



**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

# **Booklet**

## **Consisting of Nine years achievement of**

**March 2023**

**Department of Social Justice and Empowerment**  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
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## **Abstract**

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The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been working towards creating an inclusive and equitable society for all its citizens. Over the past nine years, the ministry has launched several schemes and initiatives aimed at empowering marginalized sections of society, including students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes through scholarships, elderly citizens, safai karmcharis, and transgender people.

One of the ministry's major achievements is the implementation of several scholarship schemes for students from marginalized communities, including Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship schemes. These schemes have been successful in providing financial assistance to students from economically weaker backgrounds, enabling them to pursue higher education and build better futures for themselves.

The ministry has also launched the National Action Plan for Senior Citizens, aimed at providing welfare measures to elderly citizens. The plan includes measures such as the National Social Assistance Program and the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, which provide financial assistance to senior citizens and help them live a dignified life.

The ministry has also launched several initiatives aimed at the welfare of SafaiKaramcharis, Manual Scavengers, Waste Pickers and their dependants. This includes Swachhta Udyami Yojana, which aims to provide complete mechanisation of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations in the country. This will ensure zero sewer deaths and improve sanitation and cleanliness in the country. The ministry has also launched several skill developments programs to empower Safai Karamcharis and provide them with better employment opportunities.

The ministry has also been working towards the empowerment of transgender people. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, was passed to protect the rights of transgender persons and ensure their inclusion in all aspects of life.

# **1. EMPOWERMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES**

## **1.1. Introduction**

Scheduled Castes (SCs) in India are a group of historically marginalized, underprivileged and vulnerable communities who face social, economic, and political discrimination due to their status or background.

The Empowerment of the Scheduled Castes stands as a crucial issue of topmost priority for the government of India. The Government of India is steadfast in its commitment to ensure that the Scheduled Castes' rights and dignity are protected and upheld, and that they have equal opportunities to advance and achieve prosperity. Our resolve remains resolute to end the cycle of poverty and discrimination that the Scheduled Castes face and to facilitate their empowerment to lead a life of dignity and respect.

The Empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SCs) requires a multi-pronged approach, which include the following initiatives:

- Legislative Provisions
- Education Empowerment
- Skill Development
- Social Inclusion
- Economic Empowerment
- Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of these initiatives serves as a significant step towards enabling the Scheduled Caste community to break free from the vicious cycle of poverty and discrimination and achieve a life of fulfilment and purpose.

### **1.1.1. Legislative Provisions**

The protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989,

- To abolish untouchability and forbade its practice in any form, an Act of Parliament namely "The Protection of Civil Rights {PCR} Act, 1955" is in force.
- To check and deter crimes against members of SC/ST, another Act of Parliament namely the "The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989" is in force.
- For effective implementation of the provisions of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989, the SC/ST (PoA) Rules, 1995 have been also framed.

#### **1.1.1.1. Legislative Developments**

Amendments have been periodically implemented in the Act and Rules with the aim of promoting greater justice and facilitating improved remedies for injustices faced by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These amendments have also sought to establish mechanisms to enable more rigorous actions to be taken against offenders.

- The SC/ST (PoA) Act,1989 amended vide the SC/ST (PoA) Amendment Act, 2015 (No. 1 of 2016) and enforced from 26.01.2016. The amended Act includes:
  - Establishment of Exclusive Special Courts for speedy trial of the atrocity cases,
  - Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors to try offences in Exclusive Special Courts,
  - rephrasing and expansion of some earlier offences and addition of several new offences of atrocities
  - inserted a new chapter relating to “Rights of Victims and Witnesses”
- The Act has been further amended on **20.08.2018** with a view to nullify:
  - conduct of a preliminary enquiry before registration of a First Information Report (FIR)
  - or to seek approval of any authority prior to arrest of an accused.
- For effective implementation of the provisions of the Act, the SC/ST (PoA) Rules, 1995 have been amended. The SC/ST (PoA) Rules, 1995 amended on **14.04.2016** for providing:
  - relief amount for 47 offences of atrocities from earlier 22 offences,
  - enhancement of relief amount between Rs. 85000/- and Rs. 825000/- depending upon the nature of the offence,
  - Providing of relief within seven days.
- The Rules were further amended on 27.06.2018 for providing relief in case of:
  - Death, injury, rape, gang rape.
  - Unnatural offences, grievous hurt by throwing acid etc.;
  - Damage to property,
  - **In addition** to any other right to claim compensation in respect thereof under any other law.

#### **1.1.1.2. Legislative progress**

- The responsibility for the implementation of the PCR Act,1955 and the SC/ST (PoA) Act,1989 and the Rules framed there under rests with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.
- For the effective implementation of the Acts and Rules, Central assistance is provided to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the implementation of the PCR Act, 1955 and the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989
- The Central Assistance is released on a 50:50 basis to the State Governments over and above the committed liability and the Union Territory Administration receives 100% Central assistance.

- Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 3466.47 Cr released to the States/UTs, the number of atrocity victims provided relief are 542682 & the number of couples provided incentive for inter-caste marriages are 191091.

#### **1.1.1.3. New Initiatives:**

- National Helpline against Atrocities (NHAA) on the members of SCs/STs:
  - Available as a web-based portal & Toll-free number '14566'
  - To provide awareness about the provisions of the law
  - To ensure that complaints are registered, investigated & charge sheet filed.
  - To ensure proper implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 with a view to, inter-alia, preventing atrocities on members of SCs and STs.
  - To build informed awareness about the provisions of the Law aimed at ending discrimination and provide protection.

#### **1.1.2. Education Empowerment**

Education and skill development play a crucial role in the empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SCs). To address this, the government of India has implemented several initiatives and programs to provide quality education and skill development opportunities to the members of the SC community crucial for their overall development and empowerment.

##### **1.1.2.1. Post-Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes for studies in India**

- Flagship Scheme of the Ministry and the single largest intervention by the Government of India for Educational Empowerment for SC students.
  - Objective of the scheme is to appreciably increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC students in higher education with a focus on those from the poorest households.
  - As per Cabinet approval, Rs 59048 cr. to be released in 6 yrs upto 2025-26, of which Central share is Rs. 35534 cr.
  - 1.36 Crore such students would be covered upto 2025-26.
  - Provision of Freeship Card for easier and cost-free admission of SC students.
- **Achievements:**
  - Prior to 2020-21, the funding pattern under the Scheme was based on committed Liability which was changed to fixed sharing pattern of 60:40 between Centre & States (90:10 in case of NE States) from 2020-21 onwards. This step reduced the burden on the States ultimately increasing the Central share.
  - The gross enrolment ratio of SC students studying in 11-12th was 52.9 during 2019-20; 56.1 during 2020-21 and 61.5 during 2021-22.

- Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC students pursuing higher education was 21.8 during 2017-18; 23 during 2018-19 and 23.4 during 2019-20.
- DBT of Central share started w.e.f. 2021-22 with Central share amounting to Rs. 4531.92 Cr released to 54.77 lakh beneficiaries of 2021-22.
- Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 27569.66 Cr released to over 4.58 Cr SC students under the Scheme.
- W.e.f. 2022-23, the scholarship amount is being released into Aadhaar seeded bank accounts of the students through APBS system.
- Integration of NPCI, UIDAI and PFMS databases with State Scholarship Portals for processing applications w.e.f. 2022-23 onwards.
- Online end to end processing, verification of eligibility credentials/certificates through online transactions and integrated databases at State Scholarship Portals.

#### **1.1.2.2. Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC and Others:**

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students introduced on 01.07.2012 to be implemented by State Governments/UT Administrations.
- The erstwhile Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students has been recently revised during FY 2021-22 as ‘Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students & Others’ having two components viz. Comp-I (Pre-matric Scholarship for SC students) and Comp-II (Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of whose parents/guardian are engaged in unclean and hazardous occupations).
- The scheme aims to support, through financial assistance, parents of children belonging to Schedules Caste and other disadvantaged categories for education of their wards studying at the Pre-Matric stage.
- Objective to minimize the incidence of drop-out - especially in the transition from the primary to the next level and elementary to the secondary stage.
- Funding pattern based on fixed ratio of sharing between centre & States in the ratio of 60:40. (90:10 in case of NE states, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. For UTs without legislatures, 100% funds shall be provided by Centre)

#### **➤ Achievements:**

- Prior to 2019-20, under Pre-Matric SC Scholarship Scheme, the funding pattern was based on committed Liability which was changed to fixed sharing pattern of 60:40 between Centre & States (90:10 in case of NE States/Uttarakhand /Himachal Pradesh and 100% of UTs without legislature). This step reduced the burden on the States ultimately increasing the Central share.
- Prior to 2021-22, under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for students whose parents are involved in cleaning occupation, the funding pattern was based on committed Liability which was changed to fixed sharing pattern of 60:40 between Centre & States (90:10 in case of NE States/Uttarakhand /Himachal Pradesh and 100% of

UTs without legislature). This step helped the States making budget provision for implementing the Scheme.

- Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC students studying in 9-10th was 83 during 2019-20; 84.8 during 2020-21 and 84.9 during 2021-22.
- Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 3363.00 Cr released to nearly 2.19 Cr SC students under the Scheme.
- W.e.f. 2022-23, the scholarship amount is to be released into Aadhaar seeded bank accounts of the students through APBS system.
- Integration of NPCI, UIDAI and PFMS databases with State Scholarship Portals for processing applications w.e.f. 2022-23 onwards.
- Online end to end processing, verification of eligibility credentials/certificates through online transactions and integrated databases at State Scholarship Portals.



### **1.1.2.3. Technical interventions implemented by this Ministry under PMS-SC and Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students**

The Schemes of Post-Matric and Pre-matric Scholarship for SC Students has been recently revised with major features of fixed sharing pattern between Centre and States and Direct benefit Transfer of Central share. Also, as a major intervention, revised scheme guidelines envisage complete onboarding to online platform for application processing and payment mechanism for ensuring transparency, accountability, efficiency, and timely delivery of the assistance without any delays. Some of the major technical interventions are as follows:

- Complete onboarding of State Scholarship Portals to Central NSP-PMS Portal for sharing the complete beneficiary data through suitable APIs;
- W.e.f. 2022-23, all payment of Central/State share to be released only through Aadhaar-seeded Bank accounts to create a robust system with high volume processing capability meant for DBT, minimize payment failures and increase efficiency of payments.
- State Scholarship Portals have been integrated with UIDAI to ensure authenticity of the applications and eliminate duplicity.
- State Scholarship Portals have been integrated with NPCI to ensure that all payments go through Aadhaar Based Payment System (APB – Aadhaar Payment Bridge) only.
- State Scholarship Portals have been integrated with PFMS so as to monitor and assess the State share released by the States/UTs under the schemes
- State Scholarship portal integrated with the AISHE/UDISE for verifying institutions/schools to eliminate ghost institutions;
- For ensuring little or no manual intervention while performing verification of eligibility criterion of the applications, many States have integrated the State databases with the State scholarship Portals to fetch/verify the caste, income, educational certificates etc.
- The States/UTs maintains a complete database of the beneficiaries under various other scholarship schemes to ensure de-duplication of the beneficiaries.
- An App is being developed for the beneficiaries which shall include the detailed application and payment status as well as career exploring recommendations.

### **1.1.2.4. Scholarship for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS)**

- From FY 2021-22, Umbrella scheme namely '**Scholarship for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS)**' was conceptualized to ensure convergence of resources across the four smaller Central Sector Schemes of the Department catering to SC/OBC students desirous of pursuing higher education (in India and abroad) and/or obtaining employment in Group A/Group B services of centre or State Governments. The four Components with the achievements of the scheme are: -

➤ **Achievement under Free Coaching for SC & OBC students (FCS)**

Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 109.79 Cr released to nearly 19995 SC and OBC students under the Scheme to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations and succeed in obtaining an appropriate job in Public/Private Sector.

➤ **Achievement under Top Class Scholarship scheme for SCs (TCS)**

Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 399.15 Cr released to nearly 21988 SC students under the Scheme. The Scheme will cover SC students for pursuing studies beyond 12th class. The scholarship, once awarded, will continue till the completion of the course, subject to satisfactory performance of the student.

➤ **Achievement under National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC students (NOS)**

Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 222.24 Cr released to nearly 950 selected students from Scheduled Castes; Denotified, Nomadic & Semi - Nomadic Tribes; landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisan categories, for pursuing Masters and PhD level courses abroad.

➤ **Achievement under National Fellowship for SC students (NFSC)**

Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 1628.89 Cr released to nearly 21066 students under the Scheme to provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to SC category to pursue higher studies leading to M.Phil/Ph.D in Science, Humanities, Social Science, in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC).

**1.1.2.5. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)**

- The department has been running Central Sector Scheme of “Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary and other Organizations working for Scheduled Castes” under which financial assistance is provided to the NGOs for projects related to Education sector to Scheduled Caste students. The Scheme broadly covers 3 types of projects namely (i) Residential Schools (ii) Non-Residential Schools and (iii) Hostels, both for Primary and Secondary Students. The scheme has been revised w.e.f 2022-23 as Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) and a new component under Mode-I has been added to the Scheme, under which every year a specified number of meritorious SC students in the country will be selected for quality residential education in top-class residential High Schools through a nation-wide entrance test conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA).
- The objective of SHRESHTA is to enhance the reach of development Intervention of the Government and to fill the gap in service deficient SCs dominant areas, in the sector of education through the efforts of grant-in-aid institutions (run by NGOs) and residential high schools offering high quality education and to provide environment

for socio economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs). The Scheme is further modified to provide easier access to the bright SC students in the best schools in the Country, thereby securing their future opportunities.

- Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 457.22 Cr released to nearly 3.18 Lakh students under the Scheme.

### **1.1.3. Economic Development and Empowerment**

To Encourage economic empowerment of the SC community through initiatives such as poverty reduction schemes, credit schemes and entrepreneurship support for overall empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in India.

#### **1.1.3.1. Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY):**

PM-AJAY is a merged Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 03 erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY) being implemented since 2021-22 with an aim to reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment opportunities through Skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives; and to improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages. Broadly, the Scheme has the following three components:

#### **a. Adarsh Gram Component {erstwhile scheme of Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)}**

- This component is being implemented in a phased manner since 2009-10 for integrated development of Scheduled Castes majority villages.
- The principal objectives of this component are to develop SC majority villages primarily through convergent implementation of the relevant Central as well as State/UT Governments Schemes with a provision of Rs.20.00 lakh per village as Central Assistance.
- Initially this component was launched on 'Pilot Basis' in 1000 villages in 05 States viz. Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. In 2014-15, it was further extended to 1500 SC majority villages in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam and Odisha.
- Since 2018-19, the Scheme is being implemented as continuous scheme with revised implementation guidelines and all the 18437 eligible villages with total population  $\geq 500$  & SC population more than 50% have been covered under this component and works in 13437 villages has been initiated.
- From 2021-22, selection criteria have been revised i.e., villages with total population  $\geq 500$  & SC population more than 40% are eligible for selection and as per this criteria, 11500 more villages have been covered in 2022-23.
- 4351 villages have already been declared as Adarsh Gram.

**b. Grant-in-aid Component{erstwhile scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan(SCA to SCSP)}**

- The implementation of this component was started in 1980, under which 100 percent grant is given to the States/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). The main objective is to give a thrust to family-oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line through Income Generating, Infrastructure & Skill Development Projects.
- Funds under the scheme are provided an additive to the SCSP of the States/UTs.
- The financial assistance for livelihood generation admissible under this component is Rs.50,000/- or 50% of the project cost whichever is less, per beneficiary/household.

**c. Hostel Component{erstwhile scheme of Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)}**

The objective of this component is containment and reduction of dropout rate of SC students, especially SC girls.

- The District/State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as well as Central /State Universities or Institutions will be provided eligible central assistance for construction of hostel buildings, expansion of existing hostel facilities or repair of existing hostels constructed under this component incl. repair of hostels constructed under the earlier scheme of BJRCY.
- Higher educational institutions which are top ranked as per National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and other Central/State Institutions which are fully/partially funded by Central/State Govt./UT Administrations are eligible for funding under this component. Similarly, schools which are fully/partially funded by the State Governments/UT Administrations and recommended by the concerned State/UT Governments are eligible.
- Total Projected Outlay for the scheme of PM-AJAY for 2023-24 is Rs.2050.00Cr.

**1.1.3.2. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Caste (VCF-SC) & Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes (VCF-BC) Entrepreneurs:**

- As a budget announcement in 2014-15, Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC) was set up with the objective to promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes and to provide concessional finance to the scheduled caste entrepreneurs. Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes (VCF-BC) was launched in April 2018. Ambedkar social innovation incubation mission (ASIIM) under VCF-SC was launched in 2020 under the ongoing scheme of VCF-SC for Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs who are oriented towards innovation and growth technologies.
- Total corpus of VCF-SC fund (including ASIIM) and VCF-BC fund is Rs. 849.93 crore (Rs.718.18 crore under VCF-SC (including ASIIM) and Rs.131.75 crore under VCF-BC crore). Total sanction under VCF-SC fund (including ASIIM) and VCF-BC fund is Rs.519.42 to 207 companies (Rs. 447.84 Crore under VCF-SC

(including ASIIM) to 183 companies and Rs.71.58 Crore under VCF- BC to 24 companies) till date since launch.

**1.1.3.3. Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes (CEGSSC)**

- Promotes entrepreneurship among the scheduled castes Entrepreneurs.
- Provides Credit Guarantee to Member Lending Institutions (Banks) on the loans sanctioned by them to Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurs.
- Scheme provides guarantee on loans sanctioned by Member Lending institutions from Rs 15 lakhs to Rs 5 crore.
- Till date entities promoted by 35 SC entrepreneurs have benefitted from the scheme and in turn have provided business and job opportunities.
- Loans of over Rs 97 crore have been sanctioned by MLIs wherein guarantee of over Rs 60 crore has been provided.
- The scheme is being operated by IFCI Ltd (Industrial Finance Corporation of India).

**1.1.3.4. Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) [erstwhile: SCP/SCSP/AWSC]**

- The Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) was envisaged to help the poor SC families through composite income generating welfare and developmental schemes with the clear objective of their overall development and bridging the gap of Socio-Economic conditions of the SCs.
- Fund allocation is increased for welfare of SCs from Rs. 41,561.13 crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 56,618.50, crore in 2018-19 and Rs. 1,45,629.27crore in 2022-23.
- The number of ministries earmarking more than 16.2% of their Plan Outlays under SCSP has increased from 7 Ministries in 2016-2017 to 17 in 2021-2022. Also, the total number of obligating ministries/ departments has increased from 25 to 39 in this period.
- The Actual Expenditure of SCSP has increased from Rs. 33,160.94crore in 2012-13 to Rs1,23,101.88crore in 2021-22.
- In 2021-22, more than 80% of the total expenditure under SCSP, was made by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (Rs.12790.2453 Cr.), Department of Fertilisers (Rs.13092.4271 Cr.),Department of Food and Public Distribution (Rs.23913.3672 Cr.), Department of Rural Development (Rs.22615.4598 Cr.), Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (Rs.9236.62 Cr.), Department of Health and Family Welfare (Rs.8005.9001 Cr.), Department of School Education and Literacy (Rs.6944.1788 Cr.) , Ministry of Women and Child Development (Rs.4481.1817 Cr.).
- The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has seen a significant increase in its expenditure from Rs. 3815.95 Crore in the financial year 2017-18 to Rs. 12790.25 Crore in the financial year 2021-22. This represents a 235% increase in the expenditure under DAPSC for this department.

- The Department of Health and Family Welfare has also seen a steady increase in expenditure on Scheduled Castes welfare, with an increase of 56.13% from Rs. 5127.66 Crore in the financial year 2017-18 to Rs. 8005.90 Crore in the financial year 2021-22 under various schemes.
- The Department of Rural Development, on the other hand, has seen a growth of 169.76% in its expenditure, with an increase of 228.82% in the financial year 2021-22 only over the last one.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy has seen a slight decrease in expenditure, of 17%, from Rs. 8384.71 Crore in the financial year 2017-18 to Rs. 6944.18 Crore in the financial year 2021-22.
- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has seen an overall increment in expenditure, of 78% from Rs. 5184.04 Crore in the financial year 2017-18 to Rs. 9236.62 Crore in the financial year 2021-22.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has also seen a growth of 25% from Rs. 1685.40 Crore in the financial year 2017-18 to Rs. 2113.47 Crore in the financial year 2021-22.
- Expenditure of the Ministry of Women and Child Development on Scheduled Castes has also seen a steady increase of 31% from Rs. 3409.03 Crore in the financial year 2017-18 to Rs. 4481.19 Crore in the financial year 2021-22.
- Based on the expenditure data available, it is evident that the government has increased expenditure under various schemes for Scheduled Castes aimed at improving the standard of living. Sector such as Agriculture, Health, education, Housing and women empowerment have seen steady increased spending over the years from 2017-18 to 2021-22 through major schemes.
- The expenditure under major schemes in some Ministry/Department amongst the top expenditures under the scheme for SCs (DAPSC) in Financial Year 2017-18 and 2021-2022.
- In the Agriculture Sector, crop insurance coverage has been increased from Rs. 1629.119 Cr in 2017-18 to Rs. 2402.84 Crore in 2021-22 for SC farmers. As majority of rural population in country is engaged in Agriculture allied sectors, Crop Insurance provide compensation for farmers' losses arising due to production problems and protect their livelihood. Further, new initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi have also been initiated in 2018-19 under which expenditure of Rs. 8316.76 Crore have been incurred in FY 2021-22. Additionally, total fertilizer subsidy of Rs. 12826.0079 Crore has also been provided to farmers under DAPSC.
- The scheme namely National Rural Drinking Water Mission of D/o Drinking Water and Sanitation, has seen immense growth of 470% since 2017-18 to 2021-22 in expenditure to provide benefits to SC households. Expenditure has increased to Rs. 8,826.30 Crore in 2021-22 from Rs. 1550.87 Crore in 2017-18 with the aim to provide potable water to every rural household through tap water connection.

- Giving a boost to Health and Medical Education, D/o Health and Family Welfare has spent Rs.1046.12 Cr. In 2021-22 under Human Resource in Health and Medical Education scheme which is 26 % higher than under expenditure incurred in FY 2017-18.
- Scheme such National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna have seen massive expenditure of Rs. 13890.87 Crore and Rs.4905.04 crore respectively under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes in 2021-22. These schemes ensure that rural SC population have access to basic facilities such as Housing and employment for their livelihood.
- D/o School Education and Literacy has incurred expenditure of Rs. 1899.97 Cr. on National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools under DAPSC in 2021-22 which is 200 crore higher than expenditure in 2017-18. Similarly, under Samgra Shiksha, Rs. 4299.33 Crore has been spent under DAPSC.
- Department of Food and Public Distribution has provided total food subsidy of Rs. 23427.25 crore in 2021-22 to SC population
- Top 10 DAPSC Expenditure Schemes (2021-2022) are: - Food Subsidy to Food Corporation of India under National Food Security Act (Rs. 17191.00 Cr.), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) (Rs. 13890.87 Cr.), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (Rs. 8826.30 Cr.), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (Rs. 8316.76 Cr.), Food Subsidy (Rs. 6236.25 Cr.), National Health Mission (Rs. 5137.99 Cr.), Pradhan Mantri AwasYojna (Rs. 4905.04 Cr.), Urea Subsidy-payment for indigenous urea (Rs. 4549.97 Cr.), Samagra Shiksha (Rs. 4299.33) and Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan2.0(Umbrella ICDS-Anganwadi Services Poshan Abhiyan Scheme for adolescent girls National Creche Scheme (Rs. 4207.82 Cr.)
- Under the National Food Security Act, 2013; in 2021-22; total SC Beneficiaries are 12,92,19,480
- In Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Employment Generated during 2021-22; employment generated in Person days for SCs is 4680.639 lakhs.
- In PM-Kisan, SC Beneficiaries under PM-Kisan as on 23.9.2021 are 1,36,68,752
- In PMAY-G, as of 31st December, 2021, out of the total 2,15,52,547 houses sanctioned, 48,34,809 houses were sanctioned for SCs. Further, out of the total 1,68,68,040 houses completed, 38,96,524 houses were completed for SCs.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio of SCs, in 2021-22; in Elementary (I-VIII) is 109.7, Secondary (IX-X) is 84.9 and Higher Secondary (XI-XII) is 61.5. The GER of SCs at higher secondary level has increased by 20.03% between 2012-13 and 2021-22. It was 41.02% in 2012-13 and has become 61.5% in 2021-22.
- In Swatch Bharat Mission, number of SC beneficiaries in 2019-20, 2020-20 & 2021-22 have respectively been 15,15,088; 5,43,279 and 96,995.
- As per Agriculture Census (2015-16), the total number of operational holdings of SC is estimated as 17.34 million in the country.

- According to NFHS-5, 76.9 % scheduled caste headed households have access to toilet facility out of which 91.4% are in urban and 71.2% are in rural areas.

#### **1.1.3.5. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)**

- National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was incorporated on 08.02.1989 as a Company 'not-for-profit' under Section-25 of Companies Act, 1956. Consequent upon the introduction of the Companies Act, 2013, NSFDC is now a Section-8 Company (not-for-profit) under the new Act.
- NSFDC is a Schedule 'C' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and wholly owned by the Government of India. The broad objective of NSFDC is to promote socio-economic development of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes having annual family income up to Rs.3.00 lakh.
- The Scheme wise achievements of NSFDC is as under:

##### **a) Credit Based Schemes**

- NSFDC provides self-employment loans at concessional interest rates through its State Channel Agencies/Channelizing Agencies to eligible SC persons for their need based economic activities.
- Since 2014-15 till date, has disbursed total loan amount 4,544.13 Cr benefitted to nearly 6.90 Lakh Beneficiaries.

##### **b) Non-Credit Based Schemes**

###### **▪ VISVAS- Interest subvention Scheme**

From the year 2020-21, NSFDC is implementing the Interest Subvention Scheme –Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargonki Arthik Sahayata scheme (VISVAS) which was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide 5% interest subvention to the regular accounts of SC borrowers financed by various Banks & NBFC-MFIs. The subvention would be available on individual loans up to Rs.2 lakh and SHG loans up to 4 lakh. The progress is as under:

- A total 28 Lending Institutions including 17 PSBs, 10 RRBs and 1 financial institution.
- As per VISVAS portalis interest subvention amount of **Rs.1.52 crore for 10,446 accounts.**

#### **i. Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes: Anusuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojna (DAPSC: AJAY)**

- In consultation with NITI Aayog, a fund of Rs.950.00 Crore remaining unutilized amount out of the funds allocated to 41 Ministries/Departments under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes(DAPSC) during the financial year 2021-22 as per guidelines issued by the NITI Ayog in the year 2017, got re-allocated by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment for



utilization through implementation of a shelf of pre-identified pilot projects by providing one-time 100% financial assistance for socio-economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes(SCs).

- During the financial year 2022-23, **fund allocation were Rs.700.00 Crore for proposed Community Hall; Rs.80.00 Ccrore for Amrit Jaladhaara** – for providing financial assistance to SC land owners with family income less than Rs.3.00 lakh per annum, who have availed credit facility through NSFDC towards development of irrigation facilities and **Rs.150.00 Crore for Young Entrepreneur Scheme** - for providing financial assistance to SC entrepreneurs with family income less than Rs.3.00 lakh per annum, who have availed credit facility through NSFDC for projects for strengthening logistics including acquisition of tractors with trolleys, commercial vehicles, warehouses/godowns, etc.

## ii. Cluster Development Initiatives

- NSFDC signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) and Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles on 20.02.2017 and 14.04.2017 respectively to converge Government of India Schemes for providing more benefits to the Scheduled Caste Artisans/Weavers by adopting cluster approach.
- The basic objective of the MoU is to assist Scheduled Caste Artisans/Weavers and their families by promoting production and marketing of high value quality Handicrafts/Handlooms Products at Cluster level.
  - **Outcome/progress:**
    - ✓ Number of Cluster Projects sanctioned by DC (H) to Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Assam is 9; Amount sanctioned by DC (H), MoT is Rs. 222.36 lakh and released is Rs 177.65 lakh.
    - ✓ Amount utilized by NSFDC is Rs 114.66 lakh
    - ✓ Pending proposals submitted to DC(H) is 27 (Rs 46.94 crore)
  - Outcome/progress of the convergence with respect to **Handlooms clusters** is as under:
    - ✓ Number of Cluster Projects sanctioned by DC (H) to Assam is 2; Amount sanctioned by DC (H), MoT is Rs 358.26 lakh and released is Rs. 13.30 lakh.
    - ✓ Proposals recommended by SLPC and under consideration with DC (HL) is 2 (Rs 3.79 crore)

### **1.1.3.6. Commission under Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952**

**1.1.3.6.1** A Commission under Commissions of Inquiry Act,1952 to examine the matter of Scheduled Caste status to new persons, who claim to historically belonged to Scheduled Castes but converted to religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential Orders issued from time to time under Article 341 of the Constitution of India. Commission has been constituted vide Notification dated 06.10.2022 consisting of following persons:-

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| i. Justice K.G.Balakrishnan(Ex-Chief Justice of India) | Chairperson |
| ii. Sh. Ravinder Kumar Jain                            | Member      |
| iii. Prof. (Dr.) Sushma Yadav                          | Member      |

**1.1.3.6.2** The terms of reference of the Commission are as under:-

- to examine the matter of according Scheduled Caste status to new persons, who claim to historically have belonged to the Scheduled Castes, but have converted to religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential Orders issued from time to time under Article 341 of the Constitution of India;
- to examine the implications on the existing Scheduled Castes, of adding such new persons as part of the existing list of Scheduled Castes;
- to examine the changes Scheduled Caste persons go through on converting to other religions in terms of their customs, traditions, social and other status discrimination and deprivation and the implication of the same on the question of giving them Scheduled Caste status; and
- to examine any other related questions that the Commission deems appropriate, in consultation with and with the consent of the Central Government.

**1.1.3.6.3** The Commission shall submit its report within a period of two years from the date of taking over of the charge by the Chairperson who has taken over the charge w.e.f 11.10.2022. The Commission started its functioning.

## **2. EMPOWERMENT OF SAFAIKARAMCHARIS INCLUDING WASTE-PICKERS, MANUAL SCAVENGERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS**

- The Government of India is committed to its target groups of the marginalized sections to achieve their upliftment with the Mantra of achieving social justice through, 'SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas, SabkaVishwas, SabkaPrayas'. For a vibrant and functional democracy, social justice is a necessary condition and inclusive growth is a primary condition for development of any nation. Department of Social Justice and Empowerment recognizes the problem faced by target groups in terms of inequitable access to social security benefits, lower access to higher education and therefore lagging behind in nutritional and health indicators.
- One of the primary functions of the department is to be visible and vocal about the rights of the marginalized and address their concerns in all policies and programmes.

- The mandate of the department is to provide social, educational and economic empowerment to marginalized section of the society which includes scheduled castes, backward classes, senior citizens, victims of substance abuse and transgender, beggars and de-notified tribes and safaikaramcharis. Various constitutional safeguards are offered to the community to eradicate discrimination of any kind and are being implemented by this department.
- The prohibition of manual scavengers and the rehabilitation Act was passed by the parliament in 2013 and the main objectives of the Act were to eliminate the insanitary latrines and prohibit employment as manual scavengers and hazardous manual cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

## **2.1. Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)**

### **2.1.1. Objectives of the MS Act, 2013:**

- Identification of manual scavengers and their rehabilitation in alternative occupations
- Identification of insanitary latrines, their demolition and conversion into sanitary latrines
- Prohibition of hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks

### **2.1.2. Main Provision of the MS Act**

- **Definition: Section 2(d): “hazardous cleaning”** by an employee, in relation to a sewer or septic tank, means its manual cleaning by such employee without the employer fulfilling his obligations to provide protective gear and other cleaning devices and ensuring observance of safety precautions, as may be prescribed or provided in any other law, for the time being in force or rules made thereunder.
- **Section 2 (g) Manual Scavenging: “manual scavenger”** means a person engaged or employed by an individual or a local authority or a public or private agency, for **manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of, or otherwise handling in any manner, human excreta** in an **insanitary latrine** or in an **open drain** or **pit** into which the human excreta from insanitary latrines is disposed of, or on a **railway track** or in such other spaces or premises, as the Central Government or a State Government may notify, before the excreta fully decomposes in such manner as may be prescribed, and the expression **“manual scavenging”** shall be construed accordingly

### **2.1.3. Section 4(l): Local Authority to Survey and Provide Community Sanitary Latrine:**

- Carry out a survey of insanitary latrines existing within its jurisdiction, and publish a list of such insanitary latrines, within a period of two months from the date of commencement of this Act

- Give a notice to the occupier to either demolish the insanitary latrine or convert it into a sanitary latrine, within a period of six months from the date of commencement of the Act
- Construct, within a period not exceeding nine months from the date of commencement of the Act, such number of sanitary community latrines as it considers necessary, in the areas where insanitary latrines have been found
- As per Section 2(f) of the Act, local authorities include Municipalities, Panchayats, Railway Authorities & Cantonment Boards

#### **2.1.4. Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavenger:**

- **Section 5 of the MS Act, 2013:** No person, local authority or agency shall after commencement of the Act (06.12.2013), engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, a manual scavenger and every person so engaged or employed shall stand discharged immediately from any obligation, express or implied, to do manual scavenging.
- **Section 7:** no person, local authority or any agency shall employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank

#### **2.1.5. Penalty**

- **Section 8 of the MS Act:** whoever contravenes the provision of section 5 shall for the first contravention be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees or with both, and for any subsequent contravention with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.
- **Section 9:** whoever contravenes the provisions of section 7 shall for the first contravention be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or with both, and for any subsequent contravention with imprisonment which may extend to five years or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees, or with both
- **Section 22:** every offence under the Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable.

#### **2.1.6. Function of NCSK:**

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) has been mandated under Section 31 of the MS Act, 2013 to monitor its implementation.

#### **2.1.7. Duties of Local Authority**

##### **2.1.7.1. Under Section 33 of the MS Act, 2013**

- It shall be the duty of every local authority and other agency to use appropriate technological appliances for cleaning of sewers, septic tanks and other spaces within their control with a view to eliminate the need for the manual handling of excreta in the process of their cleaning

- It shall be the duty of the appropriate Government to promote, through financial assistance incentives and otherwise, the use of modern technology, as mentioned in sub-section (1)

## **2.2. Achievement since 2014-15**

### **2.2.1. Loan Schemes of NSKFDC**

- The target group of NSKFDC comprises of Safai Karam charis (including Waste-pickers), Manual Scavengers and their dependents. Financial Assistance is provided at concessional rates of interest to the target group of NSKFDC for various income generating activities under its loan schemes.
- NSKFDC has disbursed financial assistance of Rs. 1687.32 Cr for extending the benefits of various loan schemes of NSKFDC to 238483 beneficiaries from its target groups since F.Y. 2014-15 to current F.Y. 2022-23 as on 31.03.2023.
- NSKFDC has been implementing two dedicated schemes for women i.e. Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) and Mahila Adhikarita Yojana (MAY) for maximum coverage of women beneficiaries from its target group. Preference is also being given by NSKFDC for coverage of women beneficiaries under its other loan schemes.
- Since 2014-15 (till 31.03.2023) the achievement under Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) is Rs in 691.93 Cr given to 142787 beneficiaries and Rs in 70.52 Cr given to 9704 beneficiaries under Mahila Adhikarita Yojana (MAY).

Rebate in interest rate is also provided to women beneficiaries in other loan schemes to incentivize them to avail the benefits of the loan schemes of NSKFDC. A rebate of 0.5% in the Rate of Interest is also being provided to women beneficiaries under its Education Loan scheme. Further, lower rate of interest is charged from women beneficiaries under SwachhtaUdyamiYojana (SUY) and Green Business Scheme.

### **2.2.2. Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY)**

- NSKFDC introduced Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) in the year 2014 with the twin objectives of cleanliness and providing livelihood to Safai Karamcharis and liberated Manual Scavengers to achieve the overall goal of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” initiated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister. The progress under SUY as on 31.03.2023 is as under:
- NSKFDC has disbursed funds of Rs. 86.84 Cr to its Channelizing Agencies for procurement of 1035 units of mechanized cleaning equipment/ vehicles by 2509 beneficiaries under Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY).
- NSKFDC has disbursed funds of Rs. 40.17 Cr to 29 ULBs for procurement of 296 units of sanitation related equipment/vehicles under SUY.

### **2.2.3. Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**

#### **2.2.3.1. Achievements since 2014-15**

- During two surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018, 58,098 eligible Manual Scavengers (MS) were identified. All 58,098 eligible Manual Scavengers have been provided One Time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000.
- 22,294 manual scavengers and their dependents have been covered under various skill development training programmes.
- Capital subsidy of upto Rs. 5.00 lakh provided 2313 MS/Dependents for self-employment projects.
- Capital subsidy of upto Rs. 5.00 lakh also provided to 641 sanitation workers/Dependents for sanitation related projects.
- 1177 workshops have been organized in various ULBs since 2017-18 for spreading awareness about prevention of ‘Hazardous Cleaning of Sewers and Septic Tanks’.
- 274 Health-cum-Awareness Camps have been organized in the basties/workplace of manual scavengers/sanitation workers.
- Covered over 18,494 sanitation workers under RPL/upskilling training programmes.
- Total expenditure of Rs. 277.26 crore incurred from 2014 to implement the scheme.
- 508 districts have reported themselves as manual scavenging free.

#### **2.2.4. National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Status of Action Taken**

**2.2.4.1. Guidelines of NAMASTE** covering its interventions and modalities of implementation are under finalization. NAMASTE would have the following major interventions/components and would cover all Urban Local Bodies of the country (over 4800): -

- i. Profiling of Sewer/Septic Tanks cleaning workers and their family through ULBs.
- ii. **Occupational Training:** Provide occupational training
- iii. **Assistance:** Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh and interest subsidy for projects financed by banks for sanitation related projects.
- iv. **Safety Kits:** Distribution of safety PPE kits to SSWs
- v. **Safety Equipment:** Providing safety equipment to SRUs.
- vi. **Health Insurance** coverage under Ayushman Bharat
- vii. **IEC Campaign:** Targeting Safai Mitras, Operators/Contractors, Citizens.

- viii. **IT Enabled MIS:** A comprehensive and robust IT enabled NAMASTE MIS would be established for implementation, tracking of targets and achievements etc.
- ix. **Formation of SHGs** of identified SSWs and their dependents.
- x. **Evaluation:** NAMASTE interventions to be evaluated under Swachchh Servekshan by MoHUA

**2.2.4.2. In addition, the progress of the following major interventions would also be monitored and pursued:**

- **Constitution and formalization of ERSU:** Ensure constitution of Emergency Sanitation Response Unit (ESRU) in larger ULB of Districts having well trained, motivated appropriately equipped manpower and requisite equipments for cleaning and having operational helpline number.
- **Appointment of RSA:** Nomination/appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority in each district.
- **Helpline Number:** Operationalisation of helpline in all ESRUs to attend to the requests, complaints etc. regarding sewer/septic tank cleaning.
- **Mechanisation:** MoSJE will provide mechanised cleaning equipment to Sanitation Workers and also fund to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) under Swachchhata Udyami Yojna through NSKFDC. Sanitation Workers will also be provided Capital Subsidy upto Rs.5lakh to make them “Saniprenuer” for their safety and livelihood support.MoHUA will provide of Mechanised cleaning equipments/machines for deep cleaning of Sewer Septic Tanks under their budgetary allocation of SBM-II to ULBs.
- **Empanelment of Private Sanitation Service Organizations (PSSOs):** MoHUA will do profiling of new or listing of existing PSSOs providing services of cleaning of sewers and septic tanks which are empanelled with the local government agency, ULB, or parastatal agencies (viz. Local Development Authority, Cantonment Board Jal Boards, PWD etc. Only empanelled service providers will be authorized to provide services for cleaning septic tanks, machine holes, and sewer lines. The details of these service providers will also be available on the NAMASTE portal for the general public.
- **Prevention of Hazardous cleaning and safety of Sewer Septic tank workers (SSWs):**NAMASTE aims at ensuring occupational safety of SSWs by providing them with PPE kit. PPE Kits for surface cleaning sanitation workers, undertaking mechanised cleaning operations would be provided by MoSJE. Whereas, the deep cleaning sanitation workers would be provided PPE kits by MoHUA. The scheme would also provide Safety Devices upto the cost of Rs. 2,00,000/-to ERSU for promotion of safe and mechanised cleaning practices. About 1000 SRU (approx one in each district) are likely to be set up in the country for emergency cleaning of sewers/septic tanks.
- **Sensitization about Hazardous cleaning:** IEC campaign would be undertaken jointly by the ULBs and NSKFDC to spread awareness about the importance of

safe and healthy cleaning practices and for availing services only through empanelled PSSO's. These outreach programmes would be citizen centric to educate household/individuals/RWAs/Mall owners/Hospitals/Hotels and contractors. Workshops on Prevention of hazardous Cleaning of Sewer Septic Tanks would be continued to be organized in the ULBs to educate stakeholders about the penal provisions under MS Act 2013 for engaging persons in hazardous manual cleaning of sewer septic tanks and for promotion of safe mechanized cleaning operations.

- Scheme is proposed to be implemented during next three years from 2023-24 with an expenditure of Rs. 350 crores.

## **2.2.5. Initiative taken by other Ministries/Departments**

### **2.2.5.1. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**

- In rural India, considerable numbers of toilets are linked to on-site sanitation, such as septic tanks and single pits. The management of black water especially the safe disposal of faecal sludge in rural areas has always been promoted through Twin Pit Toilets. This method not only allows on site and safe disposal of the faecal sludge but is efficient for the low quantity generated for the individual households in the rural areas. Also, it nullified the need for emptying of the faecal material.
- But in many areas, for emptying of such septic tanks/single pits, in the SBM (G) Guidelines, States/districts have been advised to ensure mechanical cleaning and prioritize treatment at STP/FSTP under urban rural convergence.
- In this regard, villages up to a distance of 15-20 Km will be linked to urban facilities for emptying of septic tanks/single pits, its transportation to the treatment facility and safe treatment of collected waste. A joint communication for Urban-rural integration on mechanized emptying/desludging has been issued by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- In view of the above, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched 'Retrofit to Twin Pit Abhiyan' which started on October 2nd through January 26th with following objectives:
  - ✓ Promote construction of only Twin Pits in the new IHHL as per the guidelines of SBMG Phase II and FSM Manual of DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti
  - ✓ Retrofit the existing Single Pits to Twin Pit
  - ✓ Retrofit existing Septic Tanks with Soak pits
  - ✓ Generate awareness about safe disposal of faecal sludge in rural households.
  - ✓ All Gram Panchayat have been advised to pass a resolution regarding ensuring safe disposal of the faecal sludge at household level and simultaneously retrofit to twin pit.

### **2.2.5.2. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**

#### **➤ Institutional Interventions**



- RSA in districts
- ESRUs in Corporations & District HQs
- 14420 helpline number
- **Manpower-related Interventions:**
  - Empanelment of Private Sanitation Service Operators
  - Enumeration of Sewer Entry Professionals (SEPs)
  - Capacity Building and Safety Gear for SEPs
- **Mechanization Interventions:**
  - Assessment of tentative requirement of machines/manpower
  - Availability of equipment on GeM portal
  - Financial support
- **Current Progress:**
  - 1088 Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSAs) established
  - 670 ULBs declared themselves Safai Mitra Surakshit Shehar
  - 1111 Sanitation Response Units (SRUs) established

### **3. MEASURES TAKEN UP BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR UPLIFTMENT OF OBCs/EWS**

#### **3.1. Policy Measures**

##### **3.1.1. Reservation for OBCs in Civil Posts and Services under the Government of India**

The Government provides 27% reservation to the SEBCs in matters of direct recruitment to civil posts and services under the Government of India. Since 2014, SEBCs representation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services under the Government of India consistently exceeded the 27 percent earmarked for them. In fact, the representation of OBC in direct recruit in 2018 reached 34.52%.

##### **3.1.2. Reservation in Educational Institutions**

Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in admission) Act provides 27% reservation for SEBCs in admission to Central Educational Institutions. The All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) shows large increase in enrolment of SEBCs from 11256849 in the year 2014-15 to 14821537 in the year 2021-2021 (31.7% increase).

##### **3.1.3. Constitution 105th Amendment Act 2021 empowers the States/UTs to maintain separate OBC State list**

- This Act enables the State/UT Governments to maintain their own separate State/UT List of SEBCs for the purposes of reservations in State Government services etc. Vide the Constitution (One Hundred and Fifth Amendment) Act, 2021 Act, the Article 342A and 366(26C) were further amended as under:

In Article 342A of the Constitution

- (a) in clause (1), for the words “the socially and educationally backward classes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution”, the words “the socially and educationally backward classes in the Central List, which shall, for the purposes of the Central Government” shall be substituted.
- (b) after clause (2), the following shall be inserted, namely:-

‘Explanation. - For the purposes of clauses (1) and (2), the expression “Central List” means the list of socially and educationally backward classes prepared and maintained by and for the Central Government.

- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in Clauses (1) and (2), every State or Union Territory may, by law, prepare and maintain, for its own purposes, a list of socially and educationally backward classes, entries in which may be different from those in the Central List.’

In article 366 of the Constitution, for clause (26C), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

‘(26C) socially and educationally backward classes” means such backward classes as are so deemed under article 342A for the purposes of the Central Government or the State or Union Territory, as the case may be.’

## **Why the Constitution (105) Amendment At 2021 is crucial?**

- a. If the State List is abolished, nearly 671 OBC communities which are there in the State List would have lost access to reservation in educational institutions and in appointments. That would have adversely impacted nearly one-fifth of the total OBC communities.
- b. The federal structure which respects the authority of the State to make provisions for the welfare of the socially and educationally backward will be restored.
- c. This amendment will ensure that there is no ambiguity in interpretation of this legislative intent.
- d. It allows States to respond to socio-economic requirements which are specific to a State or region, faster.

### **3.1.4. EWS Reservation**

- Articles 15(6) and 16(6) were inserted in the Constitution vide the Constitution 103rd Amendment Act 2019 which enable the States to provide upto 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in Government jobs and Government Educational Institutions. Based on this 10% reservation scheme for the EWS was implemented by the Government in January 2019. The Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its majority judgment dated 7.11.2022 has upheld the validity of the Constitution 103<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act 2019.
- The Government, in pursuance of the recommendations of Mandal Commission had issued an Office Memorandum (O.M.) on 13th August, 1990 for providing 27% reservation in civil posts and services for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) and
- thereafter amended this O.M. vide another O.M. of 25th September, 1991 for providing reservation of 10% of the vacancies in civil posts and services under the Government of India for other economically backward sections of the society who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation. The Supreme Court in its order of 16th December, 1992 in the Indra Sawhney case (W.P (C) No. 930 of 1990) disallowed the reservation of 10% on economic criterion.

**3.1.4.1** The economically weaker sections of the people who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation constitute a considerable large part of the Indian population. In view of the above, and in order to do justice to all weaker sections of the people, it has become essential to appropriately amend the Constitution in order to enable the State to extend the various benefits, including reservations in the educational institutions and public employment to the economically weaker sections of the people who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation. In this connection, enabling provisions need to be made in Articles 15 and 16.

**3.1.4.2** The Government had subsequently set up a Commission in March 2005, having considered it expedient to provide reservation in civil posts and services under the State for Economically Backward Classes not covered by existing reservation policy. The terms of reference of the Commission were:-

- (a) to elicit the views of the State Governments/UTs and other Commissions on the subject;
- (b) to suggest criteria for identification of economically backward classes;
- (c) to recommend the welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education and government employment; and
- (d) to suggest necessary Constitutional, Legal and Administrative modalities as required for implementation of their recommendations.

**3.1.4.3** This Commission, also known as Sinho Commission, submitted its Report in July, 2010. The major findings in the Sinho Commission's Report are summarized below:-

(i) the Commission considered General Category as comprising that class of people who do not receive any benefits under the reservation policies. The Commission based on an analysis of estimates of different survey reports viz., National Sample Survey 2004-05, National Family Health Survey 1998-99 and Mandal Commission's figures of 1990 concluded that the General Category made up 31.2% of the total population and that the Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) would emerge from this General Category (GC);

(ii) as per National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) Survey 2004-05 while half of the GC in rural areas had Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) below the average MPCE, about 64% OBCs had the same status. Both GC and OBCs in rural India had better consumption status compared to STs and SCs as 79.6% and 77.4% of them respectively had MPCE below the State average. The difference between GC and OBCs was higher in urban areas where GC appeared considerably better in their MPCE status. However, more than relative comparison, about 54% of GC both in urban and rural areas, had MPCE that was below the State average;

(iii) as per NSSO Survey 2004-05 and Census 2001, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in GC was 18.2 % representing 5.85 crore in absolute numbers which was only 2 crore less than BPL among SCs at 7.74 crore and was higher than BPL among STs at 4.25 crore. Thus number of poor households among GC was higher than that of STs;

(iv) the percentage distribution of occupation among social groups in urban and rural India as per the NSSO Survey 2004-05 revealed that there was no major difference percentage wise in self employment in agriculture, self employment in non-agriculture and in regular salaried groups. Although the share of GC and OBCs was considerably lower compared to that of SCs/STs as labour, a remarkable status of equity was the uniform percentage of engagement in regular salaried jobs in urban India by all four groups. The percentage participation from GC, at 42%, was in fact, equal to that of the STs/SCs, at 42.5% and 42.9% respectively, while the OBCs engagement in jobs was a shade lower;

(v) as per the Survey *ibid*, 35.3% of the GC did not possess any land, not different from OBCs with 39.1 % of them not possessing land;

(vi) in certain States the illiteracy rate of GC and OBCs was almost the same, though the illiteracy status of GC was less than SCs, STs and OBCs. Nearly 28% of GC were illiterate and rate of illiteracy among GC was high at 36.7% in rural areas. Also GC- rural-female as a segment had 50.0% illiteracy compared to 43.3% of overall OBCs illiteracy;

(vii) the analysis of the profile of GC had given a broad contour of the poor GC in terms of its common socio-economic parameters. Such poor households would come from the landless population (35.3% of GC), with high women illiteracy (50% of GC rural women), marginal

farmers and part time/temporary workers in the unorganized sector, who had to cope with Kachcha housing, poor hygiene and inability to spend on the basics. Their cultural barriers to manual labour and occupational restriction for women added to the poverty;

(viii) while the socio-economic condition of the GC was much ahead of the SCs/STs and better than OBCs, it was noted that there might be segments within the GC having status equal to or worse than that of the average OBCs on several parameters such as education, occupation, land holding, health and housing. People from such segments with multiple deprivations were likely to form the Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) or poor within GC as a class;

(ix) the important finding was that at the lower end of their respective spectrums the GC and OBCs were comparable on the weakness on a large number of parameters. The weak status on literacy and primary education, land holding, housing, etc. was not too different at the lower end of the two social groups;

(x) such similarity of multiple sources of poverty was the reason of formation of the BPL segments with the common condition of inability to afford the basics. NSSO based proportion of BPL among social groups showed the poor BPL class of about 30 crore people or 5 crore families came from about half of STs, one third of SCs and OBCs, and a little less than one fifth of GC;

(xi) however, while the poor among backward classes were eligible for affirmative action measures, including reservation arising from their entitlement as Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), poor among the GC were not eligible for such measures. This makes a strong case for affirmative action measures in favour of the Economically Weaker people among General Category;

(xii) the Commission recommended that all BPL families among General Category as notified from time to time and all those families among GC whose annual family income from all sources is below the taxable limit (as may be revised from time to time) should be identified as EBCs. This income limit will include the combined income of husband and wife and will exclude the income of their parents and adult children.

(xiii) the Commission suggested a whole range of welfare measures for the EBCs like extension of existing development schemes for OBCs to the economically weaker sections among the GC, special economic packages for EBCs residing in hazardous areas, extension of MGNREGA in scheme to semi-skilled work for the economically weaker section among the GC, particularly the women folk, special health insurance packages for economically weaker section families, setting up of a National Commission for this category to suggest welfare measure and monitoring of their implementation and setting up of a National Finance and Development Corporation to foster rapid economic development of economically weaker section;

(xiv) the Commission noted that reservation in Indian context is a form of affirmative action whereby a percentage of posts is reserved in the public sector units, Union and State Civil Services and in educational institutions for socially and educationally backward classes of citizens. The Commission derived the constitutional and legal understanding that 'Backward Classes' cannot be identified for providing reservation in employment and admission in educational institutions on the basis of economic criteria alone and hence 'Economically Backward Classes' (EBCs) could not be identified by the State for extending reservation till necessary constitutional amendments are made or until a different direction is given by the Supreme Court so as to raise the 50% upper limit for reservation;

**3.1.4.4** The Sinho Commission recommended that all BPL families among General Category as notified from time to time and also all families whose annual family income from all sources is below the taxable limit (as may be revised from time to time) should be identified as EBCs. However, since establishing of BPL is open to debate and in order to maintain parity with similar categories, it would be appropriate to apply the income/wealth test made applicable in the case of OBCs for the purpose of exclusion from the benefit of reservation.

**3.1.4.5** In pursuance to the Supreme Court judgment in Indra Sawhney case in W.P. No. 930/1990 vide which the 27% reservation given to the OBCs by the Government was upheld, the Government had recommended that persons having gross annual income of Rs. 1.00 lakh and above or possessing wealth above the exemption limit as prescribed in Wealth Tax Act for a period of three consecutive years shall be excluded from the benefit of OBC reservation. The Government accepted the recommendation and issued an O.M. on 08.09.1993 on the exclusion criteria. The income limit OF Rs.1.00 lakh has been raised from time to time and at present is Rs. 8.00 lakh per annum and the wealth tax is in force at present.

**3.1.4.6** In the identification of SEBCs more emphasis is given to social backwardness, but to identify the Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs), only the income criteria may be applied. Hence persons whose family has gross annual income below Rs. 8.00 lakh per annum may be identified as EWSs for the benefit of reservation. Family here, may include the person who seeks benefit of reservation, his/her parents and siblings below the age of 18 years as also his/her spouse and children below the age of 18 years. Also income may include income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession etc. and such income may be certified by an officer not below the rank of Tehsildar. To further ensure that the benefit of reservation reaches the needy people, persons whose family owns or possesses the following assets may also be excluded from being identified as EWSs:-

- (i) 5 acres of Agricultural Land and above;
- (ii) Residential flat of 1000 sq. ft. and above;
- (iii) Residential plot of 100 yards and above in notified municipalities;
- (iv) Residential plot of 200 yards and above in areas other than the notified municipalities.

**3.1.4.7** An estimation of the percentage of persons having monthly expenditure below the average MPCE has been made based on the latest NSSO Survey of 2011-12, which indicates that this percentage is high not only among STs, SCs and OBCs but also among the General Category. Hence, it would be appropriate to provide for at least 10% reservation to the EWSs both in direct recruitment and for admission in higher educational institutes.

**3.1.4.8** The Cabinet Note with the above justifications was submitted for consideration of the Cabinet by this Department on 6.1.2019 after its approval by the then HM/SJE. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 7.1.2019 considered the above proposals and approved that the same day. Based on the approval of the Cabinet this Department introduced the Constitution 124th Amendment Bill 2019 which was passed by the Lok Sabha on 8.1.2019 and the Rajya Sabha on 9.1.2019. The Bill became the Constitution 103rd Amendment Act 2019 after its assent by the President. Thereafter an OM was sent by the Department on 17.1.2019 to DOPT &

DHE with request to issue the necessary instructions regarding implementation of the 10% reservation to EWS. This was issued with the approval of the Hon'ble PM which was subsequently approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 6th February 2019.

Various WPs were filed before the Supreme Court challenging the validity of the Constitution 103rd Amendment Act 2019 – the lead case being WPC 55 of 2019 – JanhitAbhiyan vs UOI. The 5 Member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court vide its judgement dated 7.11.2022 has delivered its final verdict in the matter, which are summarized below.

The final verdict says:

**In view of the decision rendered by the majority consisting of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.B. Pardiwala, the challenge raised to 103rd Amendment to the Constitution fails and the decision rendered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat remains in minority. Consequently, the Writ Petitions and other proceedings stand disposed of.**

### **3.1.5. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) created as a Constitutional Body**

Vide the Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018 Act, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was conferred the Constitutional status w.e.f 11.8.2018. The Commission is now empowered to inquire into deprivation of rights/safeguards of the SEBCs.

**3.1.5.1** In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney Vs. UOI and Others case dated 16.11.1992, the Department of Personnel & Training vide O.M. dated 08.09.1993 introduced a provision for 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Civil Posts and Services under the Government of India. Vide this O.M. it was also conveyed that the OBCs for the purpose of the aforesaid reservation would comprise, in the first phase, the castes and communities which are common to both the lists in the report of the Mandal Commission and the State Governments' Lists. Accordingly, a list of such castes/communities was issued vide Resolution dated 10.09.1993 by the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare.

**3.1.5.2** In the above judgment the Supreme Court, directed the Government of India to constitute a permanent body in the nature of a Commission or Tribunal, for examining the requests for inclusion or exclusion of any of the castes/communities/groups of persons in the list of socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs) {commonly known as the Other Backward Classes (OBCs)}, and making appropriate recommendations thereon. Pursuant to the direction of the Supreme Court, the Government of India enacted the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 for setting up a Commission at the national level viz. "National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)" as a permanent body. The NCBC Act came into effect on the 2nd April, 1993. As per Section 1(2) of the NCBC Act 1993, the jurisdiction of the Act extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The NCBC Act, 1993 has been repealed with effect from 14.08.2018 vide National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Act, 2018. Simultaneously the Constitution (One Hundred Second Amendment) Act, 2018 was also notified by the Government on 11.8.2018, which also came into force with effect from 15.8.2018. Vide this Act, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has been reconstituted under newly inserted Article 338B.

**338B(1):** There shall be a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as the National Commission for Backward Classes.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament, the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members and the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members so appointed shall be such as the President may by rule determine.



(3) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

(4) The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.

Clause (5) of Article 338B lays down the NCBC's functions and responsibilities as follows:-

“(5) It shall be duty of the Commission-

- (a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards.
- (b) to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes;
- (c) to participate and advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union or any State;
- (d) to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports on the working of those safeguards;
- (e) to make in such reports recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes; and
- (f) to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes as the president may, subject to the provisions of any law made by the Parliament, by rule specify”.

(6) The President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(7) Where any such report, or any part thereof, relates to any matter with which any State Government is concerned, a copy of such report shall be forwarded to the State Government which shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(8) The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in sub-clause (a) or inquiring into any complaint referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (5), have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
  - (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
  - (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; (f) any other matter which the President may, by rule, determine.
- (9) of Article 338B makes it mandatory for the Union and every State Government to “consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting t h e socially and educationally backward classes.”

### **3.1.6. Inclusion of new castes/communities in the Central List of OBCs**

During 2014 to 2018, a total 16 new castes/communities have been included in the Central List of SEBCs in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

### **3.1.7. Enhancement of OBC creamy layer**

The Annual income limit for determination of the creamy layer amongst the SEBCs was enhanced to Rs.8 lakhs in the year 2017.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), vide its O.M., dated 13.08.1990 issued, orders for providing 27% reservation to persons belonging to SEBCs in services and posts under the Central Government. These orders were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, in its judgment, in the IndraSawhney case (1992), while upholding the 27% reservation for SEBCs in civil posts and services under the Union, laid down that the said reservation shall be subject to the exclusion of socially advanced persons/sections from amongst SEBCs referred to as the “Creamy Layer” from the purview of reservation for SEBC. The Court further directed that the Government of India should specify the basis for identifying such socially advanced persons/sections from amongst the SEBCs, by applying the relevant and requisite socio-economic criteria within four months from the date of the judgment.

**3.1.7.1** In pursuance of this judgment, the Government of India issued the Office Memorandum (OM), dated 08.09.1993, granting 27% reservation to SEBCs and simultaneously excluding the ‘Creamy Layer’ from amongst SEBCs from its purview. The said OM, inter alia, specified six categories of parents whose children could be considered as “Creamy Layer”. The sixth category in the OM prescribed an “income/wealth test” to exclude the “Creamy Layer’ from the benefit of reservations for SEBCs. The above OM, dated 08.09.1993, provided that the sons and daughters of persons having gross annual income of Rs.1 lakh and above or possessing wealth above the exemption limit, as prescribed in the Wealth Tax Act\*\* for a period of 3 consecutive financial years would fall in the “Creamy Layer”. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, vide their OM, dated 20.4.2008, adopted the same definition of ‘creamy layer’ for admission to the Central Educational Institutions.

**3.1.7.2** The income limit was prescribed to be revised, ordinarily, every three years, “but if the situation so demands, the interregnum may be less”. Accordingly, the income limit has been revised four times so far, as given below:

	Income limit (Annual)	Date of Revision
First	Rs. 2.5 lakhs	9.3.2004
Second	Rs. 4.5 lakhs	14.10.2008
Third	Rs.6.0 lakhs	27.5.2013
Fourth	Rs.8.0 lakhs	13.9.2017

\*\* The wealth tax, as indicated in DoPT OM, dated 8.9.1993, has since been done away with.

### **3.1.8. Implementation of 27% Reservation to OBCs and 10% Reservation to EWS in NEET Examination**

The Government implemented the provision for 27% Reservation to the OBCs and 10% Reservation to EWS in the All India Quota (AIQ) seats in both undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses in August 2021. This reservation to the OBCs has been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 22.1.2022.

In this case regarding implementation of EWS and OBC reservation in NEET exams, the Supreme Court have passed further orders on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022. As per these orders:

- The reservation for OBC candidates in the AIQ seats for UG and PG medical and dental courses is constitutionally valid. The challenge to the constitutional validity of OBC reservation in AIQ seats introduced through the notice dated 29 July 2021 is rejected.
- The implementation of EWS reservation in AIQ seats in NEET UG and PG seats for the academic year of 2021-2022 is allowed.
- The challenge to the validity of the criteria determined by the Pandey committee for the identification of the EWS category shall be listed for final hearing.

### **3.1.9. Sub Categorization of OBCs**

The Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes (OBCs) (CESOB) in the Central List, was constituted by the Government under Article 340 of the Constitution in October 2017. This Commission, under the chairpersonship of Justice (retd) Ms. G.Rohini is yet to submit its report to the Government. The term of the Commission is presently up to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

#### **1. When was the CESOB constituted?**

Approval of the Cabinet was obtained vide Cabinet Secretariat's O.M. No. 29/CM/2017(I) dated 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 for constituting a Commission under Article 340 of the Constitution to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Central List.

#### **2. What is its composition?**

Composition of the "Commission"

- i. Chairperson – Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini, Chief Justice (Retd.), High Court of Delhi.
- ii. Member – Dr. J.K. Bajaj, Director, Centre for Policy Studies, New Delhi.
- iii. Member (Ex-officio) – Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata.
- iv. Member (Ex-officio) – Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.

### **3. What are its terms of Reference?**

#### Terms of reference:

- i. Examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes/ communities included in the broad category of OBCs, with reference to the OBCs included in the Central list.
- ii. Work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters, in a scientific approach, for sub-categorization within such OBCs and,
- iii. Take up the exercise of identifying the respective castes/communities/ sub-castes/ synonyms in the Central List of OBCs and classifying them into their respective sub-categories.

While extending the term of the Commission for the eighth time, the following was added to the Terms of Reference of the “Commission”

- iv. “to study the various Entries in the Central List of OBCs and recommend correction of any repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies and errors of spelling or transcription.”

### **4. How many times the tenure of the CESOB been extended?**

It was stipulated that the “Commission” shall submit its report within twelve weeks of assumption of charge by the Chairperson of the “Commission”. The Chairperson of the “Commission” and other Members assumed charge on 11th October, 2017. Thus, the “Commission” was required to submit its report by 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018.

The term of the “Commission” was extended, at the request of the “Commission”, first time upto 27.03.2018, second time upto 20.6.2018, third time upto 31.7.2018, fourth time upto 30.11.2018, fifth time upto 31.5.2019, sixth time upto 31.7.2019, seventh time upto 31.1.2020, eighth time upto 31.7.2020, ninth time upto 31.1.2021, tenth time upto 31.7.2021 and eleventh time upto 31.1.2022, twelfth time upto 31.7.2022, thirteenth time upto 31.1.2023 and fourteenth time upto 31.7.2023 each time with the approval of Cabinet.

### **5. Why the CESOB has not been able to complete its work?**

. Consultation with other States/UTs had to be suspended by the CESOB initially because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic during March-April 2020. Although the lockdown restrictions were relaxed thereafter, yet the Commissions was not been able to complete the task since the State/UT Governments have not been able to send their responses quickly. Some of the major States have requested to for additional time for sending their responses. Also, due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic since April 2021 no work could be done by the Commission during the period.

One of the Terms of Reference of the Commission includes dis-ambiguation of the existing Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). It has been stated by the Commission that the substantive part of the work has been completed and the Commission is in the process of finalization of the dis-ambiguation of the existing Central List of OBCs which comprises 2633 entries. This requires some more time. Therefore the Commission had requested for extension during January 2023.

**6. What will be the likely impact of the final report of the CESOB?**

The Communities in the existing list of OBCs which have not been able to get any major benefit of the scheme of reservation for OBCs for appointment in Central Government posts & for admission in Central Government Educational Institutions are expected to be benefitted upon implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. The Commission is likely to make recommendations for benefit of such marginalized communities in the Central List of OBCs.

### **3.2. Socio Economic Welfare Schemes for OBC/EWS/DNT**

- PM young achievers' scholarship award scheme for vibrant India for OBCs and others (PM –YASASVI)

#### **3.2.1. Pre-Matric scholarships to OBC, EBC AND DNT students**

##### **3.2.1.1 Salient Features of the scheme:**

- The scholarship will be provided for students studying in class IX and X on a full-time basis in Government School only.
- Parents /guardians income from all sources does not exceed Rs.2,50,000/- per annum.
- The students shall be given a consolidated academic allowance of Rs. 4000/- per annum.
- The entire scholarship amount will be paid directly into the account of the students ONLY through DBT
- There will be a 60: 40 sharing ratios between the Centre and States. For Northeastern States and for the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh the sharing ratio will be 90:10. For UTs without legislatures, 100% funds shall be provided by Centre.

##### **3.2.1.2 Achievements in the last 9 years**

- Funds Released :**1556.70 Lakhs**
- No of Beneficiaries :**668.68 Lakhs (excluding FY 22-23)**

#### **3.2.2. Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT students**

##### **3.2.2.1 Salient Features of the Scheme:**

- Parents/guardians income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 2.50 lakh per annum will be entitled for the scholarship under the Scheme.
- Courses have been divided in four groups and scholarship amount ranges from Rs. 5000 to Rs 20000 per annum yearly.
- The award once made will be payable up to the completion of the course subject to satisfactory academic performance and attendance of 75% in every academic year.
- The entire scholarship amount will be paid directly into the account of the students only through DBT
- There will be a 60: 40 sharing ratios between the Centre and States. For Northeastern States and for the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh the sharing ratio will be 90:10. For UTs without legislatures, 100% funds shall be provided by Centre.

### **3.2.2.2 Achievements in the last 9 years.**

- Funds Released:**Rs. 8313.039 Lakhs**
- No of Beneficiaries: **291.85 Lakhs (excluding FY'22-23)**

### **3.2.3. Top Class Education in Schools for OBC, EBC and DNT students**

This is a new scheme being implemented w.e.f. 2021-22.

#### **➤ Salient features of the scheme:**

- ✓ The grants will be provided for tuition fee etc's required by the school, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 75,000/- per annum per student of class 9 and 10 and Rs. 1,25,000/- per annum per student of class 11 and 12.
- ✓ The good quality CBSE/ICSE/State Board affiliated reputed and performing higher secondary schools having classes from 9 to 12, shall be covered under the scheme.
- ✓ The students who secured admission in the shortlisted schools would only be eligible for scholarships under the scheme.
- ✓ 30% of the slots shall be reserved for girl students.
- ✓ The scholarship will be terminated if the student fails to get promoted to the next semester/ class.
- ✓ The release of funds will be directly into the account of beneficiaries through DBT mode.

### **3.2.4. Top Class Education in College For OBC, EBC and DNT Students**

This is a new scheme being implemented w.e.f. 2021-22.

#### **➤ Salient features of the Scheme:**

- ✓ The Scheme will operate in all the institutions notified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for every financial year.
- ✓ All the IIMs / IITs/ IIITs / AIIMSs/ NITs/NIFTs/ NIDs/ Indian Institutes of Hotel Management, National Law Universities and other Central Government Institutions will be eligible to be included in the Scheme.
- ✓ The students, who secure admission in the notified institutions, will be awarded scholarship to meet the requirements for (a)full tuition fee and non-refundable charges (there will be a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum per student for private sector institutions and Rs. 3.72 lakhs per annum per student for the private sector flying clubs for Commercial Pilot Training and Type Rating Courses) (b)living expenses to the beneficiary @Rs.3000/-per month per student (c)books and stationery @ Rs. 5000/- per annum per student; and(d) a latest computer/laptop of reputed brand with accessories like UPS and printer limited to Rs. 45000/- per student as one time assistance during the course.



### **3.2.5. Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls**

#### **➤ Salient features of the scheme:**

- ✓ Agencies eligible for financial assistance under the revised Scheme will be State Governments and UT Administrations; the Institution of repute ranked in the latest NIRF rankings of Ministry of Education.
- ✓ The cost of construction of hostels for Boys has to be shared between the Centre and the State in 60:40 ratio (in case of Girls Hostels 90% by the Centre). In case of UTS and NIRF ranking Institutions, the Central Assistance shall be 100% and for NE States and 02 Himalayan States (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), it shall be 90%.
- ✓ The construction work of the Hostel has to be completed within eighteen months from award of work order or two years from the release of 1st instalment of Central assistance, whichever is earlier. In no case the time will be extended beyond 2 years.
- ✓ The cost per hostel seat in NE/ Himalayan Regions would be Rs. 3.50 lakh per seat and for rest of the country Rs. 3.00 lakh per seat.
- ✓ The amount of grant will be released in 3 instalments in 50:45:5 ratio, of which 5% grant will be released after completion of the work and occupation of the rooms by the OBC Boys and Girls.
- ✓ There will be a one-time non-recurring grant of Rs.2500/- per seat for providing furniture/equipment to the hostels constructed under the Scheme.

#### **➤ Achievement in the last 9 Years:**

- Funds Released: Rs. **24929.73 Lakh**
- No of Seats: **15619 (including FY'22-23)**

### **3.2.6. Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) (OBC & Others)-2021-22 to 2025-26.**

#### **3.2.6.1. National Fellowship for OBC Students:**

#### **➤ Achievement during last 9 years:**

- ✓ Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 297.10 Cr released to nearly 7735 students under the Scheme

#### **➤ Salient features of the Scheme:**

- ✓ UGC is the implementing agency
- ✓ All universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- ✓ Eligibility conditions are as per notification for UGC-NET and CSIR-UGC-NET examinations.
- ✓ The rate of fellowship for JRF level is Rs.31000 per month and for SRF level it is Rs.35000 per month, besides contingencies amount.

- ✓ Out of 1000 slots available under this scheme, 750 will be allocated for the subjects under National Eligibility Test – Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC and remaining 250 UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) NETJRF joint test (for science streams).
- ✓ These 1000 slots will be over and above the OBC Students selected under the normal reservation policy of the Government.

At least 5% of the total seats should be reserved for students with disabilities while making selection of candidates for award of fellowships by the UGC.

**3.2.6.2. Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs):**

➤ **Achievement during last 9 years**

Since 2014-15 till date, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 143.93 Cr released to nearly 25845 students under the Scheme

➤ **Salient features of the Scheme**

- ✓ The Scheme is applicable for higher studies abroad. The interest Subsidy shall be linked with the existing Educational Loan Scheme of Indian Banks Association (IBA) and restricted to students enrolled for course at Masters, M.Phil and Ph.D level.
- ✓ For OBC candidates, total income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians in case of unemployed candidate shall not exceed present Creamy Layer criteria.
- ✓ For EBC candidates, total income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians in case of unemployed candidate shall not exceed Rs.5.00 lakh per annum
- ✓ 50% of the total financial assistance is reserved for women candidates.
- ✓ Under the scheme, 100% interest subsidy for the period of moratorium.
- ✓ Maximum limit of loan is Rs 20 Lakhs

**3.2.6.3. Credit assistance to OBCs for income generating activities by National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)**

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has been entrusted with the job of providing financial assistance at concessional rate of interest to the members of Backward Classes having annual family income less than Rs.3.00 lakh primarily for income generating activities to promote self-employment opportunities and for educational purposes through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by respective State Governments/UTs and Banks (PSBs& RRBs).

#### **3.2.6.4. Loan Scheme Achievements**

NBCFDC implements Term loan schemes and Micro Finance Schemes through Channel Partners (SCAs/Banks) in various States/UTs of the country for the Backward Classes.

##### **➤ Salient Features of the Loan Schemes**

- ✓ The maximum loan limit under these schemes is Rs. 15 Lakh and rate of interest from beneficiaries varies from 3.5% to 8%p.a.
- ✓ Loans uptoRs. 15.00 lakh/Rs. 20.00 lakh are provided under Education Loan for studies in India/Abroad.
- ✓ New Swarnima and MahilaSamriddhiYojana provide benefits to women beneficiaries exclusively.

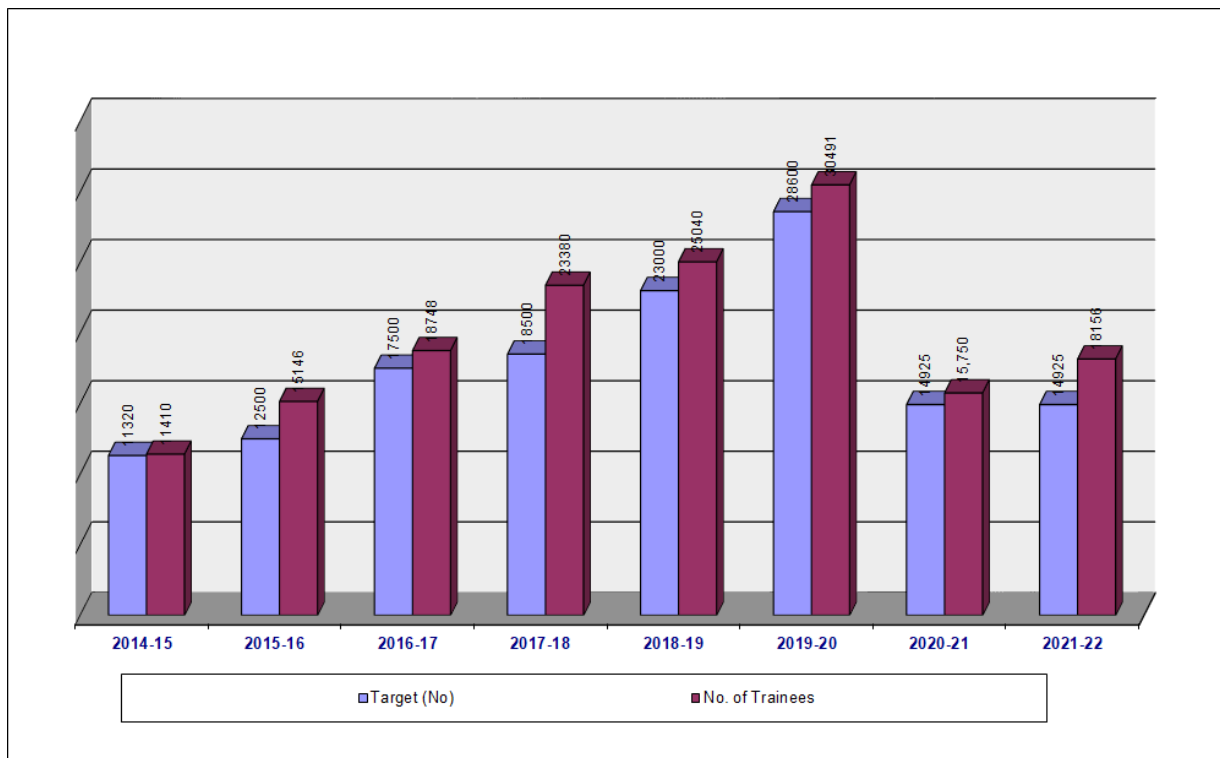
#### **3.2.7. The achievement under Loan Scheme during last 8 years is as under**

NBCFDC has disbursed financial assistance of **Rs. 3,533.62** Cr for extending the benefits of various loan schemes of NSKFDC to 461340 beneficiaries from its target groups since F.Y. 2014-15 to current F.Y. 2022-23

#### **3.2.8. Skill Development Initiative&Achievementsby NBCFDC**

NBCFDC facilitates Skill Development Training to the eligible members of target group. The training is conducted in broad conformance to the Common Norms, Skill Development Training Scheme of NBCFDC primarily and Pradhan MantriDakshataAurKushaltaSampannHitgrahiYojana (PM-DAKSH) from 2020-21 onwards primarily through Govt. Training Institutes and other credible Training Institutes.

**3.2.8.1. The achievement under Skill Development Scheme during last 8 years is as under:**



**3.2.9. Best Practices adopted by the Channel Partners**

Corporation shares best practices among its channel partners through compendium for their emulation at pan India level. Some of the best practices adopted by its channel partners are given below: -

- **Haryana Backward Classes & Economically Weaker Section Kalyan Nigam –**

The corporation has made all its schemes online with effect from 14.04.2018. Members of the target group in the State are now applying online only. The applicant/beneficiary is not required to visit the office of Corporation at district or head office level; he/she can conveniently apply from any of the ANTODAYA Kendras/bhawansin the districts, near his/her house or office. So, marginalized target group members have been provided the loans at concessional rate of interest in a thoroughly transparent manner throughout the State.

- **Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank - Financial Literacy/Awareness Camps:**

Financial literacy camps are organized by the bank in villages, schools, colleges etc. under financial inclusion and useful information is provided to the villagers by audio visual aids through mobile van.

- **Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation (KSBCDC) - Loanees Distress Relief Fund:**

KSBCDC has introduced a Loanees Distress Relief Fund (LDRF) to provide solace to the beneficiary or his bereaved family in other extreme distress situations like death,

permanent disability, accident, chronic illness etc. Maximum benefit sanctionable under the scheme is limited to the outstanding amount inclusive of Principal, Interest and Penal Interest on a case-to-case basis.

## **4. EMPOWERMENT OF SENIOR CITIZENS**

A senior citizen is an individual who is 60 years or older. The Government of India has implemented several schemes and benefits for senior citizens to ensure their welfare and well-being in their golden years. Some of these include:

- Financial Security
- Food
- Health Care
- Senior citizen homes

### **4.1. Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)**

The Government of India has been implementing Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) that brings together articulation of each of the schemes, future plans, strategies and targets and maps it with schemes/programmes/ components, accountabilities, financials and clear outcomes. It takes care of the top five needs of the senior citizens viz shelter, financial security, food, health care and human interaction /life of dignity. It also includes the facets of safety/protection and general wellbeing of the elderly beginning from awareness generation and sensitization of the society. AVYAY comprises of the following components:-

#### **4.1.1. Components financed through Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)**

- Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)
- State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC)

#### **4.1.2. Schemes from Senior Citizens Welfare Fund**

- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)
- Elderline – National Helpline for Senior Citizens
- Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE)

#### **4.1.3. Salient features of AVYAY**

**Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC):** Under of Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC), grant in aid is provided to implementing agencies upto 100% of project cost for providing free of cost shelter, nutrition, Medicare, entertainment facilities, etc. GIA is provided for running and maintenance of the following types of projects: -

- i. Senior Citizens' Homes for 25 destitute Senior Citizens
- ii. Senior Citizens' Homes for 50 Elderly Women.
- iii. Continuous Care Homes and Homes for senior citizens afflicted with Alzheimer's disease/ Dementia for a minimum of 20 Senior Citizens who are

seriously ill requiring continuous nursing care and respite or those who are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease/ Dementia.

- iv. Mobile Medicare Units to provide medical care to the Senior Citizens living in rural, isolated, and backward areas.
- v. Physiotherapy Clinics for Senior Citizens for a minimum of 50 Senior Citizens per month.
- vi. Regional Resource and Training Centre (RRTCs) monitors and provides technical support, advocacy, networking, training and capacity building for effective delivery of service by the Centres for Senior Citizens, funded by the Ministry.

Under the Scheme, assistance is sanctioned to the following agencies subject to the terms and conditions laid down by this Ministry: -

- i. Priority to be given to the State Governments / UT Administrations for supporting the projects under the Scheme of IPSrC through Registered Societies/ Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) / Local bodies, in the vicinity of Hospitals, as far as possible.
- ii. Non-Governmental/Voluntary Organizations.
- iii. Institutions or Organizations set up by Government as autonomous/ subordinate bodies.
- iv. Government Recognized Educational Institutions, Charitable Hospitals/ Nursing Homes, and recognized youth organizations such as Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)

#### **4.1.4. Details of physical / financial achievements under IPSrC**

Since 2014-15 Rs511.81 crore given to 6,67,330 Beneficiaries

#### **4.1.5. Selection of New projects under IPSrC**

- i. Section 19 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act, 2007 calls for providing of at least 1 senior citizen home in each district of the country. As on date, we have covered only 292 districts. Therefore, the Ministry is now providing new projects only Gap (uncovered) districts. For selecting new projects, State recommendation is required. The State recommendations, along with other details are then scrutinized by the Screening Committee in the Central Ministry.
- ii. Notification for inviting applications in gap districts is issued in consultation with the State/ UT Governments through e-Anudaan Portal.

#### **4.2. State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC)**

Under State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC), the Government of India perceives a major and critical role of all State Governments in partnering and implementing the Action Plan for welfare of senior citizens. Appreciating the critical and significant role of States/UTs, each State/UT is expected to plan and strategize taking into account their local

considerations and frame their own State Action Plans for the welfare of their senior citizens. This State Action Plan may comprise a long-term strategy for five years as well as Annual Action Plans and this Department shall release funds to the States/UTs for formulation and implementation of their State Action Plans.

- Rs. 43.13 crore Funds have been released under SAPSr. C. from 2019-20 to 2022-23.

#### **4.3. Senior Citizens Welfare Fund (SCWF)**

- A Senior Citizen Welfare Fund (SCWF) was established in 2016 for providing financial assistance to such Schemes that promote financial security of senior citizens, healthcare and nutrition of senior citizens, welfare of elderly widow and other innovative schemes directed towards welfare of senior citizens. The Fund comprises of the amounts available under Saving Schemes of the Central Government that remain unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date of the account being declared as inoperative account.
- The Fund is administered by an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as the Nodal Ministry for administration of the Fund. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee.
- The members of the Committee include representatives from Department of Financial Services, Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Rural Development, Housing & Urban Affairs, and Labour and Employment.

#### **4.4. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**

- Launched on 1st APRIL 2017 to provide assistive devices free of cost to eligible Senior citizens belonging to the BPL category or senior citizen with monthly income less than Rs. 15,000. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is implementing agency.
- RVY is funded from Senior Citizens Welfare Fund (SCWF).
- Total 12, 24, 645 devices amounting to Rs. 24,649.98 lakh distributed to 2,99,942 beneficiaries in 265 Camps organised under RVY since 2017-18.

#### **4.5. Elderline- National Helpline for Senior Citizens**

- Elder line –launched on 1st October 2021 to provide free information, Guidance, Emotional Support and field intervention in cases of abuse and rescues in order to improve the quality of life of senior citizens.
- Elder Line is a toll- free number (14567) operating for 12 hours a day (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM). National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) has been nominated as Central Nodal Agency (CNA) for Elderline.
- Funds released to NISD for Elderline is as follows: -
  - 2020-21 – Rs. 27.88 crore
  - 2021-22 – Rs. 21.31 crore
  - 2022-23 – Rs. 33.49 crore

#### **4.6. Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) –**

- To encourage youth to think about the problems of the elderly and come out with innovative ideas for the elderly care and promoting them into start-ups by providing equity support.
- Industrial Finance corporation of India (IFCI) Venture Capital Ltd. will hold the equity support given to the innovative start ups projects, on behalf of the Ministry(not exceeding 49%). Start ups should submit their innovative proposal through SAGE portal.
- Selected start-up(s) are provided equity support of Rs.1 crore per project.
- 9 Start-ups in FY 2021-22 and 4 Start-ups in FY 2022-23 have been selected

#### **4.7. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019:**

- The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPC) Act was enacted in December 2007 to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act provides for: -
  - ✓ Maintenance of parents/ senior citizens by children/ relatives made obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals,
  - ✓ Revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of neglect by relatives,
  - ✓ Penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens,
  - ✓ Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens,
  - ✓ Adequate medical facilities and security for Senior Citizens.
  - ✓ The Act has been notified and brought into force by all State Governments/UT Administrations, and consequential steps have also been carried out by them.
  - ✓ The Ministry is in the process to amend the MWPC Act 2007. The MWPC Amendment Bill 2019 had been introduced in the Lok Sabha and further was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. After receipt of the report from the Standing Committee, the Bill is under preparation.

#### **4.8. Schemes, Programmes, Concession and Benefits for senior citizens, being provided by another Ministries/Department:**

##### **4.8.1. Ministry of Rural Development:**

- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Rural Development. NSAP is a social security/social welfare programme applicable to old aged, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on death of primary bread winner, belonging to below poverty line household.



- Old age pension is provided under **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)** to aged persons belonging to below poverty line (BPL) household.
- Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month is provided to the persons of 60-79 years of age and Rs. 500/- per month to the persons of age of 80 years or more.
- This Scheme is implemented by the States/UTs.
- Identification of beneficiaries, sanction and disbursement of benefit under the schemes is done by the States/UTs.
- A total of 221 lakh is the targeted beneficiaries under IGNOAPS.
- The Scheme is implemented in all States/ UTs in rural as well as urban areas.

#### 4.8.2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:

- “National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly” (NPHCE) launched during 2010-11 is State oriented program with the basic thrust to provide comprehensive and dedicated health care facilities to the elderly persons above 60 year of age at various level of primary, secondary and tertiary health care.
  - **Primary & Secondary Geriatric Care Services:** The program commenced with 100 districts in the 11<sup>th</sup> plan period. In the 12<sup>th</sup> plan period 421 districts and in 2019-2020, 114 districts were additionally sanctioned to provide dedicated geriatric OPD, IPD, Physiotherapy and lab services. Presently all 713 Health districts have been sanctioned for geriatric primary & secondary care services of OPD, 10 bedded Geriatric Ward, Physiotherapy and laboratory services.
  - **Tertiary level activities of NPHCE** renamed as ‘**Rashtriya Varisth Jan Swasthya Yjana**’ in **2016-17**. As on date, 19 Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs) in selected Medical Colleges of 18 States, are sanctioned for tertiary care service delivery under NPHCE in the form of specialized OPD’s, 30 bedded wards in RGC including earmarking beds in various specialties like urology, orthopedics, ophthalmology etc, manpower development & research activities. Presently OPD services are being provided through 18 RGCs, inpatient services in 16 RGC’s, Physiotherapy in 14 centers & laboratory services in 13 centers.
  - Two National Centre for Ageing (NCA) has also been developed as centre of Excellence for Geriatric Care services. 200 bedded NCA at Madras Medical College, Chennai has been developed and operational for Covid ward and another NCA at AIIMS, New Delhi is in advance state of Construction. OPD services are expected to initiate by October 2021. A 250 Bedded Geriatric Care and Rehabilitation Centre is sanctioned at PG I Chandigarh.
  - Under “**National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly**” of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare funds are sanctioned, as the State proposals, for the following: -
    - i. Development of minimum 10 bedded geriatric ward (both male and female) in each District Hospital (DH) through new construction/ extension/ renovation,

- ii. Out Patient Department (OPD) set-up at District Hospital (DH), Community Health Centre (CHC), Primary Health Centre (PHC),
- iii. Equipment for OPD, ward, physiotherapy units/ services at DH and CHC,
- iv. In Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs) at 19 Medical Colleges funds sanctioned for infrastructure development of minimum 30 bedded ward, specialty OPD and physiotherapy unit,
- v. In the two National Centres for Ageing (NCA) at Madras Medical College, Chennai and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi funds sanctioned for development of minimum 200 bedded ward, specialty clinics, physiotherapy unit, diagnostics, etc.
- vi. Modules alongwith facilitator guides developed for ‘comprehensive geriatric assessment and care delivery’ for 3 cadres – Medical Officers (MO), staff nurses and community based workers of DHs and CHCs. State level training of trainers conducted to develop master trainers for below district trainings.
- vii. Under Ayushman Bharat Health Welfare Centres (HWC) 5 sets of modules developed for geriatric care training of Medical Officers (MO), Staff Nurse, ASHA, ANM etc. At PHCs and HWCs National and State level Training of Trainers conducted.
- viii. Orientation trainings of State and District level functionaries of all Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) programmes to sensitize them about NPHCE and geriatric issues.

#### **4.8.3 Benefits for Senior Citizens under Budget Announcement-2023**

##### **➤ Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)**

- The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme has been enhanced from Rs. 15 Lakh to Rs. 30 Lakh.
- The current interest rate on this Scheme is 8%, which is higher than most bank deposit rates.
- It has a lock-in period of 05 years.

##### **➤ Monthly Investment Scheme (MIS)**

- The maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Scheme Account for senior citizens has been enhanced from Rs. 4.5 lakh to Rs. 9 lakhs for a single account, and from Rs. 9 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs for a joint account.
- The rate of interest under the Scheme is 7.1%.

## **5. INITIATIVE AND DEVELOPMENTS UNDERTAKEN FOR THE WELFARE OF VICTIMS OF DRUG ABUSE**

During the last 9 years (from 2014-15 to 2022-23) 4676 projects have been financially assisted by the Drug Prevention Division under the scheme for NAPDDR, which have resulted into coverage of a total of 1474880 beneficiaries. In achieving so, grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 936.71 crores have been sanctioned to NGOs/VOs, States Governments/UT administrations as well as Central Agencies working in the field of Drug prevention

Details of new schemes and changes made in the schemes during last nine financial years:

### **5.1. Scheme for National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR):**

The Drug Prevention Division of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been implementing the scheme for National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and

Voluntary Organizations (VOs) for running and maintaining various projects like Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA), Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODICs), Community based peer led Interventions (CPLIs), District De-addiction Centres (DDACs) at District Headquarters and Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Government Hospitals.

### **5.2. Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA):**

The Ministry has launched NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 372 identified vulnerable districts with an aim to create awareness about ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses, schools and reaching out into the community and garnering community involvement and ownership of the Abhiyaan. The following activities have been organized so far:

- As part of the Abhiyaan, special emphasis is laid on the participation of stakeholders such as women, children, educational institutions, civil society organizations etc. who may be directly or indirectly affected by substance use.
- 8,000 Master Volunteers have been selected and trained to lead the Abhiyaan activities in the 372 identified districts.
- Till now through the various activities undertaken on-ground 9.45+ crore people reached out so far.
- More than 3.08+ crore youth have actively participated in the activities of the Abhiyaan and spreading on-ground the message against substance use. Around 4,000+ YuvaMandals, NYKS & NSS Volunteers, Youth Clubs have also been associated with the Abhiyaan.

- The contribution of 2.03+ Crore women have also been vital in reaching out to a larger community through the Anganwadi & ASHA Workers, ANMs, Mahila Mandals & Women SHGs.
- Across the country till now, 13+ lakh students have been reached with events, competitions and sessions organized in 6000+ schools.
- Social media has electively been utilized to spread the message of the Abhiyaan online by creating handles on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram and sharing daily updates on them.
- An internship programme was also initiated where 180+ students worked as Social media interns reached out to 13+ lakh people across the country in 3.5 months using their social media handles.
- An Android based mobile Application has been developed to capture the data of activities happening on ground on a real-time basis by the districts and master volunteers. This App has been placed on the Google Play Store
- A short film on the Abhiyaan, its objectives and the efforts of the districts has been made and released on social media.

Further, under the scheme for NAPDDR, the Ministry is providing assistance for various new projects like Outreach and Drop-In centres and Community based peer led Interventions (CPLIs) for targeting children among rag pickers who are at the high risk of becoming an addicts. As of now, this Ministry has been providing assistance to 73 ODICs and 49 CPLIs projects being run by NGOs/VOs.

- Community based Peer led Intervention for Early Drug Use Prevention among Adolescents (CPLI) - Through this programme, youth would be trained as Peer Educators to lead peer led community intervention and implement early prevention education especially for vulnerable adolescents and youth in the community. This programme would also provide referral and linkage to counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services for drug dependents identified in the community.
- Outreach and Drop in Centres (ODIC) -The ODICs would provide safe and secure drop-in space for drug users in the community. These centres shall have the provision of screening, assessment and counselling and would provide referral and linkage to treatment and rehabilitation services for drug dependents.

## **6. INITIATIVES AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY**

### **6.1. Background**

- In a landmark judgment dated 15.04.2014 delivered by Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP No. 400/2012 filed by National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) vs UOI, along with other directions the Court directed that Hijras, Eunuchs, apart from binary gender, be treated as "third gender" for the purpose of safeguarding their rights under Part III of our Constitution and the laws made by the Parliament and the State Legislature.
- The work relating to the welfare of Transgender Persons has been allocated to this Ministry in the Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules), 1961 vide notification dated 21.5.2016.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has enacted "The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019" from 10.01.2020. The Act, inter alia, have provision for identification of Transgender Persons, Non-discrimination against a Transgender Person in educational institutions, employment, healthcare services etc. Therefore, provisions have been made for formulation of welfare schemes and programmes for education, social security, and health of Transgender Persons.
- The Ministry has enacted "The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights), Rules, 2020" for implementation of the provisions of the Act. These rules will help in recognition of identity of Transgender persons and thus will provide the actual figures of transgender persons in the country.

## **7. PRADHAN**

### **MANTRIDAKSHATAURKUSHAL TASAMPANNHITGRAHI (PM-DAKSH) YOJANA**

- Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E) launched Pradhan MantriDakshataAurKushaltaSampannHitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) in FY 2020-21 with the objective to provide high quality skills to socially, educationally and economically marginalized sections of the society including SCs, OBCs, De-notified Tribes (DNTs), EBCs, SafaiKaramcharis including Waste Pickers through good quality institutions so that the training can result in finding jobs or self-employment ventures.
- Apart from this, rural artisans who have become marginalized owing to coming of better technologies in market would be trained so as to adopt newer processes and increase their incomes.
- There is a PM-DAKSH portal on which list of TIs, Job roles and locations in which training would be imparted are given. All candidates who are found suitable based on the qualifications and the psychometric test would be communicated to the Training Institutes on the PM-DAKSH portal automatically.
- The number of beneficiaries in Financial Year 2020-21 was approximately 32097; during 2021-22 were approximately 42002 and during 2022-23 were approximately 35484.

