State/UT on the date of notification of the Presidential Order applicable in his case; (f) a person who is temporarily away from his permanent place of residence at the time of the notification of the Presidential Order—applicable in his case, say for example to earn a living or seek education, etc. can also be regarded as a Scheduled Tribe, if his tribe has been specified in that order in relation to his home State/Union Territory; (g) but he cannot be treated as such in relation to the place of his temporary residence notwithstanding the fact that the name of his tribe has been scheduled in respect of that State where he is temporarily settled, in any Presidential Order; (h) in the case of persons born after the date of notification of the relevant Presidential Order, the place of residence for the purpose of acquiring Scheduled Tribe status, is the place of permanent abode of their parents at the time of the notification of the Presidential Order under which they claim to belong to such a tribe. This does not apply to the STs of the Lakhadweep Islands for whom there is a requirement of being born in the U.T. in order to be eligible for ST status.

### **Scheduled Tribe claims on migration**

- i) Where a person migrates from the portion of the State in which his/her community is scheduled, to another part of the same State in respect of which his/her community is not scheduled, the person will continue to be deemed to be a member of the Scheduled Tribe, in relation to that State
- ii) Where a person migrates from one State to another, he can claim to belong to a Scheduled Tribe only in relation to the State to which he originally belonged and not in respect of the State to which he has migrated.

### **Scheduled Tribe claims through marriages**

The guiding principle is that no person who is not a Scheduled Tribe by birth will be deemed to be a member of Scheduled Tribe merely because he or she has married a person belonging to a Scheduled Tribe. Similarly a person who is a member of a

Scheduled Tribe will continue to be a member of that Scheduled Tribe, even after his or her marriage with a person who does not belong to a Scheduled Tribe.

#### **Issue of Scheduled Tribe certificates**

The candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes may get Scheduled Tribe certificates, in the prescribed form, from any one of the following authorities: (1) District Magistrate/Additional District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner/Additional Deputy Commissioner/Deputy Collector/1st Class Stipendiary Magistrate/City Magistrate/Sub Divisional Magistrate/Taluka Magistrate/Executive Magistrate/Extra Assistant Commissioner [*not below the rank of 1st Class Stipendiary Magistrate*]. (2) Chief Presidency Magistrate/Additional Chief Presidency Magistrate/Presidency Magistrate. (3) Revenue Officers not below the rank of Tehsildar. (4) Sub-Divisional Officer of the Area where the candidate and/or his family normally resides. (5) Administrator/Secretary to the Administrator/Development Officer [Lakshadweep Islands].

#### **Punishments for officials issuing Scheduled Tribe Certificates without proper verification**

Action is to be taken under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code if any official is found to have issued a Scheduled tribe certificate carelessly and without proper verification. This will be in addition to other action to which they are liable under the appropriate disciplinary rules applicable to them.

#### **Liberalization of procedure for issue of Scheduled Tribe certificates to migrants from other States/Union Territories.**

Persons belonging to a Scheduled Tribe who have migrated from one State to another for the purpose of employment, education etc. experience great difficulty in obtaining ST certificates from the State from which they have migrated. In order to remove this difficulty, it has been decided that the prescribed authority of a State Government/Union Territory Administration may issue a Scheduled Tribe certificate to a person who migrated from another state, on the production of the genuine certificate issued to his father/mother by the prescribed authority of the State of the father/mother's origin except where the prescribed authority feels that a detailed enquiry is necessary through the state of origin before issue of the certificate. The certificate will be issued irrespective of whether the tribe in question is scheduled or not in relation to the State/Union Territory to which the person has migrated to.

#### **Procedure for inclusion in or exclusion from the list of Scheduled Tribes**

In June 1999, the Government approved modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in, or exclusion from, the lists of Scheduled Tribes. According to these approved guidelines, only those claims that have been agreed to by the concerned State Government, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be taken up for consideration.

Whenever representations are received in the Ministry for inclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of a State/UT, the Ministry forwards that representation to the concerned State Government/UT Administration for recommendation as required under Article 342 of the Constitution. If the concerned State Government recommends the proposal, then the same is sent to the Registrar General of India (RGI).

If RGI is satisfied with recommendation of the State Government and recommends the proposal to the Central Government, the Government refers the

proposal to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes for their recommendation. If the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes also recommends the case, the matter is processed for the decision of the cabinet after consulting the concerned administrative Ministries. Thereafter the matter is put up before the Parliament in the form of a Bill to amend the Presidential Order.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

According to the 2001 Census, the population of Scheduled tribes in the country was 8.43 crore - i.e., constituting 8.2 per cent of the total population of the country.

#### DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS : 2001 CENSUS

S. No.	India/State	Total population	ST Population	Percentage of STs to total population in the State
1	Mizoram	888,573	839,310	94.5
2	Lakshadweep	60,650	57,321	94.5
3	Nagaland	1,990,036	1,774,026	89.1
4	Meghalaya	2,318,822	1,992,862	85.9
5	Arunachal Pradesh	1,097,968	705,158	64.2
6	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	220,490	137,225	62.2
7	Manipur	2,166,788	741,141	34.2
8	Chhattisgarh	20,833,803	6,616,596	31.8
9	Tripura	3,199,203	993,426	31.1
10	Jharkhand	26,945,829	7,087,068	26.3
11	Orissa	36,804,660	8,145,081	22.1
12	Sikkim	540,851	111,405	20.6
13	Madhya Pradesh	60,348,023	12,233,474	20.3
14	Gujarat	50,671,017	7,481,160	14.8
15	Rajasthan	56,507,188	7,097,706	12.6
16	Assam	26,655,528	3,308,570	12.4
17	J&K	10,143,700	1,105,979	10.9
18	Maharashtra	96,878,627	8,577,276	8.9
19	Daman and Diu	158,204	13,997	8.8
20	Andaman and Nicobar	356,152	29,469	8.3
21	Andhra Pradesh	76,210,007	5,024,104	6.6
22	Karnataka	52,850,562	3,463,986	6.6
23	West Bengal	80,176,197	4,406,794	5.5
24	Himachal Pradesh	6,077,900	244,587	4.0
25	Uttarakhand	8,489,349	256,129	3.0
26	Kerala	31,841,374	364,189	1.1
27	Tamilnadu	62,405,679	651,321	1.0
28	Bihar	82,998,509	758,351	0.9
29	Uttar Pradesh	166,197,921	107,963	0.1
30	Goa	1,347,668	566	0
31	Haryana	21,144,564	0	0
32	Punjab	24,358,999	0	0
33	Chandigarh	900,635	0	0
34	Delhi	13,850,507	0	0
35	Puducherry	974,345	0	0
	<b>India</b>	<b>1,028,610,328</b>	<b>84,326,240</b>	<b>8.2</b>

The tribal population are normally seen to be living in the following three categories of locations:

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1.	North-Eastern Region (NER)	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim
2.	Central Tribal Belt (CTB)	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand West Bengal, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu
3.	Other States/ UTs	Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, J and K, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

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The Tribal communities live in about 15 per cent of the country's area, in varying ecological and geo-climatic conditions, plains, forests, hills and inaccessible areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. They have their presence in the States and Union Territories except Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry. The predominant tribal-populated States of the country (i.e., those with tribal population of more than 50 per cent of the total population of the State are: Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Union territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep. If a comparison is made amongst ST population alone, more than half the ST population of the country is concentrated in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat. The largest number of tribes (i.e. 62) are in the State of Orissa. The next major concentration is in the North-Eastern States.

**Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) :** While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life at one of the spectrum, there are 75 Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) in 17 States and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, who are characterized by:- (a) a pre-agriculture level of technology, (b) a stagnant or declining population, (c) extremely low literacy, and (d) a subsistence level of economy.

Their total population as per the 1991 census was about 24.12 lakh. Most of these groups are small in number, have attained various levels of social and economic progress and generally live in remote habitat, with poor administrative and infrastructure back up.

**Population Profile:** Many indicators in respect of Scheduled Tribes like their demography, sex-ratio, education, livelihood profile, health profile have been compiled periodically through the Census operations or by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) or the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

The population of Scheduled Tribes has been on the increase since 1961. The census reveals that the tribal population had grown at the rate of 24.45 per cent during the period 1991-2001. The decadal population growth between the Census Year 1981 to 1991 in respect of the tribal population had been higher (31.64 per cent) than that for the overall population (23.51 per cent). However during census years 1991 to 2001 it had been 24.45 per cent against the growth rate of 22.66 per cent for the entire population.

As compared to the sex ratio for the overall population (933 females per 1000 male), the sex ratio among Scheduled Tribes is more favourable, at 978 females per 1,000 males (2001 census).

**Literacy:** The literacy rate for overall population has increased from 52.2 per cent to 65.38 per cent between 1991 to 2001. In case of Scheduled Tribes the increase in literacy has been from 29.62 per cent to 47.10 per cent. The literacy rate among tribals (47.10 per cent) is however far below the overall literacy in the country (64.8 per cent).

The female literacy rate among tribals during the period 1991 to 2001 increased from 18.2 per cent to 34.8 per cent which is lower by approximately 20 per cent as compared to literacy rate of the females of the general population. However, the significant point is the increase in the total as well as the female literacy among tribals. These disparities are compounded by higher dropout rates in formal education, resulting in a disproportionately low representation in higher education.

**Job profile:** According to the 1991 Census figures, 42.02 per cent of the ST population were main workers, of whom 54.50 per cent were cultivators and 36.09 per cent agricultural labourers. Thus, about 82 per cent of the main workers from these communities were engaged in primary sector activities.

**Indicators of Backwardness:** Not surprisingly, the cumulative effect has been that the proportion of Scheduled Tribes below the poverty line is substantially higher than the national average. A majority of Scheduled Tribes continue to live below the poverty line, have poor literacy rates, suffer from malnutrition and diseases and are vulnerable to displacement.

The Central Government and the State Governments have been implementing schemes/programmes for the upliftment of STs like reservation in Services, Tribal Sub-Plans, Central Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, etc. However, a lot more is required to be done to achieve the desired development goals for STs.

### DEVELOPMENT OF STs

We have seen that the HDI (Human Development Indices) of tribal population is quite low as compared to the rest of the population. This is mainly because they live in clusters generally in far flung areas, which are remote or in the vicinity of forests. The development programmes meant for the general public often elude the tribal population for the reasons of inaccessibility and difficult terrain. Nevertheless the Government of India and the State Governments have taken a number of measures over the years to improve the conditions of STs and for their development. But a lot more needs to be done. This emphasis on development of STs is quite visible in the Agenda Items of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) adopted by the Central Government in May 2004.

### TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP)

Upgradation of administration through the innovative strategy of the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for STs was launched at the beginning of the 5th Five Year Plan in 1974-75, covering 21 States and 2 U.T.S., where Scheduled Tribes constitute a sizeable population. This special strategy was expected to ensure that all the general development sectors, both at the Central and State levels, earmark funds for STs in proportion to their population so that adequate benefits from all the concerned sectors flow to this disadvantaged group. Thus the TSP strategy seeks to ensure adequate flow of funds for tribal development not only under every State Plan funds, but also from all the Central Ministries/Departments. TSP is a part of the overall plan of a State/UT or a Central Ministry/Department, and is therefore called a Sub-Plan.

The TSP to promote development activities through legal and administrative support. The TSP strategy is being implemented through 195 Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs)/Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), 259 Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) and 82 Clusters. The benefits of the Tribal Sub-Plan are also extended to the scattered tribal population.

The TSP is financed by four sources namely, flow from Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Special Central Assistance, State Plan, and Institutional finance. The Central Ministries have also been requested to utilize at least 8% of their budget for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes.

#### **SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR TRIBAL SUB-PLAN**

In support of TSP, the Government of India launched the SCA scheme in 1974 to the States and the UTs, as an additive to fill up the gaps, especially in the family based income-generating programmes. As a result, there has been a substantial increase in the flow of funds during the Ninth Five Year Plan for the development of STs besides enlargement of the share of benefits for STs under all the development programmes.

The SCA to TSP is provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to 21 Tribal Sub-Plan States including North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur and Tripura. Since 2003-04 the Ministry of Home Affairs is releasing the funds under SCA to TSP meant for the UTS.

The SCA is to be utilised in conjunction with the TSP flow with a view to meeting the gaps, which are not otherwise taken care of by the State Plan. The objective and scope of SCA to TSP was originally meant for filling up of the critical gaps in the family-based income-generation activities of the TSP. From the Tenth Five Year Plan, the objective and scope of SCA to TSP has been expanded to cover the infrastructure incidental to income-generation.

The funds released under SCA to TSP to State Governments/UT Administrations are as follows.

	(Rs. in crore)
Five Year Plan	Fund released
V	119.31
VI	486.11
VII	846.95
VIII	1484.12
IX	2009.61
X	2960.83
XI (2007-08)	631.80

**Grants under the First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution :** The Constitution of India under the First Proviso Article 275(1) of the Constitution provides for assured special financial assistance for promoting the welfare of STs and for raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas to that of the rest of the State.

#### **Programme for Development of Forest Villages**

Development of forest villages is one of the thrust areas of tribal development during the 10th Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission allocated Rs. 450 crore to the

Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of forest villages at an average allocation of Rs. 15 lakh per village. There are about 2,474 such forest villages at an average allocation of Rs. 15 lakh per village. There are about 2,474 such forest villages in 12 States, which are still managed by State Forest Departments. It is estimated that there are about 2.5 lakh tribal families in these villages. A process of conversion of these forest villages into revenue earning villages is underway.

The funds released under the scheme are as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)	
Year	Fund Released
2005-06	19180.86
2006-07	22097.09
2007-08	4646.82
2008-09 (till 30.6.08)	13931.55.

Releases made in various Plans under Article 275(I)

Plan	Rs. in crore
V	60.00
VI	80.00
VII	100.00
VIII	340.00
IX	741.00
X	1662.70
XI	390.28

**Scheme for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs):** A Central Sector Scheme was introduced in 1998-99 for the all-round development of these groups under which financial assistance is made available to Integrated Tribal Development Projects, Tribal Research Institutes and Non-Governmental Organisations for undertaking projects/activities not covered by any of the existing schemes.

**Scheme of Construction of Hostels for ST Boys and Girls:** Under the scheme, Central assistance is given to States/UTs for construction of new hostel buildings and/or extension of existing hostels. In this scheme till 2007-08 the cost of the construction of the hostel building was equally shared between the Centre and the State in ratio of 50:50. In case of UTs, the Central Government bore the entire cost of the building. The cost of construction is based on the State PWD schedule of rates or local CPWD schedule of rates, which is lower. Maintenance of the hostel is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. The number of seats in a hostel was 100.

The scheme of Construction of Hostel for ST Boys and Girls is being continued in the 11th Five Year Plan period with the following modifications:

- 1) Central Assistance for Construction of ST Girls Hostels in all States/UTs/Universities will be 100% of the cost of construction.
- 2) Central Assistance for Construction of Boys' Hostel for ST Boys will be 100% in identified naxal-affected areas and will remain at 50% in all other areas.

Universities in naxal-affected areas would be entitled to receive 100% Central assistance.

- 3) Central assistance would also be given on the same pattern in respect of vocational training centres if sought by States/UTs.
- 4) The construction period for the hostels has been reduced from 5 years to 2 years.

(Rs. in crore)

Plan Period	Outlay	Actually Released	No. of Hostels Constructed	No. of Beneficiaries
During the 10th Plan both schemes were merged)	104.00	88.41	389	24379
2007-08	37.00	37.00	314	28146

**Establishment of Ashram School in Tribal Sub-Plan Area :** The scheme of Ashram School has as its objective the establishment of residential schools for STs in an environment conducive to learning to increase the literacy rates among the tribal students and to bring them at par with the other population of the country. The funding for the scheme with the State is done on matching (50-50) basis, while cent percent assistance is given to UTs.

(Rs. in crore)

Plan period	Outlay	Actually Released	No. of Ashram Schools constructed	No. of seats
X	78.30	42.97	232	17650
2007-08	147.60	20.00	97	16839

**Upgradation of Merit of ST Students :** The objective of this scheme is to upgrade the merit of ST students by providing them remedial and special coaching in classes IX to XII, to prepare the students for competitive examinations for seeking entry into professional courses like Engineering and Medical disciplines. The scheme provides for 100 per cent Central assistance to the States/UT's.

(Rs. in crore)

Plan period	Outlay	Actually Released	Physical Achievements
IX	4.20	3.60	329 students*
X	5.56	4.58	3352 students
2007-08	1.75	1.38	1031 students

\* the number of beneficiaries from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are for SCs & STs.

### Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Tribes Students

The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to students belonging to STs pursuing Post-Matriculation recognized courses in recognized institutions. The scheme covers professional, technical, non-professional and non-technical courses at various levels. It also includes correspondence courses including distance and continuing education and is implemented by the State Government and UT Administrations, covering 100% Central Assistance over and above the committed liability which is required to be borne by them from their own budgetary provisions.

Budget Allocations, actually released and beneficiaries are given below :

(Rs. in crore)

Plan period	Outlay	Actually Released	Physical Achievements
IX 221.55	260.65	2639088	
X 389.09	683.98	3744000	
2007-08	201.24	200.03	1028903

**Vocational Training in Tribal Areas :** The main aim of this scheme is to develop the skill of the tribal youth in order to gain employment/self employment opportunities. This scheme was introduced in 1992-93 as Central Sector Scheme and implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations, Institutions or Organisations set up by Government as autonomous body, educational and other institutions like local bodies and cooperative societies and Non-Governmental Organizations. The capacity of each vocational training center is 100 with hostel facility for 50. Each center caters to five vocational courses in traditional skills depending upon the employment potential of the area. Each tribal boy/girl is trained in two trades of his/her choice, the course in each trade being of three months duration. Each trainee is attached at the end of six months to a Master Craftsman in a semi-urban area for a period of six months to learn his/her skill by practical experience, the practical experience in each trade being of three months duration. There is a provision for monthly stipend and for raw material for the trainees.

Budget Allocations, actually released and beneficiaries are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Five year Plan	Outlay	Actual Released	No. of VTC
IX	30.25	17.44	203
X	33.56	24.35	290
2007-08 (other than NGO)	6.75	6.75	48
XI (2007-08) (NGO)	2.25	2.25	14

**Education of Girls in Low Literacy Pockets :** Launched in 1992-93 the scheme envisages setting up of residential educational complexes for ST girls from I to V standard with facility for upgradation in order to raise the literacy level of tribal females. This scheme is implemented through the voluntary organizations and autonomous bodies of the State Government. During 10th Pan period an amount of Rs. 33.34 crores was released benefitting more than 8000 (appr.) ST Girls each year.

An amount of Rs. 19.75 crore was released to 76 complexes during 2007-08 benefitting 10379 ST girls.

With the beginning of financial year 2009 the scheme has been revised and renamed as 'Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribes Girls in Low Literacy Districts'. The revised scheme covers 54 identified districts where the ST population is 25% or more, and ST female literacy rate below 35% as per 2001 census. The scheme also covers blocks in districts other than 54 identified districts which have ST population 25% or more, and ST female rate below 35% and PTG areas. Naxal affected areas are given priority and the Ministry provides financial assistance under the scheme for Girls Hostel where schools under "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan". Kasturba Gandhi Vidhyalayas or other schemes of Education Departments are available. Where such schools are not available, complete complex including hostel & school are considered. Besides free schooling, boarding/lodging, uniforms, books, food cast stipend and incentive to girls students are also provided. In addition, the organization running the educational complex is also required to impart Vocational/Skill development Training among ST girls.

**Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations :** The prime objective of the scheme is to enhance the reach of welfare schemes of Government and fills the gaps in service deficient tribal areas in the sectors such as education, health, drinking water, agro-horticultural productivity, social security net etc. through the efforts of voluntary organizations and to provide an environment for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). The Ministry gives Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of STs for projects like residential schools and non-residential, hostels, hospitals, mobile medical units, computer training centres, libraries and audio-visual units, agriculture training etc. The grant is generally restricted to 90 per cent of the approved total cost of the project and the balance 10 per cent is borne by the guarantee organizations. During the 10th Five Year Plan period 146.16 crores were released under the scheme. An amount of Rs. 34.00 crore was released during 2007-08. During the 11th Five Year Plan, from 2008-09, the scheme and its financial norms has been revised.

**Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) :** The objective of the scheme is to provide fellowship in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to Scheduled Tribes to pursue higher studies. The fellowship under RGNF will be on the pattern of UGC Fellowships awarded to research students pursuing regular and full time M.Phil and Ph.D. Courses.

Under the scheme, 776 students have been awarded fellowships during the 10th Plan and 667 new students are expected to benefit in the year 2007-08.

**National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes (Non-Plan):** The Scheme provides for financial assistance to meritorious students for pursuing higher studies abroad in specified fields of Master level courses, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral research programmes, in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science for Scheduled Tribes, Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic tribes. The selected candidates are provided the cost of tuition and other educational fees charged by the foreign university, etc., maintenance and other grants along with travel expenses. In addition passage grants are also available to candidates belonging to ST who are in receipt of merit scholarship for postgraduate studies, research or training abroad (excluding attending seminars, workshops, conferences) from a foreign government/

organisations or under any other scheme where cost of passage is not provided. The Scheme of NOS has been revised in 2004-05.

The scheme provides financial assistance to meritorious ST students for pursuing higher studies abroad in specified fields of Master level courses, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral research programmes, in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science.

Budget Allocations, funds actually by released and beneficiaries are given below:

Plan period	Outlay	Funds Actually Released	Physical Achievements
IX	114	50	5 students
X	418	50	5 students
2007-08	100	0.14	8 students

### Scheme of Top Class Education for ST Students

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has introduced a new scheme of Top Class Education of ST students from 2007-08 with the objective of encouraging meritorious ST students for pursuing studies at degree and post degree and post degree level in any of the selected list of institutes of excellence, in which the scholarship scheme would be operative. There are 127 top-rated institutes approved under the scheme in both the Government and private sectors covering the field of management, medicine, engineering, law and commercial courses. Each institute has been allocated five awards, with a ceiling of a total of 635 scholarships per year. The family income of the ST students from all the sources shall not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum.

The ST students will be awarded scholarship covering full tuition fee and other non-refundable dues in respect of Government/Government-funded institutions. However, there will be a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum per student for private sector institutions and Rs. 3.72 lakh per annum per student for the private sector flying clubs for Commercial Pilot Training. In addition to the above, the scholarship also provides for (i) living expenses @ Rs. 220/- per month per student subject to actual, (ii) books and stationery @ Rs. 3,000/- per annum per student and (iii) cost of a latest computer system along with its accessories limited to Rs. 45,000/- as one time assistance during the course.

**Grants-in-Aid for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations:** This is a Central Sector Scheme, with 100 per cent grant, available to the State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations, Forest Development Corporations, and Minor Forest Produce (Trading and Development) Federations for taking up the minor forest produce operations. The funds under the scheme is available to the State TDCCS/FDC's for : (i) increasing the quantum of MFP handled by setting off operational losses, if need be : (ii) strengthening the share capital base of the Corporation for undertaking MFP operations thereby increasing the quantum of MFP presently handled; (iii) setting up of scientific warehousing facilities, wherever necessary; (iv) establishing processing industries for value addition with the objective of ensuring maximum returns on the MFPs for the tribals; (v) giving consumption loans to tribals; and (vi) supplementing Research & Development (R&D) efforts.

**Exchange of visits by STs :** The Scheme "Exchange of Visits by Tribals" providing wider exposure and experience sharing to the tribals by visits to the more developed areas of the country.

## NATIONAL SCHEDULED TRIBES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

With a view to pay a focused attention and accelerate the pace of economic development of Scheduled Tribes, the erstwhile National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Financial Development Corporation was bifurcated and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) was set up in April, 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The NSTFDC has been granted license under Sec. 25 of the Companies Act (A Company not for profit). The Authorized Share Capital of the NSTFDC is Rs. 500.00 crore and paid up capital is Rs. 230.50 crore as on date.

In order to achieve the mandate set for the NSTFDC, (for undertaking self-employment ventures/activities) financial assistance is extended by NSTFDC to the Scheduled Tribes, who are having annual family income upto double the poverty line. NSTFDC also provides financial assistance as grant for skill and entrepreneurial development of the target group. The financial assistance is channelized through Government owned agencies nominated by the respective Ministries/State Governments and UT Administrations. This is aimed to raise the level of income and improve socio-economic status of the eligible Scheduled Tribes. NSTFDC also provides financial assistance for procurement and marketing/minor forest produce so as to avoid the distress sale of produce/products by the Scheduled Tribes.

**Eligibility criteria for the beneficiary :** The beneficiary (ies) should belong to ST community and annual family income of the beneficiary (ies) should not exceed double the poverty line (DPL) income limit (presently DPL is Rs. 39,500/- per annum for the rural areas and Rs. 54,500/- per annum for the urban areas).

In the case of **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**, all the members of the SHG should belong to the ST community having annual family income upto Double the Poverty line (DPL). Similarly for **Cooperative Society**, loan is extended to the eligible STs through co-operative Society having minimum 80% or more STs as member of the said cooperative society.

NSTFDC is implementing following programmes for the economic development of STs.

**Term Loan for Income generating activities :** i) NSTFDC provides term loan for viable scheme(s)/project(s) costing upto Rs. 10 lakh per individual unit/profit centre.

ii) Financial assistance upto 90% of the cost of the scheme(s)/project(s) is provided by the NSTFDC. Promoter's contribution is not insisted upon for the scheme/project costing upto Rs. 1 lakh. However, only 2-5% of the total cost of the scheme(s)/project(s) costing above Rs. 1 lakh per unit/profit centre is required as promoter's contribution depending upon the cost of unit.

iii) NSTFDC charges concessional rate of interest, which is 3% per annum for the scheme/project having NSTFDC's share upto Rs. 5 lakh per unit/profit centre and 5% for the schemes having NSTFDC's share more than Rs. 5 lakh/unit/profit centre. The SCAs are allowed to charge interest at the rate of 3% per annum over and above the interest rate charged by NSTFDC from the beneficiaries.

iv) The loan is to be repaid in quarterly/half yearly instalments, as the case may be, within a maximum period of 10 years including suitable moratorium period.

**Bridge Loan :** Bridge loan is provided by the NSTFDC against subsidy/capital incentives etc. available for the scheme(s)/project(s) through the SCAs to meet the

gap in funding requirement of scheme(s)/project(s) costing upto 10 lakh per unit/ profit centre.

**Schemes for Self Help Groups (SHGs) :** i) NSTFDC has introduced specific scheme for extending financial assistance for Self Help Groups (SHGs) and financial assistance is extended for the scheme(s)/project(s) having unit cost upto Rs. 25 lakh per SHG. ii) Financial assistance is extended upto 90% of the cost of the scheme/project subject to investment per member not exceeding Rs. 50,000/- per unit. iii) Minimum promoter's contribution under the scheme is 10% of the cost of the unit.

**Marketing Support Assistance :** i) It is provided for financial support for meeting the working capital requirement of the Central/State Government owned agencies and national level federations for undertaking procurement and/or marketing of minor forest produce/agricultural produce collected/grown by the STs and/or related product/services. ii) Marketing Support Assistance extended to the beneficiaries through the SCAs, the interest is at par with rates of interest for long term loan. iii) For Marketing Support Assistance extended to the Central/State/UT owned organizations, national level federations directly involved in procurement, the interest rate is 7% per annum.

**Assistance by way of grant :** Grant to meet up to 100% recurring cost in respect of regular training programmes conducted for imparting skill and entrepreneurial development training to the eligible STs through the Government/semi Government/autonomous Government bodies is extended by the NSTFDC to its SCAs.

#### **SPECIAL SCHEMES**

**(a) Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY)** is an exclusive scheme for the economic development of ST women, at a highly concessional rate of interest. Under the scheme, NSTFDC provides Term Loan for scheme(s)/project(s) costing upto Rs. 50,000/- per individual unit/profit centre. Financial assistance up to 90% of the cost of the scheme(s)/project(s) is provided by the NSTFDC. The SCAs may charge a maximum interest @ 4% per annum from the ultimate women beneficiaries.

**(b) Micro-credit scheme-launch of a new scheme :** Micro Credit Scheme is meant to provide financial assistance for undertaking small self-employment ventures/activities by the eligible STs through existing profit making SHGs. SCAs shall provide eligible amount of subsidy or margin money as per their scheme(s) for the target group and remaining amount may be provided as term loan by NSTFDC. In case of no subsidy and or no share of SCAs/banks as SCAs. NSTFDC may provide 100% of the funds required as term loan subject to maximum of Rs. 15,000/- per member.

**Performance of NSTFDC during 2006-07 :** Till 31.03.2008, NSTFDC has cumulatively sanctioned 937 schemes/projects under its income generating programme having its share of Rs. 466.59 crores (net) for providing self employment to the 1.73 lakhs Scheduled Tribes. The above includes sanctions of Rs. 64.17 crores for assisting about 45,000 scheduled tribe women. Besides NSTFDC has also sanctioned loans of Rs. 65.00 crore for produce and marketing of the Agriculture/Forest produce and other produce etc. for 19.11 lakh number of Scheduled Tribes.

#### **TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA LTD. (TRIFED)**

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), was set up in 1987 as a national level apex body under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (MSCS Act, 1984).

After the enactment of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 (MSCS Act, 2002) TRIFED is deemed to be registered under the latter Act and is also listed in the Second Schedule to the Act as a National Cooperative Society.

The Bye-laws of TRIFED were revised in April 2003 in tune with the new Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 read with the Multi State Co-operative Societies Rules, 2002. Under its revised mandate TRIFED has stopped bulk procurement in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) from tribals. (This procurement is now done by the State-level Tribal Cooperatives Societies/ Federations). TRIFED now functions as a 'market developer' for tribal products and as 'service provider' to its member federations. This way TRIFED is now striving to provide economic benefits to a large number of this unorganized section of the society.

TRIFED is now engaged in the marketing development of tribal products (natural and organic products, handicrafts, ratification etc.) through its own shops ('TRIBES India') and shops selling its products on consignment basis.

**Recognition of Forest Rights of STs:** The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of State forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them. The Act has been notified for operation with effect from 31.12.2007.

2. The Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, for implementing the provisions of the Act, were notified on 1.1.2008 and they envisage the constitution of various Committees under the Act, viz, the Sub Divisional Level Committee, District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee, by the State Governments.

3. All the States have been requested to nominate the nodal officer for implementing the provisions of the Act. The State Government were also requested to take necessary steps to :-

a) ensure that awareness is created about the objectives, provisions and procedures of the Act and the Rules through various measures including awareness programmes and printed material such as posters in the regional languages;

b) ensure the translation and publication of the Act and the rules in all the regional languages and arrange to distribute to all Gram Sabhas, Forest Right Committees and all departments of the Government including Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Tribal and Social Welfare and Forest Departments;

c) undertake the orientation of officials, civilian representatives and non-Government organizations in the State, who can then be called upon to assist as resource persons in the awareness programmes;

d) sensitize the Sub-Divisional and District Level Committees on the objectives, provisions and procedures of the Act and the Rules:

4. As per the Act, the responsibility for recognition and vesting of forest rights and distribution of land rights rests with the State Government, as per the Rules notified for implementation of the Act. All the State Governments have been directed that the entire process of vesting of forest rights as per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 should be completed at the earliest.

5. Web-based MIS for online monitoring of the implementation of the Act has been made operational with effect from 4th June, 2008 for testing purposes on website <http://www.tribal.gov.in>. However, final website would be <http://forestrights.gov.in> which is at present under process of getting security-audit clearance. After clearance which is shortly expected to be given, the progress may be seen as it shall be in public domain.

### **WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES**

The Other Backward Classes (OBC) constitutes estimated 52 per cent of population as per Second Report of Backward Classes popularly known as Mandal Report. After the Mandal Judgement in 1992 the OBCs started getting various benefits for their educational development, economic development and reservation in services.

#### **STATUTORY BODY**

**National Commission for Backward Classes :** In pursuance of the Supreme Court Judgement popularly known as Mandal Judgement (1992), the National Commission for Backward Classes was set up in 1993 as a permanent body for entertaining, examining and advising the Government on requests for inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion and under inclusion in the lists of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) of citizens. As per the provision of the Act, the advice tendered by the Commission shall ordinarily be binding upon the Government.

#### **EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Pre-matric Scholarships for OBCs :** The Scholarships are awarded to the students belonging to OBCs whose parents'/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs 44,500 per annum. The scholarships are given to the students in class I or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in the case of day scholars and class III or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in the case of hostellers. The scholarship will terminate at the end of class X. The duration of the scholarship in an academic year is 10 months. The scholarship is tenable in such institutions and for such pre-matriculation courses, which have been duly recognised by the concerned State Government and Union Territory Administration. Under the scheme, 50 per cent Central assistance is provided to the State Governments and 100 per cent in case of UTs over and above the committed liability. An amount of Rs. 25.27 crores was released under the scheme to 12 states during 2006-07 for covering 9,57,338 beneficiaries.

**Post-Matric Scholarships for OBCs :** The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the OBC students studying at post-matriculation or post secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. These scholarships are available for studies in India only and awarded through the State Governments/UT Administrations to which the applicant actually belongs. These scholarships are given for study in recognised institutions. Unemployed students whose parents'/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 44,500 per annum are entitled for scholarships under the scheme. Under the Scheme, 100 per cent Central assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations over and above the committed liability. An amount of Rs. 55.73 crores was released under the scheme to 16 states/UTs for covering 4,16,765 beneficiaries during the year 2006-07.

**Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls :** The scheme aims at providing better educational opportunities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes notified as such in the Central/State/UT lists of OBCs, generally referred to as Other

Backward Classes (OBCs). Under the scheme, 50 per cent Central assistance is provided to the States and 100 per cent to UTs for constructions of hostels. These hostels are constructed for middle, secondary, college and university level students. The expenditure on procurement of land, staffing and other maintenance shall be borne by the State Governments/UT concerned. During 2006-07 an amount of Rs 19.58 crore was released 11 States/UTs for construction of 82 hostels and for covering 4520 OBCs inmates.

**Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Welfare of OBCs :** The objective of the scheme is to involve the voluntary sector for improving the educational and socio-economic conditions of the OBCs through skill upgradation and enables them to start income generating activities on their own or get gainfully employed. Under the Scheme, 90 per cent of approved expenditure in form of grant-in-aid is given to NGOs for running vocational training courses such as carpentry, computer, craft, electrician, motor winding and fitting, photography, printing, composing and bookbinding, type and shorthand and welding and fitter training, etc. An amount of Rs 2.22 crore was released in 2006-07 to 85 NGOs so as to benefit 4316 OBC beneficiaries.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation :** The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides credit facilities to beneficiaries whose annual income is less than double the poverty line for various income generation activities including implementation of Mahila Samridhi Yojana. The corporation extended credit facilities to 1,32,108 beneficiaries.

#### **RESERVATION IN SERVICES**

Reservation is given to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in services under the control of Government. Reservation is also provided to persons with disabilities and the ex-servicemen in certain categories of posts. The quantum of reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs in direct recruitment on all-India basis by open competition is 15 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 27 per cent respectively. In direct recruitment on all-India basis otherwise than by open competition, reservation is 16.66 per cent for SCs, 7.5 per cent for STs and 25.84 per cent for OBCs. In case of promotion SCs and STs get reservation at the rate of 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively. There is no reservation for OBCs in case of promotion. Three per cent of vacancies are kept reserved for persons with disabilities. Ten per cent of the vacancies in the posts of the level of Assistant Commandant in all paramilitary forces, 10 per cent of the vacancies in Group-C posts and 20 per cent of the vacancies in Group-D posts are reserved for the ex-servicemen.

Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution define as to who would be the SCs and the STs with respect of any State or Union Territory. The Government has prepared a list of OBCs has been prepared by the Government. The inter-state area restrictions have been imposed so that the people belonging to the specific community residing in a specific area which has been assessed to qualify for SC, ST and OBC status only benefit from the facilities provided for them. Definition of 'ex-servicemen' for the purpose of getting reservation in services is contained in Ex-servicemen (Re-employment in Civil Services and Posts) Rules, 1979 and conditions for reservation to persons with disabilities are given under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

To ensure that reserved vacancies are filled by candidates belonging to appropriate category, certain relaxations and concessions like relaxation in upper age-limit, etc., are provided. Liaison officers have been appointed for SCs/STs and OBCs in each Ministry/Department to ensure proper implementation of reservation policy for them.

The representation of SCs/STs and OBCs in Central Government services as on 1 January 2005 is given below:

Group	Total	SCs	%	STs	%	OBCs	%
A	80,589	9,551	11.9	3,448	4.3	3,791	4.7
B	1,39,958	19,194	13.7	6,230	4.5	3,252	2.3
C	20,36,103	3,33,708	16.4	1,31,678	6.5	1,19,968	5.9
D	7,67,224	1,40,469	18.3	55,032	6.9	32,973	4.3
(Excluding Sweepers)							
Sweepers	8,1174	48,067	59.2	4,012	4.9	1,834	2.3
Total	30,23,874	5,02,922	16.63	1,94,388	6.43	1,59,984	5.29
(Excluding Sweepers)							
Total	31,05,048	5,50,989	17.74	1,98,400	6.39	1,61,818	5.21
(Including Sweepers)							

*Note* : This does not include information in respect of two Ministry.

The Scheme of reservation is being followed by public sector undertakings including nationalised public sector banks. State governments have also provided for reservation of posts for SCs, STs and OBCs, etc., and have taken steps to increase their representation in State services. Reservation in State government services, however, is under the exclusive jurisdiction of respective State Governments.

## WELFARE MEASURE FOR THE MINORITIES

Five religious communities viz Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minorities as per provision under the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act-1992. These five communities constitute about 18.47 per cent of the country's population. The Government has taken the following measures for welfare of Minorities:

### CONSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

**National Commission for Minorities** : The Minorities Commission which was set up in January 1978 by a Resolution issued by Ministry of Home Affairs became a statutory body with the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 and renamed as The National Commission for Minorities. The first statutory National Commission was set up on 17th May, 1993. The NCM Act, 1992 underwent an amendment on 8th September, 1995. The amendment was carried out in Section a2(b) and 3(2) of the Act, providing for a Vice Chairperson in the Commission. With the 1995 amendment to the Act, the Commission's composition was expanded to 7 Members (including a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson). The provision under

Section 3(2) of the Act stipulates that 5 Members including the Chairpersons shall be from amongst the minority communities. As per Gazette notification issued on 23rd October 1993 by the Ministry of Welfare.

**National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities :** The Government of India has been seized of the welfare needs of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities. For having a detailed examination to determine the criteria for identifications of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to suggest measures for their welfare, the Government has constituted a National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, with the following terms of reference: (a) to suggest criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities; (b) to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and government employment; (c) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities, as required for the implementation of their recommendations; and to present a Report of their deliberations and recommendations.

The Commission has started functioning since 21 March 2005.

#### **THE CENTRAL WAKF COUNCIL**

A Wakf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for purposes recognised by the Muslim Law as religious, pious or charitable. Apart from these religious aspects, the Wakfs are also instruments of social and economic upliftment. Administration of Central Legislation for Wakfs is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. For the purpose of advising it on matters relating to working of the Wakf Boards and the proper administration of Wakfs in the country, the Central Wakf Council was established as a statutory body by the Central Government in December, 1964 under Section 8A of the Wakf Act, 1954 (now read as Sub-Sec(1) of the Section 9 of Wakf Act, 1995). The present Council has been reconstituted on 18 March 2005. The Union Minister in charge of Wakf is the Chairperson of the Central Wakf Council. The Central Wakf Council is also playing a vital role in the development of the society by way of implementing the following schemes: (i) Development of Urban Wakf Properties; (ii) Educational Development Programmes

**Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities :** The Office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities (commonly known as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities) was created in July 1957, in pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution. The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities of India (CLM) has his Headquarters at Allahabad with Regional Offices at Kolkata, Belguam and Chennai. The CLM takes up all the matters pertaining to the grievances arising out of the non-implementation of the Constitutional and Nationally Agreed Scheme of Safeguards provided to linguistic minorities that come to its notice or are brought to its knowledge by the linguistic minority individuals, groups, associations or organisations at the highest political and administrative levels of the State Governments and UT Administrations and recommends remedial actions to be taken.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation :** National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) provides concessional finance

for self-employment activities to eligible beneficiaries belonging to minority communities having family income below double the poverty line. The authorised share capital of the corporation has been enhanced from Rs 500 crore to Rs 650 crore.

### EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Maulana Azad Education Foundation :** Maulana Azad Education Foundation is a registered society with the objectives of promoting education amongst the educationally backward sections of the society, and minorities in particular. The Government of India provides corpus fund to the Foundation. Keeping in view the overwhelming response to the educational schemes of the Foundation from all over the country, the Government is considering augmentation of its corpus fund from Rs 70.00 crores to Rs 100 crores.

Three new schemes viz., Maulana Azad Sadbhawna Kendra, Maulana Azad National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls Students and Maulana Azad Literacy Award are being implemented from the current year. During the year the Foundation has sanctioned scholarship of Rs 10,000 each to 2774 girl students from 22 States. For the first time 300 scholarship were distributed in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the scheme of Maulana Azad Sadbhawna Kendra the Foundation has sanctioned four projects in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

### WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

For the marginalised sections of the society National Policy for Persons with Disabilities has been finalised in 2005. The policy focuses on the prevention of disabilities, the physical and economic rehabilitation measures for disabled persons. The policy is to be implemented by Government and other agencies. Various steps had also been taken in the past for welfare and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 1995

A comprehensive law, namely, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been enacted and enforced in February 1996. The law deals with both prevention and promotion aspects of the rehabilitation such as education, employment and vocational training, creation of barrier-free environment, provision of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, institutional services and supportive social security measures like unemployment allowance and grievance redressal machinery both at the Central and State-Level.

**National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities:** The National Trust is a statutory body under "The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999". The main objectives of the Trust are to enable and empower persons with these disabilities to live independently as fully as possible, to extend support to registered organisations providing need-based services and to evolve procedure for appointment of legal guardians for persons with disabilities requiring such protection. During the year 384 awareness camps were held and 79,300 and professionals were given counseling.

**Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities :** The Chief Commissioner is an important statutory functionary, appointed under Section 57 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The functions and duties of the Chief Commissioner include coordinating the work of State Commissioners for persons with disabilities, monitoring of utilisation of funds disbursed by the Central Government, taking steps to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities and also to look into complaints with respect to deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities.

The Chief Commissioner can also take *suo motu* notice of non-implementation of any Rule, Law, etc, meant for persons with disabilities and is vested with the powers of a civil court relating to summoning of witness, discovery, requisitioning and production of any document, etc.

### **REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA**

The Rehabilitation Council of India is a statutory body set up under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. The Council is responsible for regulating the training policies and programmes for various categories of professionals in the area of rehabilitation and special education. Its functions include: (i) standardisation and regulation of training courses at different levels in all the training institutions throughout the country, (ii) recognition of institutions/universities running training courses in the area of rehabilitation of the disabled within and outside the country on a reciprocal basis, (iii) promotion of research in rehabilitation and special education, (iv) maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register for professionals possessing the recognised rehabilitation qualifications in the area of rehabilitation and (v) encouragement of Continuing Rehabilitation Education programmes in collaboration with organisations working in the area of disability.

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTES**

In order to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problem of the disabled population, the following National Institutes/apex level Institutes have been set-up in each major area of disability; (i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, (ii) National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped, Kolkata, (iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, (iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, (v) National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, (vi) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, (vii) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai. These institutes are mainly responsible for conducting innovative researches, organise training programmes for manpower development and deliver services in the country.

**Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India :** The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur is a public sector body, engaged in manufacturing of aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The products manufactured by the Corporation conform to ISI standards approved by the Bureau of Indian Standards. Marketing of products is done through Regional Marketing Centres at Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bhubaneswar and Delhi and also

through National Institutes, voluntary organisations, 65 the corporation has manufactured aids and appliances.

**Composite Regional Centres and Regional Rehabilitation Centre :** Five Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) for the Persons with Disabilities are located at Srinagar, Lucknow, Bhopal, Sundernagar and Guwahati. These centres conduct training programmes to prepare professionals in the field of rehabilitation as well as provide rehabilitation services to the disabled. Four Regional Rehabilitation Centres for Spinal Injuries and other Orthopaedic Disabilities at Mohali, Cuttack, Jabalpur and Bareilly are providing services for basic management and follow-up of the spinally injured so as to make the affected persons functionally independent.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation :** The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD) is an apex-level financial institution for extending credit facilities to persons with disabilities for their economic development. Funds assistance is disbursed through the channelising agencies authorized by the State Governments/UT Administrations and Non-Government Organisations. It also extends loans for pursuing education at graduate and higher levels. Besides, it assists in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills to enable beneficiaries to manage their production units efficiently.

**Scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of AIDs and Appliances :** The objective of the Scheme is to assist needy and disabled persons in procuring-durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the impact of disability and enhancing their economic potential. The scheme is implemented through agencies like voluntary organisations, National Institutes under the Ministry, ALIMCO, Zila Panchayats, DRDAs, etc. The implementing agencies are provided grant-in-aid for purchase, fabrication and distribution of aids and appliances. The scheme also includes under its ambit medical/surgical correction and intervention that may be essential prior to fitting of aids and appliances.

### **SOCIAL DEFENCE**

In the areas of Social Defence the Ministry is committed towards welfare of Older Persons and rehabilitation of Drug Addicts. The programmes for the targeted groups are as follows :

**National Policy for Older Persons :** The National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in January 1999, with the primary objective viz., to encourage individuals to make provision for their own as well as their spouse's old age; to encourage families to take care of their older family members; to enable and support voluntary and non-governmental organisations to supplement the care provided by the family; to provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people, to provide health care facility to the elderly; to promote research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and organisers of services for the elderly; and to create awareness regarding elderly persons to develop themselves into fully independent citizens.

**National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) :** The Government has re-constituted a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) to advise and aid the Government on developing policies and programmes for older persons. It provides feedback to the Government on the implementation of the National Policy on Older Persons and the specific initiatives for older persons. The NCOP is the highest body to advise and coordinate with the Government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the welfare of the aged.

**Integrated Programme for Older Persons :** Under this scheme, financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centers, Mobile Medicare Units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons.

**Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts/Alcoholics :** Under the Scheme, grant-in-aid to the extent of 90 per cent (95 per cent in North East States, J and K and Sikkim) of the expenditure is provided to voluntary organisations for rehabilitation of drug addicts and alcoholics.

**Assistance to Voluntary Organisation for Social Defence Services :** It provides for undertaking programmes for the rehabilitation of various social segments at risk not currently covered under the existing schemes of the Ministry. In particular the scheme provides for Pilot Projects in unchartered areas in which the Ministry may like to formulate independent programmes in due course. A number of programmes are being supported for rehabilitation of children of sex workers. Initiatives have also been taken to support projects for rehabilitation of widows and for providing counselling and support to traumatised children and women particularly those who have been victims of physical violence and sexual abuse.

## WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

### INTRODUCTION

Women and Children (0-14 years) constitute roughly 67% of the Indian population as per 2001 census. While women (including female child 0-14 years) constitute 48% of total population, the children (male and female 0-14 years) constitute 35% of total population. The development of women and children is of paramount importance and sets the pace for overall development. Earlier there was a separate Department of Women and Child Development functioning as a part of Ministry of Human Resources Development since 1985 to look into matters related to Women and Children. Keeping in view its importance, a separate Ministry of Women and Child Development came into existence from 30th January 2006. Vide Government notification dated 16.2.2006, all subjects relating to Child Welfare/Protection like the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000, Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) and adoption which were earlier under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been transferred to the newly created Ministry of Women and Child Development.

### VISION

The **Vision** of Ministry of Women & Child Development is "Ensuring overall survival, development and protection of women and children of the country to enable them to lead productive and wholesome lives as citizens." The Ministry has evolved policies,

plans of action, legislations, programmes and schemes for advancement of women and children and has been implementing these with the support of State Governments, other Government agencies and voluntary sector.

### **STATUTORY BODIES AND AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATIONS**

The Ministry has under its aegis two statutory bodies and four autonomous organizations, viz., **(a) Statutory Bodies** : National Commission for Women, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; **(b) Autonomous Organisations** : National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) and Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA). While NIPCCD, RMK and CARA are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960, the CSWB is a charitable company registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. The National Commission for Women has been constituted as a national apex statutory body in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been set up in 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act (number 4 of 2006) and its amendment notified on 20th Jan., 2006 and 29th December, 2006 to look into all matters relating to children in a holistic manner.

### **FOOD AND NUTRITION BOARD**

The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB), a ministerial wing of the Ministry of Food, was transferred to the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 1 April, 1993 in pursuance of the National Nutrition Policy, as per the directives of the Prime Minister. A National Nutrition Mission has been set up and notified on 31 July, 2003 to address the problem of nutrition in a comprehensive manner.

Nutrition education and awareness generation are the important activities of Food and Nutrition Board. It undertakes nutrition advocacy, orientation training of field personnel and awareness generation of the public on various aspects of nutrition. National guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding 2008 have been developed and disseminated widely to improve nutrition of infants and young children. A comprehensive approach for addressing micronutrient malnutrition which involves dietary diversification, nutrient supplementation, food fortification and public health measures has been recommended by a Committee of Secretaries for the XI Five Year Plan. Awareness generation on nutrition through nutrition demonstration programmes, exhibitions, audio-video software, radio sponsored programme, video films on nutrition and informative advertisements in national and regional dailies is undertaken by FNB and its field infrastructure.

### **ACTS RELATING TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

The Ministry is in charge of the administration of the following Acts relating to women and children: (a) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (as amended in 1986) (b) The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986 (60 of 1986) (c) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 as amended in 1986 (d) the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (3 of 1988) (e) The prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 (notified in January 2007) (f) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, (g) National Commission for Women Act 1990 (h) Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding

Bottles and Infant Food (regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992) (i) Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005 and (j) Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000.

In addition, the Ministry is responsible for International Cooperation in matters relating to Women and Children.

### **SCHEMES FOR WOMEN**

The Ministry is implementing the following schemes for women :

#### **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES**

**STEP** : Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) was launched as a Central Sector Scheme in 1987. It has made a significant impact on women in traditional sectors by upgrading skills and providing employment on project basis by mobilizing them into viable groups, arranging for marketing linkages, support services and access to credit. The Scheme covers traditional sectors of employment such as agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries, handlooms, handicrafts, Khadi and Village Industries and Sericulture. The scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Organisations, State Corporations, DRDAs, Cooperatives, Federations and registered Voluntary Organisations which have been in existence for a minimum period of three years.

**Swayamsidha** : Swayamsidha is an integrated scheme for the development and empowerment of women. The long-term objective of the scheme is to achieve all-round empowerment of women, especially, socially and economically, by ensuring their direct access to, and control over, resources through a sustained process of mobilization and convergence of all the on-going sectoral programmes. The immediate objectives are establishment of Self Help Groups, creation of confidence and awareness among members of Self Help Groups regarding the status, health, nutrition and education of women, sanitation and hygiene, legal rights etc. strengthening the savings habit of rural women and their control over economic resources, improving access to micro-credit, involving women in local planning and convergence of services of Ministry of WCD and other departments.

During the 10th Five Year Plan period i.e., 2003-03 to 2006-07, 2, 31, 133 poor women have benefited from the flowing from the Scheme. For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 8587.86 lakhs have been released to varaiious implementing agencies across the country.

The scheme was launched in 2001-01 covering 650 blocks in the country including 238 IMY blocks in 335 districts. Each block consists of 100 Self Help Groups in 31 States/UTs. The programme is being implemented and SHGs are formed by the ICDS machinery in most of the States. A few States such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamilnadu, Bihar etc. take help from NGOs for the purpose. Over 69,156 women's Self Help Groups have been formed under the scheme covering 10.02 lakh women members. An amount of Rs. 149.87 crores have been saved by SHGs formed under the scheme. 64, 935 SHGs have accounts in banks. 35,034 SHGs have availed loans from banks to the tune of Rs. 156.28 crores. 52,042 SHGs (80%) constituting over 6.17 lakh women are engaged in Income Generation Activities (IGA). 42,395 SHGs (65%) are

benefiting from convergence with other Government schemes. The SHGs have created over 4339 community assets. The Scheme has come to an end on 31.3.2008.

### **SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES**

**Swadhar :** The Swadhar Scheme was launched by the Department during the year 2001-2002 as a Central Sector Scheme for providing holistic and integrated services to women in difficult circumstances, such as destitute widows deserted by their families in religious places like Vrindaban and Kashi, women prisoners released from jail and without family support; women survivors of natural disasters who have been rendered homeless and are without any social and economic support, trafficked women/girls, rescued or runaway from brothels or other places or victims of sexual crimes, who are disowned by family or who do not want to go back to their family for various reasons, women victims of terrorist violence who are without any family support, mentally challenged women who are without any support of family or relatives etc.

The package of services made available under the Scheme include provision for food, clothing, shelter, health care counseling and legal support, social and economic rehabilitation through education, awareness generation, skill upgradation and behavioral training. The scheme also supports a Help-line for women in distress.

The project is implemented through Social Welfare/Women and Child Development Department, Women's Development Corporation, Urban Local Bodies, reputed Public/Private Trust or Voluntary organisations etc. provided they have the needed experience and expertise in the rehabilitation of such women.

An amount of Rs. 13.02 crore was released under Swadhar Scheme during the year a2007-08 (by 31st March, 2008) to benefit 13,588 women.

**Short Stay Homes :** The Scheme of Short Stay Homes was launched in the year 1969 with the objective to protect and rehabilitate those women and girls who are facing social, economic and emotional problems due to family stress, social ostracism, moral danger, etc. The programme was transferred to CSWB for implementation w.e.f April 1999. Temporary shelter to the needy women and girls is given for 6 months to 3 years. Children accompanying the mother or born in the home may be permitted to stay in the home upto age of 7 years, after which they may be transferred to children institutions or provided foster care services.

**Family Counselling Centres :** The objective of Family Counselling Centres is to provide preventive and rehabilitative services to women and children who are victims of atrocities and family mal-adjustments. The Family Counselling Centre (FCC) scheme is being implemented through Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) since 1984 through voluntary organizations. Family Counselling Centres are also being run for special categories of clients such as at police headquarters, FCCs in Mahila Jails, Rape Crisis Intervention Centres and Pre-Marital Counselling Centres. Women's organizations and other voluntary social welfare organizations engaged in work relating to women issues can avail grants from CSWB for setting up Family Counseling Centres. The guarantee Institutions are also expected to make 20% contribution to the budget sanctions.

**Condensed Courses of Education of Women :** The scheme of Condensed Courses of Education is implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board and aims at facilitating social and economic empowerment of women and providing them with education and relevant skills. The scheme is specially designed to help dropouts and failed candidates to complete their school education. Women of the age of 15 years and above are the targeted beneficiaries under the scheme. Registered Social Welfare Organisations having experience in educational programmes and recognized educational institutions can apply for assistance. The scheme can also be run in aftercare homes and custodial institutions for women.

**Awareness Generation Programme for Rural and Poor Women :** The Central Social Welfare Board is implementing this programme with the aim of creating awareness in the community on issues relating to status, rights and problems of women. Registered voluntary organizations are eligible to apply under the scheme.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN**

**Working Women's Hostel :** The scheme of assistance for construction or expansion of hostel buildings for working women with day care facilities for children is being implemented since 1972-1973. Under this scheme, assistance is provided to non-governmental organizations, cooperative bodies and other agencies engaged in the field of women's welfare, women's education, public sector undertakings, women's development corporations, local bodies, universities, state governments, etc, for construction of buildings for Working Women's Hostels. This scheme envisages provision of safe and affordable accommodation to working women (single working women, women working at places away from their home-towns, working but husband out of town, widows, divorcees, separated women, etc.) and women being trained for employment and girl students studying in post-school professional courses. Trainees are permitted to stay for a period upto one year and girl students for a period upto five years, but with the condition that first preference would be given to working women. It is also stipulated in the scheme guidelines that the category of women who are being trained for employment and girl students should not exceed 30 per cent of the total number of Women in hostel.

### **OTHER INITIATIVES**

**Prevention of trafficking in women and children :** The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children in 1998, with the objective to mainstream and reintegrate the women and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in society. The Ministry has issued guidelines to the States for the implementation of National Plan of Action. Under the National Plan of Action, Central and State Advisory Committees have been formed. The Ministry of WCD is organizing regional and nation wide consultations with the view to update the existing plan of action and make it more comprehensive to cover "Trafficking in persons" for any purpose. Training and capacity building efforts are being undertaken and also wide dissemination of women helping numbers. A dedicated nodal cell in the Ministry of Home Affairs has been set up for prevention of trafficking.

To formulate a more holistic policy and program for trafficking in persons which will incorporate all forms of trafficking (such as sexual exploitation, child labour, bonded labour, organ trade etc.) and enable an integrated approach to tackle the problem, the MWCD in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labour, NHRC and NCW is developing an "Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with special focus on children and women". Three regional and a National Consultation was organized to get suggestions and feedback from various stakeholders such as the State Government representatives, prominent NGOs and expert in the field. The draft is being finalised.

In order to stop the cross-border trafficking, the First Meeting of the Regional Task Force to implement SAARC Conventions relating to Trafficking in Women and Children and Promotion of Child Welfare was held on 26.7.2007 in New Delhi. In the Meeting it was decided :

- a) To exchange information on best practices adopted by the respective states;
- b) To develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to implement various provisions of the Convention ; and
- c) To conduct relevant training programmes aimed at capacity building.

Ministry of Women and Child Development compiled Best Practices from State Governments and NGOs relating to prevention, enforcement, rescue, partnerships, rehabilitation, re-integration, community mobilization, convergence, livelihood and skill building of victims, etc. and sent it to SAARC Secretariat for uploading. The draft SOP have been developed by MHA and has ben circulated to all SAARC Countries for their feedback.

NIPCCD was identified as the training institute for organizing and conducting training programmes for capacity building. **The First training programme** was held from 21st-31st January, 2008 by NIPCCD. **The Second training programme** was held from 21st-31st May, 2008 by NIPCCD. 15 Participants from member states-Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the programme.

**Ujjawala** : A new scheme called "Ujjawala"- ' A comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking' with five specific components - Prevention, Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Repatriation of victims of Trafficking' was launched on 4th December, 2007. An allocation of Rs. 10.00 crore has been made for 2008-09 under the scheme.

**The scheme comprises of five components :-**

1. **Prevention**, which consists of forming of community vigilance group/ adolescents groups, awareness and sensitization of important functionaries like police, community leaders and preparation of IEC material, holding workshop etc.
2. **Rescue**, safe withdrawal of the victim from the place of exploitation.
3. **Rehabilitation**, which includes providing safe shelter for victims with basic inputs of food, clothing, counseling medical care, legal aid, vocational training and income generation activities etc.

4. **Reintegration**, which includes restoring the victim into the family/ community (if she so desires) and the accompanying costs.

5. **Repatriation**, to provide support to cross-border victims for their safe repatriation to their country of origin.

**Gender Budgeting Initiatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development :** Gender Budgeting is the application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It encompasses incorporating a gender perspective at all levels and stages of the budgetary process, and paves the way to translating gender commitments to budgetary commitments and carrying out an assessment of the budget to establish its gender differential impact.

The Ministry adopted the mission statement of '**Budgeting for Gender Equity**' in 2004-05 and also framed the Strategic Framework of Activities to implement this mission. 2005 onwards extensive work on training, capacity building, advocacy, awareness generation and sensitization was undertaken by the Ministry. The Ministry of Women and Child Development being the nodal Ministry for Gender Budgeting is proposing to set up a full fledged Gender Budgeting Bureau with appropriate staff and infrastructural facilities. The Ministry is also planning to set up Regional Resource and Training Centres for Gender Budgeting as well as Preparation of Training Manuals. 56 Ministries and Departments, Government of India have so far set up Gender Budgeting Cells.

In view of the substantial increase in workload envisaged by the setting up GBC's in all Ministries/Departments, as well as the need to take Gender Budgeting to the States and the corporate sector, there is an urgent need to set a Gender Budgeting Bureau in the MWCD with dedicated staff and also provide a fund component to carry out the various activities pertaining to Gender Budgeting. A Scheme for Gender Budgeting has been included in 11th Plan with an Outlay of Rs. 3 crore in the Annual Plan 2008-09. The SFC held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MWCD approved the Scheme on 4th January, 2008.

**Grant-in-aid for Research, Publication and Monitoring :** The Ministry promotes research studies for development of innovative programmes, for testing the feasibility and efficiency of programmes and services and on emerging issues in the field of women and child development. It also supports workshops and seminars, which help in formulating research proposals, disseminating research findings or in social situational analysis which are likely to be helpful in planning, programming and review of implementation.

**National Policy on Empowerment of Women :** The objective of the National policy for Empowerment adopted by the Government on 20 March 2001 is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to ensure their active participation in all spheres of life and activities. A National Plan of Action proposes to translate this policy into achievable goals.

**Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 (number 43 of 2005):** A new law on the protection of women from domestic violence has been enacted and brought into operation from 26.10.2006.

**Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) :** India signed the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 30th July 1980 and ratified it on 9th July 1993 with one reservation and two declaratory statements. The convention obligates the State parties to undertake appropriate legislative and other measures to eliminate discrimination against women and for guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom on the basis of equality with men. The First Report was submitted (on 21st October) in 1997 and was considered (on 24th and 30th) in June 2000. A combined 2nd and 3rd Periodic Report was submitted in June 2005. The UN Committee on CEDAW considered the Report on 18th January 2007.

**Beijing Platform for Action :** The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995 was a landmark event that set the pace for women's empowerment when a Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) were adopted. BPFA has identified 12 critical areas of concern for women. India adopted both without any reservations. The Committee on Status of Women reviews progress made by member countries in the critical areas. The 52nd session of Committee on Status of Women was held from 25th February-7th March 2008 in New York.

**Stree Shakti Puraskar :** As a measure of recognition of achievements of individual women in the field of social development, the Government of India has instituted five national awards, known as 'Stree Shakti Puraskar'. These awards will be in the name of the following eminent women personalities from Indian history, who are famous for their personal courage and integrity :

- Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar
- Kannagi
- Mata Jijabai
- Rani Gaidenlou Zeliang
- Rani Lakshmi Bai

From the year 2007, another sub category of Stree Shakti Puraskar, named at the Rani Rrdramma Devi has been added, which will be awarded to individual men and women for their outstanding administrative skill, leadership quality and courage. Each award carries a cash prize of Rs. 3 lakh and a citation.

## PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN

**Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme :** The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was launched in 1975 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the following objectives : (a) to improve the nutritional and health status of children below the age of six years and pregnant and lactating mothers; (b) to lay the foundation for the proper psychological, physical and social development of the child, (c) to reduce the incidents of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school drop-outs. (d) to achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation among various departments to promote child development, (e) to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the health and nutritional needs of the child through proper health and nutrition education. The Scheme provides for a package of services to

children below 6 years and pregnant women and lactating mothers, comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Immunization, (iii) Health check-up, (iv) Nutrition and Health education.

The Scheme envisage one rural/tribal project for a Community Development Block irrespective of number of villages/population in it, and one urban project for one lakh population. There is one Anganwadi Centre (AWC) for 400-800 population, 2 AWCs for 800-1600 population, 3 AWCs for 1600-2400 population, thereafter 1 AWC in multiples of 800 population and 1 Mini-AWC for 150-400 population in rural/urban project. In respect of tribal/Riverine/Desert, Hilly and other difficult areas/projects there will be 1 AWC for 300-800 population, and 1 Mini-AWC for 150-300 population.

The Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing the **Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)** on a pilot project basis in 51 identified districts across the country since 2005-06. Undernourished Adolescent Girls with body weight less than 30 kg in the age group of 11-15 years and less than 35 kg in the age group of 15-19 years are covered under the scheme. Free foodgrains @ 6 kg. per beneficiary per month, are provided to these undernourished adolescent girls. The programme has been operationalised through the administrative set up of ICDS at the state, district, block and Anganwadi Centre level. Allocation of funds for NPAG is made as Special Central Assistance (SCA), on 100% grant basis, to States/UTs. Foodgrains at Central Issue Price (CIP) applicable to the BPL rates are provided by Department of Food & Public Distribution to the States/UTs for the programme. Earlier, the Planning Commission implemented the pilot project during 2002-03 & 2003-04.

Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing **Kishori Shakti Yojana** for addressing the needs of self development, nutrition and health status, literacy and numerical skills, vocational skills etc. of adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years. The scheme is being implemented through the infrastructure of ICDS in 6118 ICDS projects. Under KSY, various programme options are available to the States/UTs to see-actively intervene for the development of the adolescent girls on the basis of specific needs of the area. This scheme also seeks convergence with schemes of the Health Department in order to improve the nutritional and health status of the adolescent girls. Grant-in-aid @ of Rs. 1.10 lakh only per block per annum is released to the States/UTs for the implementation of KSY.

**Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers:** Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers was launched with effect from 1st January, 2006 by merging the National Creche Fund with the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Creches for Working/Ailing Women's Children. The scheme is being implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board and two national level voluntary organisations, namely Indian Council for Child Welfare and Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh. Creche facilities are given to the children (age group 0-6 years) whose parents annual income does not exceed Rs. 12,000/-. 25 children are kept in one creche centre, 31737 creches have been sanctioned upto 31.3.2008 benefitting 793425 children.

**Grant for running creche centres : Recurring and Non-recurring grants as per the following pattern :**

**Recurring Grant**

Component	Ceiling expenditure	Grant
Honorarium to two creches workers per creches @ Rs. 1000.00 per creche worker per month	Rs. 2000.00/- per month	Rs. 2,000.00 (100%)
Supplementary nutrition per creche for 25 children for 26 days @ Rs. 2.08 per child	Rs. 1352.00/- per month	Rs. 1217.00/- (90%)
Emergency medicines and contingencies	Rs. 350.00/- per month	Rs. 315.00/- (90%)

**Non-Recurring Grant**

Component	Ceiling expenditure	Grant
Purchase of consumable stores once at the time of opening of new creches @ 1000.00/- per creche	Rs. 1000.00/- per creche	Rs. 10,000.00 (100%)
Replacement of old consumable stores at an interval of five years @ Rs.5,000.00/- per creche	Rs. 5,000.00/- per creche	Rs. 5,000.00/- (100%)

**Grant for creche workers' training :** Rs. 61,900.00 per batch consisting of 30 creche workers.

A Short term training will be provided to every creche worker. The training module, which will be made available with the help of NIPCCD, will be provided through the training agencies that will be identified with the help of State Governments.

**Grant for monitoring of creches :** Rs. 700.00 per creche visited and inspected and a lump sum one-time grant of Rs. 10000.00 to each monitoring agency. The scheme has in-built component of monitoring of creches. State-wise independent monitoring agencies have been identified in consultation with the State Governments.

**An Integrated Programme for Street Children :** The objective of this Programme is to prevent destitution of children and facilitate their withdrawal from life on the streets. The programme provides for basic facilities like shelter, nutrition, health care, education, and recreation facilities to street children and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation. The target group of this programme is children without homes and family support who are driven to the streets and are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. State governments, Union Territory Administrations, Local Bodies, Educational Institutions and voluntary Organisations are eligible for financial assistance under this programme. Upto 90% of the cost of the project may be provided by the Government of India while remaining has to be borne by the Organisation/ Institution concerned.

The main programme components are city level surveys, documentation of

existing facilities and preparation of city level plan of action, contact programmes, offering counseling, guidance and referral services, establishment of 24 hours drop-in shelters; Non-formal education programmes, programmes aimed at health care and reducing the incidence of drug and substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, programmes for capacity building and for advocacy and awareness.

**Childline Services :** Childline having a dedicated number 1098 is a 24 hour toll free telephone service available to all children in distress or by adults on behalf of children in distress. At present, Childline is working in 73 cities. The basic objectives of Childline are to (i) respond to the emergency needs of the children in difficulty and refer him/her to such services as he/she is in need of; (ii) provide a forum for networking among Government agencies and non-Governmental agencies dedicated to the network of services in child care and protection, (iii) sensitize hospitals, medical personnel, police, municipal corporations etc. towards needs of children, ensure protection of rights of the child, provide an opportunity to communities to respond to the needs of children in difficult circumstances.

**Childline India Foundation :** Childline operations are coordinated, monitored and expanded by Childline India Foundation, which is the umbrella organisation, set up by the Government of India. Childline India Foundation lays down minimum quality standards of the services provided to children.

**Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 :** The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Children) Act, 2000 has been enforced in the entire country except the State of Jammu and Kashmir w.e.f. 1st April, 2001. The Act lays down the setting up of Juvenile Justice Boards consisting of a Metropolitan Magistrate/judicial magistrate and two social workers one of which shall be a female social worker, in every district. The State governments are also required to set up for every district one or more child welfare Committees for discharging all functions regarding children in need of care and protection as laid down in the Act.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 has been amended replacing some of the existing provisions and new provisions have been added in the legislation to make it more child friendly and the Juvenile Justice (Care of Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 notified in the Gazette of India on 23rd August, 2006.

**A programme for Juvenile Justice :** The objectives of programme for Juvenile Justice are (i) to extend help to State Governments to bear the cost of infrastructure and services development under the Juvenile Justice Act; (ii) to ensure minimum quality standards in the juvenile justice services, (iii) to provide adequate services for prevention of social maladjustment and rehabilitation of socially maladjusted juveniles. Under the scheme, the Ministry provides 50 per cent assistance to State Governments and UT administrations for establishment and maintenance of various levels of institutions for juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.

**Integrated Child Protection Scheme :** The Ministry has also initiated steps to formulate a comprehensive scheme, 'An integrated Child Protection Scheme' on the

basis of wide spread consultations with the voluntary organizations, child welfare experts and State Governments. This scheme includes setting up of child protection units in each State and District with financial assistance from the Government of India for ensuring the implementation of the Act and coordination of other child protection related activities in these States/District. The scheme includes components for providing institutional as well as non-institutional support for children in difficult circumstances.

**Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection :** The scheme implementation commenced in January, 2005. The objective of the scheme is to provide non-formal education, vocational training to working children to facilitate their entry/re-entry into mainstream education in cases where they have either not attended any learning system or where for some reason their education has been discontinued with a view to prevent their continued exploitation in future.

**Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to promote in-country adoption :** The Ministry is implementing a scheme wherein CARA provides grant-in-aid to government Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations for increasing and promoting adoptions within the country. The upper ceiling for annual grant-in-aid is Rs. 6.00 lakhs for adoption homes.

As a step towards promoting and strengthening in country adoption, CARA has initiated the process of setting up Voluntary Coordinating Agencies (VCAs). The VCAs are responsible for coordination of all matters relating to adoption in a State as also to promote in-country adoption. They also maintain list of prospective adoptive parents.

**Prevention of female foeticide and child marriages :** Crime and violence against the girl child starts even before she takes birth. This is evident from the incidence of female foeticide which has been increasing over the years denying the girl child the right to be born. The Ministry has suggested to Ministry of Health to strengthen the existing administrative, enforcement and monitoring provisions under the Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and put in place such mechanisms that can tackle the problem of sex determination and foeticide in a more effective manner.

In order to prevent child marriages, the existing Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was repealed and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 was notified on 11th January 2007. This Act has provisions for enhancing punishment for offenders, and also for appointment of Prohibition Officers in the States to prevent child marriages.

**Dhanlakshmi- Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child with Insurance Cover :** A new Pilot Scheme "Dhanlakshmi - Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child with Insurance Cover (CCT)" was launched on 3rd March, 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The Scheme provides cash transfer to the family of the girl child (preferable the mother) on fulfilling certain specific conditionalities, for the girl child:-

- At birth and registration of birth
- On progress of immunization (6 monthly transfer)
- On completion of full immunization
- On enrollment and retention in school (MWCD will provide case transfer till Class 8 and MHRD will provide case incentives from Classes 9 to 12)
- Remains unmarried at the age of 18 years
- In addition, an insurance coverage to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh would be taken for the girl child born on and after the cut-off date suggested in the Scheme.

**The objective of the scheme is two fold -**

- The direct and tangible objective is to provide a set of staggered financial incentives for families to encourage them to retain the girl child and educate her.
- The more subtle and intangible objective is to change the attitudinal mindset of the family towards the girl. This will force the families to look upon the girl as an asset rather than a liability since her very existence has led to cash inflow to the family.

The Scheme will be piloted in 11 Districts across seven States.

The EFC approved the Scheme on 13th November, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MWCD. The annual outlay of Rs. 10.00 crore has been made for 2008-09.

In order to prevent child marriages, the existing Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was repealed and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was notified on 11th January, 2007. Under Section 19 (1) of the Act. The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act and Section 19(2) stated that every rule made under this Act shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before the State Legislature. The same has also been supported by the Supreme Court of India vide their Order dated 24th August, 2007 in WP(Civil) 212/203 that the prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 be brought into force as expeditiously as possible and preferably within a period of four weeks from date. It is expected that the States within six weeks, thereafter, shall frame appropriate Rules. This Act has provisions for enhancing punishment for offenders, and for appointment of Prohibition Officers in the States to prevent child marriages.

**Cooperation with Unicef :** UNICEF projects are being implemented in India through an agreement between Ministry of Women and Child Development on behalf of Government of India and UNICEF, which is prepared after mutual consultation and consensus. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for coordinating the implementation of the Agreement. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts periodic review meeting to coordinate and monitor the implementation and expenditure of the programme.

The new Agreement, titled "Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP)" for the period 2008-12 was signed between Ministry of Women and Child Development and UNICEF on 3rd June, 2008 in New Delhi. The CPAP will be implemented through sectoral Ministries and Departments and aims at focusing on reduction in India's Infant Mortality and Maternal Mortality Rates, fighting under-nutrition, promoting girl child, addressing violence against children, providing quality education, ensuring safe drinking water and environment sanitation and tackling HIV.

UNICEF has committed to support the Government of India's flagship programmes in the social sector in order to support and strengthen their essential work and raise US \$ 512 million for the five year programme of cooperation in India. The GOI-INCEP Country Programme Action Plan 2008-2012 is guided by UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other national and international instruments.

India through a Master Plan of Operations (MPO), which is prepared after mutual consultation. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for coordinating the implementation of the Master Plan of Operations. The Master Plan of Operations for 2003-07 is currently in operation.

The MPO aims to achieve the following objectives : (a) to empower families and communities with appropriate knowledge and skills for care and protection of children; (b) to expand partnerships as a way to leverage resources for children and scale up interventions; (c) to strengthen the evaluation and knowledge base of best practices on children. The programme contributes towards (a) reduction in infant and maternal mortality, (b) improvement in level of child nutrition, (c) ensuring universal elementary education, (d) enhancing child protection, (e) protection of children and adolescents from HIV/AIDS.

**Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for providing Social Defence Services:** Under the scheme, assistance is given to Voluntary organizations working in the field of child and women welfare for innovative projects and activities which are not covered in the existing schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**Children's Day :** India observes Children's Day on 14 November every year. The Day enables us to review the progress made in attaining the decadal goals, identify gaps and constraints and work out strategies to reach the time-bound goals.

**Convention on the Rights of the Child :** India acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 11 December, 1992 to reiterate its commitment to the cause of children. The objective of the Convention is to give every child the right to survival and development in a healthy and congenial environment. The member countries that have acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child are required to submit a periodical report about the status of the implementation of the Convention in their country. Accordingly, the first India Country Report was submitted to UN in 1997. The Second Country Report was submitted on the rights of the child in 2001, which was discussed in an oral hearing in Geneva on 21 January, 2004. The UN Committee appreciated the Report and gave its comments and observations. The next Country Report is due in 2008 and the Ministry is working on it.

A National Coordinating Group has been constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the rights of the Child (CRC) and oversee all activities directly connected to the implementation of CRC. India has signed the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely, (1) on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, and (2) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in September, 2004.

**National Plan of Action for Children :** The National Policy for Children adopted on 22nd August 1974 lays down that the State shall provide adequate services towards children both before and after birth and during the growing stages for their full physical, mental and social development.

The National Charter for Children is a policy document adopted by the government highlighting the roles and responsibilities of the Government and the community towards the children and the duties of children towards their families, society and the country. It has been notified in the Official Gazette of India on 9 February, 2004. India was an active party in the recent movements at International Platforms like World Summit for Children 1990, UN Convention on the rights of the Child 1992, UN special session on Children May 2002. As a further step, the Ministry has prepared a National Plan of Action for Children 2005 after harmonizing the goals for children set in the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children held in 2002 and the monitorable targets set in the Tenth Five Year Plan, and goals for children in related Ministries/Departments. The Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments, States/Union Territory Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations and experts. The National Plan of Action includes goals, objectives and strategies for the current decade for improving nutritional status of children, reducing IMR and MMR, increasing enrolment ratio and reducing drop out rates, universalisation of primary education, increasing coverage for immunization, etc.

**National Child Award for exceptional Achievement :** The National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement was instituted in 1996 to give recognition to children of 4 to 15 years age group with exceptional abilities who have achieved outstanding status in various fields including academics, arts, culture and sports, etc. One Gold Medal and 35 Silver Medals (one for each State/UT) are given annually. The awards for the year 2005 were given on 14th November, 2006.

**National Award for Child Welfare :** The Award was instituted in 1979 to honour five institutions and three individuals for their outstanding performance in the field of child welfare. The National Award for Child Welfare includes a cash prize of Rs. 3 lakh and a certificate for each institution and Rs. 1 lakh and a certificate for each individual. The awards for the year 2005 were given on 15th November, 2006.

**Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award :** This Award was instituted in 1994 to honour an individual who makes outstanding contribution towards service for children. The Awards carry a cash prize of Rs. 1.00 lakhs, a silver plaque and a citation. The number of Awards were increased to three from the year 2006. The Awards are declared on the occasion of birth anniversary of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi on 20th August every year.

## STATUTORY AND AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATIONS

**National Commission for Women :** It is a statutory body constituted on 31.1.1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The main task of the Commission is to study and monitor all matters relating to the Constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women and to review the existing legislations and suggest amendments, wherever necessary. NCW is also mandated to look into the complaints and take *suo moto* notice of the cases involving deprivation of the rights of women in order to provide support, legal or otherwise, to helpless and needy women. Ensuring custodial justice is another important function. The MCW is empowered to monitor the proper implementation of all the legislations made to protect the rights of women so as to enable them to achieve equality in all spheres of life and equal participation in the development of the nation.

**National Commission for Protection of Child rights :** The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act (Number 4 of 2006) and its Amendment notified in the official Gazettee of India on 20th Jan., 2006 and 29th Dec., 2006 provides for constitution of a National Commission for Protection of Child Rights as per Section 3. The Commission has started functioning from 5th March 2007. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has started functioning from 5th March 2007. The National Commission for Protection of Child rights is a statutory body. The objective of the Commission is proper enforcement of children's rights and effective implementation of laws and programmes relating to children. The Commission is to look into all matters relating to children in a holistic manner. The Commission will have a Chairperson and six other Members, including two women members, and a Member Secretary. The members would be experts in the field of child health, education, child care and development, juvenile justice, children with disabilities, elimination of child labour, child psychology or sociology and laws relating to children.

**Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) :** The objective of the institution set-up on 30 March, 1993 under Societies Registration Act, 1860 is to facilitate credit support to poor women for their socio-economic upliftment. The support is extended through NGOs, Women Development Corporations, state government agencies like DRDAs, Dairy Federations, Muncipal Councils, etc. RMK extends loan to the above organisations at 8 per cent and the above organizations can lend to the women Self Help Groups/ultimate women beneficiaries at an interest ranging from 8 per cent to 18 per cent. The RMK provides micro-credit with a unique credit delivery model "RMK-NGO-SHG - Beneficiaries" which is one of the main reasons for its success. The other reasons are its flexible credit norms, hassle free loans, no collateral and reasonable rate of interest.

**National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development :** National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), New Delhi is an autonomous organisation under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The objectives of the Institute are to develop and promote voluntary action in social development, take a comprehensive view of women and child development, develop and promote programmes in pursuance of the National Policy for Children, develop measures for coordination of governmental and voluntary action

in social development, and evolve a framework and perspective for organising children's programmes through governmental and voluntary efforts.

The Institute is the apex body for training of functionaries of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme. It provides technical advice and consultancy to government and voluntary agencies in promoting and implementing policies and programmes for women and child development and voluntary action. In addition, it collaborates with regional and international agencies research institutions, universities and technical bodies. The Institute has four Regional Centres at Bangalore, Guwahati, Lucknow and Indore.

**Central Social Welfare Board :** Set-up in August, 1953, the growth of the Board is synonymous with the development of voluntary agencies in India. The Central Social Welfare Board has the objective of promoting social welfare activities and implementing welfare programmes for women, children and handicapped through voluntary organisations. In 1969, the Board was registered as a charitable company under the company's act to give it legal status. There are 33 State Boards which implement the programmes such as Awareness Generation Programme, Condensed Course of Education for Women, Family Counseling Centres, Short Stay Home, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, Hostel for Working Women (Rent) etc.

**Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) :** Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) was set up on 20th June, 1990. It was registered as an autonomous body under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 on 18.3.1999. On the recommendation of State Governments, CARA gives recognition to agencies to facilitate inter-country adoptions. It also gives enlistment to foreign adoption agencies, as recognized under the appropriate laws of their own country, and recommended by Indian Missions a broad. So far, CARA has recognized 64 Indian Placement Agencies in the country and 152 Enlisted Agencies, which also include Government Departments in more than 25 countries. CARA also implements Shishu Greh Scheme which promotes in-country adoptions.

## **PENSION AND PENSIONERS WELFARE**

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare set up in 1985 is the nodal agency of the Government of India for formulation of a general policy on pension and other retirement benefits, as also for redressal of grievances on retirement benefits. A number of steps have been taken in the last few years for streamlining the pension administration system.

## **RIGHT TO INFORMATION**

In recognition of the need to promote transparency in public affairs and to curb corruption, the Parliament enacted the Right to Information Act in 2005. It is a path breaking legislation to empower the people specially the weaker sections of the population. While right to information is implicitly guaranteed by the Constitution, the Act sets out the practical regime for citizens to secure access to information on all matters of governance. The Act is thus a landmark initiative to make the public administration accountable and the decision-making process participatory.

This law is very comprehensive, covers almost all levels of governance and has the widest possible reach. It is applicable not only to Union, State and Local Governments and the public authorities but also to the recipients of government grants. Access to information under this Act is extensive with minimum exemptions to safeguard national interests. Even the exempted organizations are subject to the citizens' right to know when the exempted organizations are subject to the citizens' right to know when the matter relates to corruption or human rights violation.

The Act is perhaps the most progressive of all such legislations in the world. The citizen does not have to establish his *locus standi* to seek information. It overrides anything contrary to any other Act including the 'Official Secrets Act'.

The procedure for seeking information under the Act is very simple. A person seeking information from any office of the Government has to simply make a request to the concerned Public Information Officer. The request has to merely indicate the information sought and the address at which the information is required. The request can be sent either by post or submitted in person. It can be made in Hindi or English or in the official language of the area and can also be sent through e-mail.

The Act permits the applicants to inspect the official documents. It also permits the applicants to collect samples of various works.

If the applicant does not get the information within 30 days or the applicant is not satisfied with the reply given to him, he can make a first appeal within 30 days to the appellate authority who is generally the officer immediately superior to the Public Information Officer. The Appellate authority has to decide the appeal within 30 days of the receipt of appeal.

If the applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Appellate Authority, he can file a second appeal to the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be within 90 days. The Central Information Commission entertains appeals in case of offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc. under the Central Government and the Union Territories while the State Information Commission entertains appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc. under the concerned State Government.

Central Information Commission/State Information Commissions are high-powered independent Commissions. These Commissions have also been granted the authority to impose a penalty on the defaulting Public Information Officers.

The Act has transformed the regime of secrecy into the regime of openness. It is not that information shall be supplied only when a person requests for it. Rather, every public authority, in order to disseminate maximum possible information, is obliged to publish large quantum of information in respect of its organisation *suo-motu* so that the public has minimum need to resort to seek information from the public authorities.

## **MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

The Ministry of Minority Affairs was created on 29th January, 2006 to ensure a focused approach to the issues relating to the minorities and to play a pivotal role in the

overall policy planning coordination evaluation and review of the regulatory and development programme for the benefit programme of the minorities communities. Five religious communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minorities communities under section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. These five minorities communities constitute about 18.47 percent of the population of the country. The Ministry is also responsible for the administration and implementation of the (i) National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992; (ii) Wakf Act, 1995 and (iii) Durgah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955.

In a short period of time, not only has the Ministry been made fully functional but concerted efforts have been made to streamline the ongoing programmes/schemes and to launch innovative and effective schemes/programmes for the welfare of minorities communities. The details/developments pertaining to scheme run by the Ministry as well as its subordinate organizations are as under :-

**Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities :** The Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. The objectives of the programme are (a) Enhancing opportunities for education (b) Ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs (c) Improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes (d) Prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence. An important aim of the new programme is to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities. In order to ensure that the benefits of these schemes flow equitably to the minorities, the new programme envisages location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of physical targets and financial outlays under various schemes should be marked for minorities.

As envisaged in the guidelines for the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, the progress of the implementation is monitored closely.

Some of the notable achievements made during 2006-07 and 2007-08 and the targets fixed for 2008-09 are given below :-

(i) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 961 primary schools were constructed in 2006-07 in minority concentration areas and this has now increased to 2008 in 2007-08. In respect of new upper primary schools, 1,114 such schools were opened during 2006-07. This increased to 3,001 during 2007-08, Similarly, the number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) sanctioned for educationally backwards blocks, having a substantial minority population, rose from 97 in 2006-07 to 219 in 2007-08.

(ii) Under the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), 60,494 Swarojgaris belonging to the minorities were assisted in 2006-07 and this went up to 143,385 in 2007-08. The target for assisting swarojgaris has been fixed at 264,401 in 2008-09.

(iii) Under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), 14,236 BPL families belonging to the minorities were assisted for construction of pucca houses in 2006-07. This went up to 155,980 in 2007-08. The target for construction of houses for minorities below the poverty line has been fixed at 319,075 in 2008-09.

(iv) Under the Swaran Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), 15,933 beneficiaries were assisted for skill training in 2006-07. In 2007-08, the achievements rose substantially to 41,466. This was more than the target fixed.

(v) The proportion of priority sector lending flowing to the minorities is expected to increase from 9% to 15% over three years i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10. Rs. 58,662.67 crores of priority sector lending, which was 9.67% of the total priority sector lending, was disbursed to minorities in 2007-08. The target for 2008-09 is 13.00%.

**Exclusive scholarship schemes for students belonging to the minorities communities:** Three Centrally sponsored scholarship schemes for students belonging to the minority communities have been launched. To ensure that girl students get a fair share, all three schemes have 30% scholarship earmarked for them. These schemes are :

(i) **Merit-cum-Means scholarship** is a scheme fully funded by the Central Government. Every year 20,000 new scholarships are to be awarded for technical and professional courses at under graduate and post graduate levels. 70 institutes have been listed in the scheme and student enrolled in these institutes are entitled for re-imbursement of course fee upto a maximum amount of Rs. 20,000 per annum. 17,258 scholarships were sanctioned to students in 28 States/UTs in 2007-08 of which 29.02% went to girl students. The target for 2008-09 is 37258 scholarships.

(ii) **Post-Matric Scholarships** is a scheme fully funded by the Central Government. This scholarship is awarded to students belonging to the minority communities studying in class-XI up to PhD level and it also includes technical and vocational courses of class XI and XII. Fees ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000 per annum are re-imbursed to students. 56,742 scholarships were sanctioned to students in 28 States/UTs in 2007-08; 56.80% for girl students. The target for 2008-09 is 2.5 lakh students.

(iii) **Pre-Matric Scholarship** is being implemented on a sharing basis between the Centre and States in the ratio of 75:25 for students in class-I to class-X. Fees upto Rs. 4700 per annum will be reimbursed to students under this scheme. Advertisements have been issued by both the Central and State Governments seeking applications. Four lakh scholarships are expected to be awarded in 2008-09.

**Identification of Minority Concentration Districts:** 90 minority concentration districts (MCD) have been identified, based on the population data of 2001 census and relevant backwardness parameters. A multi-sectoral development programme, designed to address the 'development deficits', specially in education, employment, sanitation, housing, drinking water and electricity supply has been launched from 2008-09. Baseline survey to identify 'development deficits' has been carried out by the regional research institutes affiliated to the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi. The budgetary provision for 2008-09 is Rs. 540 crore. Multi sectoral development plans of 8 minority concentration districts have already been approved.

**A Coaching & Allied Scheme** has been launched in July, 2007 with a view to improving the representation of minorities in government service and public sector undertakings and also to cater to the emerging trends of the job market. 60 proposals for coaching 4147 candidates have been sanctioned for the year 2007-08. The budgetary provision for 2008-09 is Rs. 10.00 crore.

**Initiatives taken in Pursuance of the Sachar Committee Recommendations :**

- All public sector banks have been directed to open more branches in districts having a substantial minority population, 523 branches were opened in 2007-08 in such districts.
- Expert group constituted to study and recommend the structures and functions of an Equal Opportunity Commission, Report submitted by the expert group on 13.3.2008.
- Expert group constituted for evolving an appropriate Diversity Index to measure diversity in the areas of education, housing and employment. Report submitted by the expert group on 24th June, 2008.
- A National Data Bank, to compile data on the various socio-economic and basic amenities parameters for socio-economic religious communities, set up in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- An autonomous Assessment & Monitoring Authority (AMA) to analyse data collected for taking appropriate and corrective policy decisions set up in the Planning Commission.
- Mid day meal programme extended to upper primary level in all 3479 educationally backward blocks.
- Seventy seven blocks with a high concentration of Muslims identified for establishment of Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITEs) for teacher education. Scheme for setting up BITEs being modified.
- Provision of more girls' hostel in colleges and universities in minority concentration districts proposed under the existing University Grants Commission (UGC) scheme. Proposed also to open new polytechnics with hostel facilities in MCDs.
- The madrasa modernization programme is being revised. The two components of the existing programme have been proposed as two separate schemes (a) Quality improvement in Madrasa Education (b) Infrastructure development in Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Senior Secondary schools established by minorities. The scheme for quality improvement in Madrasa education to make it more attractive by providing better salary to teachers, increased assistance for books, teaching aids and computers and introduction of vocational subjects etc. has been approved.
- NCERT has prepared text books for all classes in the light of the NCF 2005.
- Thirteen Universities which were provided Rs. 40 lakhs each for starting centres

for studying social exclusion and inclusive policy for minorities and SCs & STs have been set up the centres.

**Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) :** The present corpus of the MAEF stands at Rs. 250.00 crores. A provision of 60 crores has been made towards augmentation of the Corpus Fund of the Foundation during the year 2008-09.

In the year 2007-08, under the grant-in-aid scheme, an amount of Rs. 175 lakhs was given for construction of hostel buildings, Rs. 439.50 lakhs for construction/expansion of schools, colleges and Rs. 45 lakhs for technical education. An amount of Rs. 425.88 lakhs was disbursed under the Maulana Azad National Scholarship to 3549 beneficiaries and Rs. 4.75 lakhs was given for Vocational Training Centre run by MAEF at Delhi.

In 2008-09 (upto July, 08), under grant-in-aid scheme of MAEF, an amount of Rs. 172 lakhs has been disbursed for construction of hostel buildings, Rs. 311.90 lakhs for construction/expansion of schools, colleges and Rs. 37 lakhs for technical education. Rs. 55.44 lakhs has been disbursed to 462 beneficiaries under the Maulana Azad National Scholarship and Rs. 1.75 lakh has been spent on Vocational Training Centre run by MAEF at Delhi.

**National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) :** The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was incorporated on 30th September 1994, with the objective of promoting economic activities amongst the backward sections of notified minorities. To achieve its objective, NMDFC is providing concessional finance for self-employment activities to eligible beneficiaries belonging to the minority communities, having a family income below double the poverty line.

The authorized share capital of NMDFC is Rs. 750 crores. An amount of Rs. 70 crores was provided in 2007-08 and the entire amount was released to the Corporation.

The government has given its approval for increasing the authorized share capital of the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation from Rs. 750 crores to Rs. 850 crores in 2008-09.

NMDFC has two channels to reach the ultimate beneficiaries (i) Through state channelising agencies (SCAs) nominated by the respective State/UT Governments and (ii) through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Under the SCA programme, projects costing up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs are financed. Funds for this purpose are made available to the SCAs at an interest rate of 3% for further loaning to the beneficiaries at 6%. The Corporation is also implementing schemes of vocational training & educational loan through the SCAs for capacity building of the target groups for self as well as wage employment.

Under the NGO programme micro credit up to Rs. 25,000 could be given to each of the members of a minority self-help groups (SHG). Funds for this purpose are made available to NGOs at 1% for further loaning at an interest rate of 5% per annum. In addition to loaning activity, NMDFC assists the targeted group in skill up-gradation

and marketing assistance. Under the NGOs programme, there is also a provision of interest free loan (adjustable as grant) for promotion and stabilization of SHGs.

NMDFC is implementing the Educational Loan Scheme through state channelising agencies. under this scheme , NMDFC provides Rs. 2,50,000 to eligible candidates belonging to the minority communities at a concessional interest rate of 3% for pursuing professional and technical education.

This year the funds disbursed by NMDFC (up to August 2008) under its term loan scheme is Rs. 6709.00 lakhs to 13889 beneficiaries. For micro-financing Rs. 1103.25 lakhs has been disbursed to 11115 beneficiaries during the same period.

Since its inception, NMDFC has released Rs. 1108.09 crores. The number of beneficiaries covered is 399976.

The government has given in princile approval for restructuring of the NMDFC by converting it from a Section 25 company to a non-deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC).

**Annual Plan :** The annual plan outlay for the Ministry of Minority Affairs has been doubled from Rs. 500 crores in 2007-08 to Rs. 1000 crores for 2008-09. A non-plan provision of Rs. 13.83 crores has been made for 2008-09.