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37. Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations
38. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India
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Elimination of caste system

1108. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering any proposal/scheme to eliminate caste system from the society;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the funds released by Government for promoting inter-caste/inter-religious marriages in the country, State/UT-wise, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): (a) to (c) The caste based prejudices have historically led to practice of social evil of untouchability. Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished "Untouchability", its practice in any form forbidden and enforcement of any disability arising out of "Untouchability" is an offence punishable in accordance with law. An Act of Parliament viz, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, prescribes punishment for the enforcement of any disability arising from the practice of untouchability.

Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, based on specific proposals of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for a financial year, due Central assistance is released to them, *inter-alia*, towards incentive for inter-caste marriage where one of the spouses is a member of a Scheduled Caste, as it is construed that such marriages promote social integration and harmony. The incentive amount which was earlier decided by the concerned States/UTs, has been uniformly made as ₹ 2.50 lakhs for all States/UTs with effect from 14.09.2017. During the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, Central assistance of ₹ 78.48 crore and ₹ 121.88 crore respectively has been released to States/UTs under the said Scheme. The State/UT wise details of Central assistance released in this regard are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

Besides, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation set up under the aegis of this Ministry runs Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages, whereunder an incentive amount of ₹ 2.50 lakhs is provided directly by the foundation to the eligible couple of inter-caste marriage where one of the spouses is a member of Scheduled Caste and under the scheme there is no provision for release of funds to the State Governments/UTs. During the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, Central assistance of ₹ 3.55 crore and ₹ 2.51 crore respectively was provided to such couples. The State/UT-wise details of fund released in this regard during 2017-18 and 2018-19 are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Central assistance released to State Government/Union Territory Administration towards incentive for inter-caste marriages where one of the spouses is a member of a Scheduled Caste under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes(Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 during 2017-18 and 2018-19

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Central assistance released (₹ in crore) during the years:	
		2017-18	2018-19
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.625	16.25
2.	Chhattisgarh	0.75	1.86
3.	Goa	0.20	0.40
4.	Gujarat	2.50	10.00
5.	Haryana	3.00	6.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.91	0.00
7.	Karnataka	14.06	31.25
8.	Kerala	4.14375	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5.50	8.125
10.	Maharashtra	16.975	18.025
11.	Odisha	2.50	6.00
12.	Punjab	2.50	0.00

1	2	3	4
13.	Rajasthan	11.00	6.25
14.	Sikkim	0.15	0.15
15.	Tamil Nadu	2.4425	0.00
16.	Telangana	3.97625	12.57
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.30	0.00
18.	West Bengal	2.85	3.00
19.	Chandigarh	0.10	0.50
20.	NCT of Delhi	0.00	0.25
21.	Puducherry	1.00	1.25
	TOTAL	78.4825	121.88

Statement-II

Funds released directly by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation to individual beneficiaries State/UT-wise towards incentive for inter-caste marriages where one of the spouses is a member of the Scheduled Caste under Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages during 2017-18 and 2018-19

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Funds released (₹ in lakhs) during the years:	
		2017-18	2018-19
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	75.00	31.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	2.50
3.	Bihar	5.00	0.00
4.	Delhi	17.00	50.00
5.	Gujarat	0.00	9.00
6.	Haryana	10.00	15.00

1	2	3	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	30.00	6.50
8.	Jharkhand	2.50	2.50
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.00	2.50
10.	Kerala	2.50	0.00
11.	Karnataka	2.50	10.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5.00	4.00
13.	Maharashtra	37.50	11.50
14.	Odisha	0.00	2.50
15.	Rajasthan	15.00	9.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	37.50	47.00
17.	Telangana	82.50	20.50
18.	Uttar Pradesh	20.00	17.50
19.	Uttarakhand	0.00	1.50
20.	West Bengal	5.00	7.50
21.	Puducherry	2.50	0.00
TOTAL		354.5	250.5

Reservation benefits for EWS

†1109. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the caste-wise details of opportunities/benefits received by the candidates of General Category under 10 per cent reservation given to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) as on date; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.