

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

Activities of the Department

(i) The 62nd Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was observed on 06/12/2017 in the Parliament House Lawns. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

(ii) Hon'ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre at 15, Janpath, New Delhi on 07/12/2017.

(iii) A Task Force chaired by the Secretary, Department Social Justice and Empowerment with Secretaries/Senior Officers of Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Rural Development, Housing and Urban Affairs and representatives of Safai Karamchari Andolan for undertaking a third party survey of manual scavengers in 18 major States, held its first meeting on 01/12/2017.

(iv) The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment has, in the month of August, 2016 assigned the work of conducting the National Survey on Extent Pattern of Substance Use in India to the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, New Delhi. The survey will provide national and state level estimates of proportion and absolute number of people who use various substances and people who are suffering from substance use disorders (harmful users and dependent on various substances) in India. The survey will also map the presence of services and interventions for individuals suffering from substance use disorders and identify the gaps in service delivery. During the month of December, 2017, Mapping and Listing Training were held in 26 States/Union Territories and Respondent Driven Sampling Survey Training was held in 9 States/Union Territories. The report of the Survey is expected by 15th March, 2018.

(v) The tenure of the Commission for Other Backward Classes constituted to examine the issue of sub-categorisation within Other Backward Classes for the Central List has been extended by twelve weeks w.e.f. 03/01/2018 vide order dated 29/12/2017. The Commission shall present its Report by 27/03/2018.

Activities of Corporations

(i) National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) signed Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) with (i) National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Yousufguda, Hyderabad to develop and promote Schedule Castes Artisans Clusters under AHVY Scheme of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles and (ii) Grameen Sahara, Kamrup, Assam to develop and promote Schedule Castes Weavers Clusters under NHDP Scheme of Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles for the benefit of the target group.

(ii) National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) organized three medical camps in the States of Delhi and Rajasthan, where about 1200 persons availed free medical check-up facilities out of which about 300 people were provided free spectacles.

(iii) NBCFDC participated in the exhibition "East Himalaya Expo", at Shillong, Meghalaya from 14/12/2017 to 20/12/2017 and "Kerala Expo" in Kerala from 26/12/2017 to 02/01/2018 wherein artisans displayed their products and made people aware of NBCFDC schemes.

(iv) NBCFDC and its channel partners organized two Awareness Camps in Rajasthan where about 1000 people attended the camp out of which about 550 OBC people registered their names for availing loan facilities.

(v) NBCFDC has sanctioned a project titled "School Adoption Programmes" to its channel partner in Sikkim which aims to achieve holistic development of students by providing clean drinking water and provision of basic infrastructure for 400 students in two schools.

(vi) NBCFDC has tied up with Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, an apex level scientific and technical institute under CSIR, Government of India located at Khurja district, Uttar Pradesh and sanctioned to them a project titled "Promotion of Traditional Art and Craft Development of Terracotta Pottery" in three Clusters at Shahanpur village, Ganjalpur village and Bahadurpurjat in Bijnor district, Uttar Pradesh with the aim of improving the livelihood of about 100 OBC families by improving the production methods and tools used by potters.

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

(viii) NSKFDC participated in the exhibition "East Himalaya Expo", at Shillong, Meghalaya from 14/12/2017 to 20/12/2017 and "Kerala Expo" in Kerala from 26/12/2017 to 02/01/2018 wherein people were made aware of NSKFDC schemes.
