

The important activities of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment during February, 2017, were as follows:-

1. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 01.02.2017 has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for introduction of a Bill namely the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendments) Bill, 2017, for carrying out following modifications in the list of Scheduled Castes :

- (i) Inclusion of Sualgiri, Swalgiri as synonyms of Sabakhia at Sr. No. 79 in the list of Scheduled Castes of Odisha.
- (ii) Change of name of Union Territory of Pondichery to Puducherry in the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964.

Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment has given notice on 17.02.2017 to Secretary General, Lok Sabha for introduction of the aforesaid Bill, during the current Budget Session.

2. Notification under Section 7 of Aadhaar Act, 2016 was issued for 12 number of Scholarship Schemes of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

3. The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) signed 2 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with PSB/RRB viz. Dena Bank and Saurashtra Gramin Bank for implementation of the schemes in respective States of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

4. The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) participated in the Surajkund International Craft Mela-2017 Exhibition of Ministry of Social and Empowerment from 1-15 February, 2017 and Gram Uday Mela at Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh from 24-27 February, 2017 for dissemination of information about their schemes and for displaying/selling their products viz. jewellery, pearl jewellery, kantha stitch, silk and handloom product, hand carving handicrafts, ari work etc.

5. With a view to enhance publicity of NBCFDC's schemes and to facilitate provision of credit near the door step of the beneficiaries, 23 Awareness cum Credit camps were organized by partner banks in collaboration with NBCFDC in 8 States viz. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Jharkhand, Delhi, Haryana and Odisha.

6. National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) organized 4 Awareness Camps in Rajasthan, Delhi and Karnataka to make the target group aware about the schemes & programmes of NSKFDC/SRMS and motivate them to avail financial assistance and also to enroll for Skill Development Training Programme.

7. Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) component of NBCFDC schemes, an amount of Rs. 11.96 Lakhs sanctioned to Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur towards Setting up of 15 Biogas Production Plants Using different waste material in Rural Areas of Kharagpur Sub- Divisional, Paschim Medinipur and Purba Medinipur (West Bengal) and nearby areas of IIT Kharagpur.

8. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Telangana Grammen Bank & Telangana SCs Co-operative Development Corporation, Hyderabad, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi and ICI Industrial Training Institute, Greater Noida.
