

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

Activities of the Department

(i) A meeting to review the working of 21 chairs of Dr. Ambedkar Chairs was held on 04/09/2017 at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation and Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment.

(ii) A meeting of the Project Monitoring Committee to review the progress of construction of Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at 26 Alipur Road, New Delhi, was held on 04/09/2017. Thereafter, the Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment reviewed the progress of construction and other related works and visited the construction site of Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at 26 Alipur Road, New Delhi on 13/09/2017.

(iii) A commission has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Justice (Retd) G. Rohini to examine the issue of sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes.

(iv) In order to include more beneficiaries, income eligibility criteria for 'Pre-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Castes Students studying in Class IX and X' from Rs. 2,00 Lakh to Rs. 2.5 Lakh at par with Post-matric scholarship for next three years i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20 and for Top Class Education from Rs. 4.5 Lakh to Rs. 6.0 Lakh at par with National Overseas Scholarship Scheme and Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs have been approved on 19/09/2017 by the Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment.

(v) A Regional Review meeting under the Chairmanship of Minister of State, Social Justice and Empowerment was held with the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep on 11/09/2017 in Chennai. Progress of various schemes of this Department was reviewed, along with pending issues/ Utilization Certificates etc. in this meeting.

Activities of Corporations

(i) National Scheduled Caste Finance Development and Corporation (NSFDC) signed Memorandum of Agreement with National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), New Delhi for implementation of Skill Development Training Programme with CSR fund of NFL.

(ii) National Backward Class Finance Development and Corporation (NBCFDC) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Confederation of Indian Industries Institute of Logistics, Chennai for imparting skill training in logistics sector.

(iii) Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) component, the NBCFDC organized two health check-up Camps in Uttar Pradesh on 06/09/2017. The first was held at Khurja, which provided Eye, Health, Gyane and ENT facilities to the poor to promote healthy and hygienic living. 244 people got free treatment and medicine and 70 spectacles were also distributed free of cost. The second camp was held at a remote area in village Sahanpur, Nazijabad Tehsil, Bijnor, which is inhabited by the poor OBCs engaged in traditional occupations of pottery, tailoring, utensil fabrication etc.

The facilities in this medical camp were availed by 1124 people, out of which 228 people got free spectacles. The camps were supported by local administration and the camp at Bijnor was graced by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Bijnor), Uttar Pradesh.

(iv) The NBCFDC organized two Awareness camps with the help of Uttar Pradesh Administration. The first was held at Khurja, Bulandshahar for certification of caste and income certificate and ration card etc. for the Kumhar community of Khurja and other local castes in the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute Campus, Khurja on 13/09/2017. Another awareness camp for the potter, metal workers, carpenter and tailoring communities was organized in Sahanpur, Bijnor on 16/09/2017. The Awareness Camps are meant for creating awareness amongst the target group & to apply for availing finance for channel partners. During this month, 23 camps were sanctioned namely to Gujarat (13 camps) and Kerala (10 camps).

(v) National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development and Corporation (NSKFDC) organized four Awareness Camps in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh to make the target group aware about the schemes & programmes of NSKFDC/Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers and motivate them to avail financial assistance and also to enroll for Skill Development Training Programme.

Activities under the Swachh Bharat Mission

(i) To create the awareness on Cleanliness and sanitation, NBCFDC organized an essay competition on 26th September, 2017 in M.B.DAV Senior Secondary School, Yusuf Sarai, New Delhi on the topic of "Swachhata Hi Sewa". Many enthusiastic students also made a painting on this topic. 35 students participated in this competition. Students were encouraged to inculcate the habit of cleanliness in their everyday lives. They were encouraged to be always aware and become role model for the community. Students were encouraged to inspire others as well about

the importance and cleanliness. Staffs from both NBCFDC and School were present in this event. To maintain cleanliness in this school, dustbins were also provided by NBCFDC.

(ii) The NBCFDC provided Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine and Incinerators free of cost to seven Girls High School in two district Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala for maintaining hygiene and health by girls. Similar support has been sanctioned to two girls schools in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
