

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

(I) **Activities of the Department**

1. Out of total Budget of Rs 6501.33 crore for the Plan Schemes of this Department for the year 2016-17, an expenditure of Rs 6450.03 crore (99.21%) was incurred. Further, as against a total Budget of Rs 68.06 crore for Non-Plan components, expenditure of Rs 63.04 crore (92.62%) was incurred.
2. For smooth and effective implementation of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) across the country, 5 notifications were issued under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2015 covering 12 Scholarships and other Welfare Schemes on 16.02.2017, 01.03.2017 and 17.03.2017.
3. Under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna, Rs. 15.75 crore has been released to the Government of Odisha for Integrated development of 75 SC Majority villages (SC population more than 50%) in the State of Odisha.
4. Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment chaired Project Monitoring Committee meeting on 16.03.2017 and 25.03.2017 to review the progress of construction work of Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at 26 Alipur Road, Delhi, so as to complete the project and make ready for inauguration before 06.12.2017 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
5. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2017, suggesting modification in the list of Scheduled Castes belonging to Odisha and Puducherry was passed by Lok Sabha on 23.03.2017 and in Rajya Sabha for consideration and passing.

6. Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharies were appointed for 3 years from 16.03.2017 for a period upto 31.03.2019.

7. Approval of the Cabinet was obtained vide Cabinet Secretariat's O.M.No. 11/CM/2017(i) dated 24.03.2017 for introduction of a Bill in Parliament viz. the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill 2017 for creation of a National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes under Articles 338 B and Repeal of National Backward Classes Act 1993.

(II) **Activities of Corporations**

1. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) signed (i) a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IFSC Social Foundation, New Delhi to provide skill development training through Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) in West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. (ii) Another Memorandum of Understanding with Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Assam to expand the outreach in Assam.

2. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Development Commissioner (Handlooms) and Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) under Ministry of Textiles for Development of target groups through cluster based approach.

3. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) organized 15 Awareness Camps in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Telangana to make the target group aware about the schemes & programmes of NBCFDC and motivate them to avail financial assistance for setting up of self employment ventures.

4. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) participated in a Seminar "Neki Ki Rail" and showcased the schemes and programmes during the one day programme at New Delhi on 23.03.2017 organized by the Indian Railways.

5. Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) component of NBCFDC schemes, an amount of Rs. 4.78 Lakh was released against a total of 11.96 Lakh sanctioned to Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur towards Setting up of 15 Biogas Production Plants Using different waste material in Rural Areas of Paschimi and Poorvi Mednipur, West Bengal. This project is conceived and implemented by IIT Kharagpur.

6. National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development and Corporation organized 6 Awareness Camps in Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar 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.
