

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

I Activities of the Department:

(i) A meeting of Group of Ministers (GoM) was held on 3rd July, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs to discuss the draft Cabinet Note on National Policy on Drug Demand Reduction.

(ii) The Rajya Sabha Select Committee held one meeting on the Constitution (One Hundred Twenty Third Amendment) Bill, 2017 with the Ministries concerned on 14.07.2017 after this Department tendered evidence to this Committee. The Select Committee submitted its report in the Rajya Sabha on 19.07.2017. The Bills were considered in the Rajya Sabha on 31.07.2017. The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Third Amendment) Bill, 2017 as amended was passed by Rajya Sabha. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) (Repeal) Bill was not taken up for consideration.

(iii) Two Regional Review meetings under the Chairmanship of Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment were held with the States of (i) Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttarakhand on 07-07-2017 at Chandigarh and (ii) Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli at Ahmedabad on 13.07.2017. Progress of various schemes of this Department was reviewed, including pending issues/ Utilization Certificates etc. in these meetings.

(iv) Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment reviewed on 18.7.2017 the progress of construction works at the respective sites of Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, 15 Janpath and Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial, 26 Alipur Road, New Delhi.

II Activities of Corporations:

(i) National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) signed two Memorandums of Agreement with Textile Sector Skill Council, New Delhi and Rubber Skill Development Council, New Delhi on 11.07.2017 and 26.07.2017 respectively for implementation of NSFDC sponsored skill development training in the respective domain of Textiles and Rubber.

(ii) - The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has been assigned Cluster Development Programmes in various States and the initial work for preparation of DPR has been initiated by the agencies. The clusters identified in consultation with Director (Handloom) and (Handicrafts) in the State of Assam, Tripura, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and collection of data has been commenced. Meetings were held during the month with officials of State Government of Assam, Tripura and Haryana to expedite these initiatives.

(iii) Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) component, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has sanctioned Rs. 4.69 Lakh towards a Project to its Channel Partner namely Kerala State Cooperative Federation for Fisheries' Development Limited. Under the project, seven selected Government/Government aided girl schools would be provided an "Automated Sanitary Vending Machines and Incinerator towards ensuring hygiene & health of about 1800 girls students in coastal districts of Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam. Further, the Corporation has also empanelled two institutions for organizing free Medical Camps on pan India basis especially in areas, where the target group population/clusters are located.

(iv) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) organized four Awareness Camps in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttrakhand 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.

(v) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) has released One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) of Rs. 25.60 Lakh (@ Rs. 40,000/- each) to 65 identified Manual Scavengers.
