

Skill development of persons with disabilities

3300. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to provide various kinds of skill upgradation to the persons with disabilities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such plans and the number of disabled people trained under such schemes; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) was launched in March, 2015. The National Action Plan sets a target of skilling 25 lakh PwDs during the period from 2015-16 to 2021-22.

The NAP envisages skilling of PwDs through a network of empanelled training partners (ETPs) comprising of Government organisations and non-Govt. organisations. The guidelines for skill development of PwDs have been framed as a part of scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (SIPDA). In addition, skill training is also imparted under Vocational Training Centre (VTC) project of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) being run by this Department.

Under both the schemes mentioned above, ₹ 46.33 crore was released for skill training of 41,379 Persons with Disabilities during the year 2015-16 and ₹ 20.85 crore has been released for skill training of 49,632 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during the year 2016-17 (as on 27.03.2017).

- (c) Not applicable.

Approach for development of various castes

3301. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target group-wise approach adopted for economic, social and educational development of various castes during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period has yielded positive results;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would continue the same approach or make any modifications based on experiences gained for implementation during the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The strategy of the Twelfth Five Year Plan to follow a target group-wise approach for economic, social and educational development of various castes is being successfully implemented by the Government. Initiatives for empowerment of the target groups include schemes aimed at social, educational and economic empowerment of these groups through programmes for scholarships, hostels, skill training, concessional loans for self-employment, etc. Details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The target group-wise approach of the Twelfth Plan would be broadly continued in the coming years. However, based on experiences gained in the implementation of the schemes through regular monitoring and findings of evaluations undertaken, necessary modifications would be made in these schemes/programmes from time to time on need basis, to improve the outcomes. Further, under the revised allocation of business rules, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has been mandated to monitor the progress of Department-wise /scheme-wise budgetary allocation for the welfare of scheduled castes as also their intended outcomes, on a regular basis.

Statement

Details of some schemes/programmes relating to the target groups (scheduled castes)

- (i) Scholarship Schemes like Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Post Matric and Pre Matric Scholarships, Top Class Scholarship Scheme, National Fellowship Scheme and National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for students belonging to Scheduled Caste have succeeded in providing financial assistance to them for pursuing their education at different levels, both in India and abroad.
- (ii) Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna provides financial assistance to the implementing agencies, for undertaking hostel construction programme, especially for SC Girls towards the broader vision of containment and reduction of their dropout rates.
- (iii) The scheme for up gradation of Merit of SC Students aims to upgrade the merit of Scheduled Caste students, studying in classes IX to XII, by providing them the facilities for education in residential/non-residential schools.

- (iv) Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), a central sector scheme, provides 100 per cent grant to the States/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). The scheme gives a thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line.
- (v) The Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAGY) is being implemented for integrated development of 2500 Scheduled Caste (SC) majority villages having SC population concentration of more than 50%. 372 village have been declared as Adarsh Grams.
- (vi) Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (POA) Act, 1989, the State Governments/ Union Territories' Administrations are provided Central assistance mainly for strengthening of enforcement and judicial machinery, relief and rehabilitation of atrocity victims and incentive for inter-caste marriages and awareness generation.
- (vii) Loans for self-employment and skill development trainings are being facilitated for the target groups by the National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC). During Twelfth Plan period (2012-2017), NSFDC has disbursed-₹ 1,296.03 crore loan through its Channelizing Agencies covering 2,91,372 beneficiaries and disbursed ₹45.29 crore grant through its training providers to impart skills to 61,467 persons of the target group in various trades.
- (viii) Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers is implemented for the rehabilitation of specific target group namely manual scavengers identified by the States and UT Administrations. The target group is provided a one-time cash assistance of ₹ 40,000/- to identified manual scavengers, and loans for undertaking self employment projects upto ₹ 50.00 lakh on concessional rate of interest with Credit Linked Subsidy upto ₹ 3,25,000/-. Skill Development Training is also provided to the target group.
- (ix) The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment also implements 'Pre-matric Scholarship scheme for the children of those engaged in occupation involving cleaning and prone to health hazards' for the educational development of the target category.

- (x) National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) provides financial assistance to Safai Karamcharis, Scavengers and their dependents at concessional rates of interest for setting up of self employment ventures and education loans for pursuing higher studies through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the States/UTs Governments, Regional Rural Banks and Nationalised Banks across the country. Further, the Corporation also provides Skill Development Training to the target group for upgrading their skills for job/self employment ventures. Though the schemes and programmes of the NSKFDC are based on occupation and not on caste, however, majority of the persons of the target group belong to the Scheduled Castes.

Implementation of reservation policy

3302. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has, in the recent past, assessed the implementation of reservation policy in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of outcome of such assessment, State-wise;
- (c) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been able to utilize funds provided by the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation during 2014-15 and 2015-16; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and how the Ministry is going to ensure that the funds meant for SCs are used by States for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Ministry has not carried out any such assessment in the recent past.

(c) and (d) During 2014-15, no fund was availed by the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes Cooperative Finance Corporation (APSCCFC), the State Channelizing Agency (SCA) of National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) in Andhra Pradesh.

Further, during 2015-16, APSCCFC had availed disbursement of ₹ 1594.44 lakh from NSFDC. Out of this, APSCCFC refunded an amount of ₹ 495.00 lakh, being the