

The following are the important activities of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment during August, 2017:

Activities of the Department

(i) The Cabinet in its meeting held on 23/08/2017 approved the constitution of a Commission under article 340 of the Constitution by President to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes for the Central List.

(ii) The Cabinet in its meeting held on 30/08/2017 approved the Note submitted by this Department for revision of monetary ceiling from Rs. 6.00 Lakh per annum to Rs. 8.00 Lakh per annum for Non-Creamy Layer of Other Backward Classes and the proposed formulation of reference standards for equivalence of public sector posts with posts in the Government.

(iii) A Regional Review meeting under the Chairmanship of Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment was held with the States of Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh on 29/08/2017 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Progress of various schemes of this Department was reviewed, along with pending issues/ Utilization Certificates etc. in this meeting.

(iv) A Consultative meeting under the Chairmanship of Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment was held on 30/08/2017 to review the implementation of "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013), death of persons due to hazardous cleaning of sewers/septic tanks and rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers. The meeting was attended by the National Commission and State Commissions of Safai Karamcharis, Social Workers engaged in the welfare of manual scavengers, officials of concerned Central Ministries, States having concentration of manual scavengers and Municipal Corporation of Delhi. It was decided that the States would use wider definition of manual scavenging stipulated in the MS Act, 2013 to identify the manual scavengers. National and State Commissions of Safai Karamcharis and Social Workers were advised to interact with the local authorities to ensure effective implementation of the MS Act, 2013.

Activities of Corporations

(i) National Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC) signed three Memorandums of Agreement with Union Bank of India, Mumbai; Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI), New Delhi and Ashok Leyland Driving Training and Research Institute, Madhya Pradesh on 03/08/2017,

09/08/2017 and 29/08/2017, respectively for expanding outreach PAN India and implementation of NSFDC sponsored skill development training in the respective domain.

(ii) Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) component, the National Backward Class Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC) released first instalment of funds to Kerala (Fisheries) Corporation for setting up Sanitary Napkin Vending and Incinerator Machines for seven schools in two coastal districts for maintaining hygiene and health by children of fishermen community and others. Further, the Corporation has sponsored and participated in a "Free and Medical Check-up Camp" in potter dominated Ghanghora-Ghanghori village in district Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, which provided eye care, ENT, Gynae care/assistance to 740 residents including children, old age people and women. More than 150 glasses were distributed and 14 cataract cases detected during the camp.

(iii) The NBCFDC has sanctioned holding of five Awareness camps in Jharkhand and in all 37 camps have been sanctioned so far during 2017-18.

(iv) The NBCFDC have tied up with the Professor Ambedkar Chairs of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh towards evaluating impact of NBCFDC schemes on the social-economic condition of the target groups. First instalment of Rs. 3.04 Lakh was released to Annamalai University for evaluating 1600 beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu and a sanction was issued to SNDT University, Mumbai for evaluating 400 beneficiaries in Maharashtra.

(v) An amount of Rs. 38,947/- collected by donation of one day salary by the employees of NBCFDC was contributed to Prime Minister's Relief Fund for extending the benefit to the victims affected by floods in Bihar.

(vi) National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC) organized an Awareness Camp in Ludhiana, Punjab on 05/08/2017 to make the target group aware about the schemes & programmes of NSKFDC/Schemes for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) and motivate them to avail financial assistance and also to enrol for Skill Development Training Programme.
