GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1894
ANSWERED ON - 11/12/2024

SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES

1894. SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA

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

(a) the measures taken by Government taking to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of key social welfare schemes and schemes for persons with disabilities;

(b) whether Government is working to enhance economic and educational opportunities for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes and specific programs that have been introduced or expanded; and

(c) the steps taken to increase women's participation in the workforce and ensure their safety and empowerment, particularly in rural areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of key social welfare schemes of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE), funds under the schemes being implemented by this Department are either released directly to the beneficiaries or through the State/UT Governments. The DoSJE also sponsors evaluation studies from time to time through independent third party evaluation agencies, to ensure effective implementation of key social welfare schemes. Performance of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is also monitored through surprise inspections by Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) established by this Department especially for this purpose. On basis of the inspection report, necessary corrective actions are also taken. Similar measures are taken by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of their schemes.

(b) The DoSJE is implementing various economic and educational empowerment schemes such as: Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste (SC) students, Pre-Matric scholarship for SC students and others, Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs, PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme For Vibrant India

For OBCs And Others (PM -YASASVI), Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) (OBC &Others), Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana, Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) and Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY) etc. to enhance economic and educational opportunities for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.

Similarly, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class IX and X), Post Matric Scholarship for ST students. (Class XI and above), National Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students (Top Class), National Fellowship for ST students (NFST) and National Overseas Scholarship for ST students schemes to enhance economic and educational opportunities for Scheduled Tribes.

(c) In order to increase women participation in the workforce and to ensure their safety and empowerment across the country including rural areas, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes. The National Skill Development Policy focuses on inclusive skill development, with the objective of increased women participation for better economic productivity. The Stand-Up India scheme promotes entrepreneurship amongst women, SC & ST category. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission, women are brought into self-help groups (SHG) fold and initiatives like Lakhpati Didi, Drone Didi and community cadres such as Bank Sakhi, Krishi Sakhi are transforming the rural socio- economic landscape. At least one-third of MGNREGA beneficiaries are required to be women.

Besides, some portions of budget allocated under various social welfare schemes being implemented by DoSJE are earmarked particularly for women so as to increase their participation in the workforce and ensure their safety and empowerment.

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