

Social and Economic Development of SC/ST in Maharashtra State.

In the State of Maharashtra, as per 1991 Census, the Scheduled Castes population is 11.09% and Scheduled Tribes population is 9.27% of the population of the state. The majority of SC and ST people live in rural areas. As against the general literacy rate of 64.87% of the State the literacy rate among SCs and STs are 56.46% and 36.79%, respectively. The female literacy of STs in the State is very low at 24.03% viz-a-viz the female literacy rate of 52.3% of the State as a whole.

1.2.2 The SCs and STs form the most deprived sections of the population. The Scheduled castes suffer from deep rooted social stigma and inferiority complex from generations. Although the Government has been making sincere efforts to expedite their socio-economic development there are many hurdles which block their speedy development.

1.2.3 The Scheduled Tribes suffer from a sense of isolation as they inhabit inaccessible tracts deep in the forests and on hills and are generally cut off from the mainstream. Hence, the pace of tribal development is rather slow.

Economic Development

1.2.4 Due to various social reform movements since the time of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the SC and ST people are increasingly becoming organised to ventilate their grievances. This upward movement both in economic and social terms is not welcomed by the vested interests which is the main reason behind atrocities, riots and clashes in the State. The tribals are also facing a major threat from Mega Projects like dams, and rehabilitation of displaced person is often found to be slow and ineffective. As a result of the Naxalite activity in the forests in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli, these areas have been inaccessible to the implementing agencies involved in Tribal Development. Melghat, Darni and Chikaldhara of Amaravati district are hitting the headlines every year for infant mortality and starvation deaths among tribals, which calls for sustained health , and nutrition intervention.

12.8 For economic development of Scheduled Caste and Nay Budha Communities, another similar Finance Corporation is implementing various schemes viz. Loan Subsidy Scheme, Commercial Pilot Training Scheme, Training Scheme for School Drop Outs in

various field like Typing, Stenography, Driving, Repairing etc. This Corporation is also channelising agency for NSFDCs schemes.

12.9 The State Government of Maharashtra has taken a number of initiatives for SocioEconomic Development of SC and ST communities. It has been seen that with more emphasis on education, the number of Primary Schools have increased, alongwith higher enrolment in Secondary Schools. Girl's enrolment in education has also increased in 1997-98 viza-viz the earlier years. The facilities provided by the State Government for Drinking Water, Health, Housing etc. have received adequate attention. The State Government has also taken initiatives for improving the skills and earning capacity of tribals through training courses and other forms of help provided through the Scheduled Tribes Corporation. TDC has opened a number of procurement centers at remote places in tribals areas so as to enable the tribals to sell their agricultural and minor forest produce at reasonable prices. TDC ensures immediate payment for the commodities, and has identified 26 new Minor Forest items under the monopoly procurement scheme, to promote self employment among tribals.

Welfare of backward classes is the constitutional responsibility of the State. Article 46 of the Constitution of India reads :

“ The State shall promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker section of the people and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.”

Direction and Administration

32.3 The Directorates of Social Welfare and Tribal Welfare are the nodal agencies for Administering the programmes for welfare of B.Cs. and tribals. For strengthening these Directorates an outlay of Rs.264.82 lakhs & Rs.1053.25 lakhs have been provided for the Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-2007 out of which the following outlays for Annual Plan 2002-2003.

Annual Plan 2002-2003

1. Directorate of Social Welfare ... Rs. 37.14 lakhs.
2. Directorate of Tribal Development ... Rs. 191.50 lakhs.

III- ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT

32.19 The State Government has established following corporations for implementing various programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Nav Budhas, Matang and Vimukta Jati and Bhatkya Jamatis. These corporations extend loan, subsidy to the individual beneficiaries to help them take up productive economic activities and rise above the poverty line. Some of the basic details alongwith the outlay for share capital. An outlay for the Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-2007 and for Annual Plan 2002-2003 for these development corporations are given below :—

MAHARASHTRA STATE OTHER BACKWARD CLASS FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

32.32 The authorised share capital of this corporation is Rs. 50 crores & paid up share capital by the end of 31st March, 2001 is Rs. 404.25 lakhs. Employment and Self employment schemes for other backward classes are implemented by the Corporation. An outlay for Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs.1826.00 lakhs, out of which Rs.245.00 lakhs is for Annual Plan 2002-2003.