POLICY AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE WELFARE FOR SCHEDULED CASTES IN PUNJAB: A STUDY

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Abstract: The welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been placed in the State List. Therefore, it becomes the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments to promote and protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes within the broad policy framework laid down by Union Government and Planning Commission. Article 46 of the Indian Constitution states that the State shall promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

The Planning Commission allocates appropriate funds under various heads and provides guidelines and consultancy support to states in regard to the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes. The various State Governments have evolved and strengthened the Social Welfare Departments entrusted with the responsibility of developing and promoting the interests of Scheduled Castes.

As per Census 2011, the State of Punjab, has the highest percentage of SC population amongst all the States of the Country. The SC population in the State is 88.60 lac which is 31.94% of the total population (277.43 lac) of the State as against 16.6% SC population of the Country. Punjab accounts for 2.3% of total population and 4.3% of SC population of the Country. The decennial growth rate of SC population in the State during the period (2001-2011) was 26.06% as compared to 13.89% for the State as a whole.

The present study is aims at studying the status of scheduled castes and contribution of different factors responsible for their status improvement based on review and synthesize the findings of the earlier studies based on secondary source of data. Majority of Scheduled Castes are having low literacy status which in turn causes for backwardness with low income, landlessness, poverty, etc, in spite of affirmative action with various education as well as development programmes. Hence, all educational and development programmes should be planned for social inclusion which constitute significant proportion of India population. This paper giving review of Policy and programme of scheduled castes in Punjab. A brief overview of the caste system and discusses the types of groups and their social, economic, political, educational and cultural aspects to castes.

Keywords: Scheduled Castes, Aspects, Social, Economic, Political, Policy and Programmes, Illiteracy, Low Income, Landlessness and Socio-Economic Conditions.

1.0 Introduction

India is a welfare state, committed to the welfare and development of its people in general and of vulnerable sections in particular. The Preamble, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Rights and specific sections, namely, Articles 38, 39 and 46 in the Constitution of India, stand testimony to the commitment of the State to its people. Welfare is not a matter of charity. Welfare programmes in the beginning were directed to provide a few basic curative and rehabilitative services. Over the years, a developmental orientation in contrast to curative and custodial approach was given to welfare programmes. At present these are oriented towards providing social justice and empowerment to the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society, viz., scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, minorities, disabled, aged persons, street children and victims of drug abuse, etc. The classes, which are included in Section 341 of the Indian Constitution, are known as Scheduled Castes. The Central/State Governments have implemented many programmes for the upliftment of these sections that are economically, socially, educationally backward.

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3.0 Welfare programmes for scheduled castes adopted by Punjab Government:

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3.1 Dairy Development: Promotion of Dairy Farming as Livelihood for SC Beneficiaries:
The major chunk of milk comes from backyard dairy units where a few dairy animals are kept mainly by the scheduled castes. They are constrained to increase their income (due to various impediments). The objective of this scheme is to provide technical knowhow and financial assistance to SCs for setting up dairy units. Under the scheme, two weeks training in dairy techniques is imparted to the target group. In the second stage, a unit of two animals is set up with a loan from banks and subsidy by State Govt. Subsidy @ 50% of unit cost, subject to ceiling of Rs.30,000/- per animal is provided. In addition, Rs. 9000/- (Rs.4500/- one animal) is spent for the insurance of these animals.

An expenditure of Rs. 15.00 lac is likely to be incurred during the year 2017-18. An outlay of Rs. 50.00 lac has been earmarked during 2018-19 to cover 1200 SC persons.

3.2 Rural Development And Panchayats: Modernisation and improvement of the villages where SC population is more than 34% to 50%:

As per census 2011, out of total inhabited 12,168 villages in the State, 3455 villages have SC population between 34% to 50%. For the overall development of such villages, a new scheme was included exclusively meant for SCs in the Annual Plan 2016-17 with an outlay of Rs.380.00 lac. However, scheme could not take off during 2016-17. A token provision of Rs. 1.00 lac has been made during 2018-19.

3.3 INDUSTRY & MINERAL: State scheme for awareness and entrepreneurship development to promote SC/STs under Stand-up India Project:

This new scheme has been introduced in the year 2017-18. Entrepreneurship Development is a mean to harness the human and natural resource potential of the State by developing soft as well as hard skills through systematic training. Though over the years education has proved to be the best means for their development, it has not reached the majority of the SC population. Therefore, it has been decided to create awareness about entrepreneurship by conducting Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes across the State. The objective of the scheme is to build awareness amongst SC youth about alternative options and to increase familiarity with the availability of various support systems, their roles, functions, schemes and incentives and other facilities to the youth to start own Micro Small Medium Enterprises. This programme will also provide knowledge regarding viable projects available in various sectors and will motivate SC youth to consider self employment as their career option. Each programme will be of two days duration and 100 participants will be provided awareness. During the year 2017-18, 150 awareness programmes will be organized to provide awareness to 15000 SC youth in all districts of the State. The motivated candidates can further join Entrepreneurship Development Programme technology based witch will primarily focus training in specific trades like leather, phulkari, sports goods, beauty culture, mobile repair, screen printing, electrician, plumber, tie & dye technology, tractor repair, welding, printing etc. A budget provision of Rs. 55.00 lac during 2018-19 to motivated 15000 SC youths.

3.4 General Education: Provision of education Facilities to the children of SC working as agricultural labourers:

As per census 2011, out of the total SC labour force (Rs. 31.79 lac), 11.00 lac are agricultural labourers (8.05 lac main workers and 2.95 lac marginal workers). These people are very poor and their only mode of survival is to work as farm labourers with landlords. In case, the agricultural labourer is unable to do the assigned work on day to day basis, his children or his wife have to work overtime to complete this work in time. They have not enough money to provide education facilities and basic health facilities to their children. In order to provide education facilities to the wards of these people, State Govt. had decided to launch a new scheme during 2016-17 with the objective to provide education facilities like uniform, shoes, bags and stationary to the children belonging the SC agricultural labourers studying in govt. schools from class 1st to 10th.

3.5 Welfare Of Scheduled Castes: Houses to Houseless SCs in Rural and Urban Areas:

Under the scheme, houses to SC families, who are either houseless or having Kacha houses in dilapidated condition, grant for purchase of plot and construction of a house is provided by the State Government. As per previous norms, Rs.25,000/- was given for purchase of a plot and Rs.20,000/- for construction of a house From the year 2009-10, the condition of BPL SC families for providing grant under this scheme has been waived off. Now, SC families having annual income of Rs.1.00 lac or less than Rs. 1.00 lac shall be covered under this scheme. Keeping in view the increase in the rate of land, grant @ 50,000/- to each SC houseless family will be given for construction of a new house consisting of one room and one kitchen. The funds for construction of toilets will be provided under “Rural Sanitation Programme” Besides, grant @ 20,000/- for each beneficiary shall be provided for the conversion of Kacha house into a pacca house. In 2016-17 the scheme couldn't be implemented due to non release of funds by Finance Department. An outlay of Rs.7000.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for the year 2017-18 to cover 14000 SC beneficiaries.

3.6 Attendance Scholarship to SC Primary Girl Students:
With the objective to check the dropout rate among SC girls, at primary level, attendance scholarship @ ` 50/- p.m., per student for 10 months in a year is awarded to domicile scheduled caste girls of Punjab subject to the following conditions:

I. The parents should not have more than five acres of land;
II. Their parents/guardians should not be income tax payees;
III. Minimum 75% class attendance is required for award of scholarship.

An outlay of Rs.800.00 lac was earmarked under the scheme for the year 2017-18. An expenditure of Rs.1.00 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme. An outlay of Rs. 916.65 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for the year 2018-19 to covered 1.83 lac students.

3.7 New Courses/Vocational training in ITIs for SC students (Staff expenditure, scholarship to SC students etc):

Dropout rate of SC youth is very high, so it is necessary that some skill training be also provided to such youth. With this objective, the scheme aims at to provide skill development/vocational training to SC youth possessing certain minimum qualification in NCVT/SCVT approved trades in Industrial Training Institutions of Technical Education and Industrial Training Department, Punjab. The certificate issued after completion of the training in these trades are valid through-out the country and also recognized by ILO, as such, the youth possessing these certificates will be able to get jobs in the foreign countries also. Tentative expenditure of 265.44 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during the year 2016-17 to cover 2796 beneficiaries. An outlay of Rs. 900.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for the year 2017-18 to cover 4000 beneficiaries.

3.8 Ashirwad to SC Girls/widows/divorcee and the daughters of widows at the time of their marriages:

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.15,000/- is given to Scheduled Caste girls, daughters of widows of any caste at the time of their marriage and Scheduled Caste widows/divorcees at the time of their remarriage subject to the following conditions:

i. The girls should be 18 years old or above.
ii. The annual income of the family from all sources should not exceed Rs.32,790/- w.e.f. 13.2.2014.
iii. The applicant shall have to submit his application for getting financial assistance in the prescribed proforma before or after the 30 days of the marriage of the girl.
iv. The parents/guardians of the girl should be domicile of Punjab.
v. The amount of shagun is limited upto two girls of the concerned family under shagun scheme.

Punjab Government has decided to rename the scheme as Ashirwad. The Ashirwad amount has been enhanced to Rs. 21,000/- w.e.f. July, 2017. It has also been decided to transfer the amount of Rs. 21,000/- directly in the Bank Account of the beneficiary through DBT. An expenditure of Rs. 7,858.89 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2017-18 to cover 37,423 beneficiaries. An outlay of Rs.10,000.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for the year 2018-19 to covered 47,619 SC beneficiaries.

3.9 Assistance to NGOs, Trusts and other Social Institutions for Solemnizing Mass Marriages for SC couples:

The objective of the scheme is to encourage the Institutions, Trusts& NGOs etc. to provide financial help to SC & Inter-caste SC couples, working for the removal of untouchability, removing the gap between low high, maintaining communal harmony in the State. To fulfill this objective, the State Govt. has decided to involve the participation of reputed and registered NGOs, Trust and other Social Institutions who will solemnize mass marriage of poor and needy Scheduled Castes/Inter-cast marriages of Scheduled Castes so that parents of this poor strata of society are relieved to some extent. Such NGOs will be provided financial assistance to solemnize such marriages. Under this scheme, marriages between the following categories will be covered:

i. Between Scheduled Castes (at least one member should belong to BPL category)
ii. Non Scheduled Caste groom and Scheduled Caste BPL girl.
iii. Non Scheduled Caste girl with Scheduled Caste BPL groom.

Financial Assistance in the shape of cash will be provided to individuals or institutes which solemnize more than ten mass marriages of SC couples. Rs.75000/- per marriage shall be given to an institution/Trust/NGO, out of which Rs.60,000/- will be given for utensils, furniture and gold etc. to the couple while Rs.15,000/- will be given to the organizer, individual/institute as encouragement award. Scheme could not implemented during 2016-17 due to non release of funds by Finance Department. An outlay of Rs.100.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for 2017-18 to cover 133 couples.

3.10 Construction of building for the Welfare Department at the State Headquarter:

At present, various wings of the Welfare Department i.e. Directorate of Welfare of SCs and BCs, Directorate of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan, Punjab State Scheduled Castes Finance and Land Development Corporation, Punjab State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Punjab State Backward Classes Commission are housed in the rented buildings and are located at distant Places/ different sectors in Chandigarh and SAS Nagar, Mohali. This Causes a
lot of inconvenience to the SCs, BCs and minorities communities in approaching the different offices resulting in wastage of time and making them incur unnecessary expenditure which they can’t afford. The Welfare Department has decided to construct a department Head Quarter building at S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) near Chandigarh to house all the above said officers in one complex to create a single window system for the services being rendered to these sections of the society. One acre is available with the Punjab Scheduled Castes Finance and Land Development Corporation in Phase-9 at S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali. The estimated cost for construction of the building is Rs.22.00 crore. Modalities of the scheme like funding pattern and requirement of space are being worked out for different wings of the Welfare Department and other departments etc. Nil expenditure is likely to be incurred during 2017-18. A token Provision of Rs. 2.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for 2018-19.

3.11 Scholarship for Post Matric Students for Scheduled Castes (100% Gol, over and above committed liability of State Government) (Shifted from Non Plan)

The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial assistance to the scheduled Caste students studying in Post Matriculation or Post Secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. These scholarships are available for students in India. Scholarship is paid to the students whose parents/guardians income from all sources does not exceed 2.50 per annum. The value of scholarship includes maintenance allowance, provision for students with disabilities, re-imbursement of compulsory non refundable fees, study tour charges, thesis typing/printing charges and book allowance for students pursuing correspondence charges, for complete duration of the course. The rate of scholarship varied from Rs.230/- to Rs.1200/- depending upon the class and course of study. The Govt. of India has merged Book Bank Scheme to SC students studying in Medical, Engineering, Veterinary, Agriculture and Polytechnics etc. in the Post Matric Scholarship to SC Students from year 2003-04. Scholarship is directly transferred by GOI in the bank accounts of the claimant student through DBT system.

An expenditure of Rs.12,124.26 lac is likely to be incurred during 2017-18. An outlay of Rs. 80,000.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for 2018-19 to cover approximately Rs.3.41 lac SC students.

3.12 Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana- Construction of Hostels for SC Girls in Schools & Colleges (100% Gol):

The objective of the scheme is to provide hostel facilities to SC girl students studying in middle/higher secondary schools, colleges and universities. The maximum number of girls to whom the accommodation is to be provided in each hostel under the scheme should not exceed 100.

Funding Pattern:

i. 100% Central assistance would be provided to the State Governments;

ii. 90% Central assistance would be provided to NGOs and deemed universities in the private sector, only for expansion of the existing hostel facilities.

Tentative expenditure of Rs. 1000.00 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2017-18. During 2018-19, an outlay of Rs.1000.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme.

3.13 Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Hostels for SC Boys & Girls in Schools & Colleges (50:50) (Gol:GoP Shifted from Non Plan)

The objective of the scheme is to attract the implementing agencies for undertaking hostel construction especially for SC girls in order to reduce their drop out rate. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided both for fresh construction of hostel buildings and for expansion of the existing hostel facilities. The Non-Government Organization (NGOs) and deemed universities in the private sector having good track record will also be eligible for the central assistance under the scheme only for expansion of their existing hostel facilities.

Funding Pattern:

i. 50% central assistance to State Government on matching share basis.

ii. 90% central assistance to Central Universities/institutions (remaining 10% cost to be borne by the university/institution concerned) while for State Universities /Institutions, the central assistance would be 45%, the remaining 55% cost to be borne by the University/institution concerned and the State Government in the ratio of 10:45.

iii. 45% central assistance to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and deemed universities in the private sector for expansion of their existing hostels (remaining 55% cost to be borne by the agency concerned and the State Government in the ratio of 10:45)

Tentative expenditure of Rs. 31.05 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2016-17 and expenditure of Rs.2.00 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2017-18. During 2018-19, a token provision of Rs. 2.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme.

As per 2011 Census, the percentage of Scheduled Castes population (31.94%) is highest in the Country. “Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the “The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989”; have been enacted as Central Act, applicable in all States including the State of Punjab. This scheme was introduced in the year 1986-87 with the aim to remove the untouchability from the grass root level. Under this scheme, encouragement award of Rs.50,000/- is given to inter-caste married couples (Wherein one of the spouse belongs to Scheduled Caste), Panchayats/ Voluntary Organizations who work for the overall development of Scheduled Caste are given assistance of Rs.25,000/- . Besides, seminars, debates and Mass Lunch are also organized at Block level. Wide publicity of Welfare Schemes including this scheme is also done through advertisement in various news papers and by distribution of Pamphlets/folders etc.

Similarly, efforts have been made to minimize atrocities on Scheduled Castes in the State. With the enactment of Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 & Prevention of Atrocity Rules, 1995, the State Govt. has taken effective measures for the prevention of atrocities and to cope with any offence under this Act.

Tentative expenditure of Rs.420.97 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during the year 2016-17 and expenditure of Rs. 731.04 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during the year 2017-18. An outlay of Rs. 1000.00 lac earmarked under the scheme for the year 2018-19.

3.15 Share Capital Contribution to PSCFC (State Share 51% & GoI 49%):

Under the scheme, direct loaning is done by Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development & Finance Corporation (PSCFC) out of its share capital provided by the State Government and Government of India in the ratio of 51.49. The corporation is implementing direct lending scheme, economic venture scheme and the schemes pertaining to the liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers. Besides, the corporation is also utilizing its share capital in varying proportions in various schemes viz, karyana shop, electric shop, handloom, transport vehicles scheme, cloth shop, cycle/scooter repair shop, goat rearing scheme and shoe making being run in collaboration with National Safai Karmcharies Finance and Development Corporation (NSFKDC) and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC). Tentative expenditure of Rs.2163.00 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2016-17 to cover 1400 SC beneficiaries and expenditure of Rs. 1121.00 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2017-18. During 2019-20, an outlay of Rs.1889.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme.

3.16 Pre-Matric scholarship for Scheduled Caste Students Studying in class IXth & Xth (100% GOI):

The objective of the Scheme is to support parents of SC children for education of their wards studying in classes IXth and Xth so that the incidence of dropout, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized and to improve participation of SC children in IXth and Xth classes at the pre-matric stage. This scheme was introduced in the year 2012-13 w.e.f. 1.7.2012.

The financial assistance under the scheme is admissible only for study in India and the student will be awarded by the State Government /Union Territory to which the applicant belongs i.e. where he is domiciled.

**Conditions of Eligibility:**

i. Student should belong to Scheduled Caste.

ii. His/her Parent/Guardian’s income should not exceed Rs.2.00 lakh per annum.

iii. She/he should not be getting scholarship from any other Centrally funded pre matric scholarship.

iv. She/he should be a regular, full time student studying in a Government School or in a School recognized by Govt. or Central/State Board of Secondary Education.

The value of scholarship includes the following for the duration of the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Day Scholars Rs.</th>
<th>Hostellers Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship for 10 months</td>
<td>150 P.M.</td>
<td>350 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and Adhoc Grant</td>
<td>750 P.M.</td>
<td>1000 P.M.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarship amounting to Rs. 27.99 crore was directly released by GOI to 125197 students through DBT during 2016-17. An expenditure of Rs.1938.35 lac is likely to be incurred during 2017-18. An outlay of Rs. 4642.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for 2018-19.

3.17 Up gradation of Merit of SC Students (100% GOI):

Under the scheme, 100% Central Assistance is provided to the States for arranging remedial and special coaching for Scheduled Caste students studying in class IXth to XIIth. While remedial coaching aims at removing deficiencies in school subjects, special coaching is provided with a view to prepare students for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses like engineering and medical. The main objective of the scheme is...
to upgrade the merit of Scheduled Caste students by providing them special coaching for their all round development through education in residential and non residential schools.

Admission and selection process is left at the discretion of the concerned state government which will ensure total transparency and fairness both in the identification of coaching institutions and beneficiary students. The school selected under the scheme should have the facilities necessary for all round development of the child, enough hostel facilities and should shown good/excellent performance. A package grant of `25,000/- per student per year will be given with the following break-up:-

i. 15000 per student per year as under:-
   a) Boarding & lodging charges @ Rs.900 per month for 10 months = Rs.9000. (This component would be payable to the students studying in residential schools only.)
   b) Pocket money @ 300 for 10 months= Rs.3000.
   c) Books and Stationary Rs.3000.

ii. Rs.10,000 per year per student for honorarium to principal, experts and other incidental charges.

Scheme could not be implemented during 2016-17 due to non release of funds by Finance Department. An allocation of Rs. 71.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for 2017-18. Nil expenditure is likely to be incurred during 2017-18. Rs. 1.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme for 2018-19.

3.18 Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) in SC villages (50:50) (GoI-GoP) (GOI share includes incentive grant):

This programme was launched by Government of India during 2009-10 for integrated development of 1000 villages having more than 50% SC population. The Pilot scheme was taken up in 5 states, which has been extended to 1500 new SC majority villages in the Country including Punjab. Punjab State has been included in the scheme during 2014-15. There are 2800 villages in Punjab having more that 50% scheduled Caste population. PMAGY aims at to ensure all round integrated development of SC majority villages into model villages. These villages should, interalia, satisfy the following norms:-

(i) They have all requisite physical and social infrastructure for their socio economic development.
(ii) Disparity between SC and non SC population in terms of common socio economic indicators (e.g. literacy rate, completion rate of elementary education, IMR/MMR, ownership of productive assets, etc.) is eliminated, the indicators are raised to at least the level of the national average and;
   a) All BPL families, especially those belonging to SCs, have food and livelihood security, and are enabled to cross the poverty line and earn an adequate livelihood.
   b) All children complete at least eight years of education, and c) Incidence of malnutrition, especially among children and women, is eliminated.
(iii) Untouchability, discrimination, segregation, and atrocities against SCs are eliminated, as are other social evils like discrimination against girls/women, alcoholism and substance (drugs) abuse etc. and all sections of society are able to live with dignity and equality, and in harmony with others.

Integrated Development of selected villages will be primarily achieved through implementation of existing schemes of central and state governments in a convergent manner. Gap filling funding @ Rs.20.00 lac per village will be provided by Government of India (with expectation of a matching grant from State Government) for meeting special requirements of villages which cannot be met from existing schemes. Besides, incentive grant will also be provided by Central Government. Efforts will also be made to rope in Public Sector undertakings (PSUs) and also private corporate sector in the development of selected villages and to dovetail their initiatives under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with PMAGY).

In the first stage, total 100 villages (50 villages each of Sri Mukatsar Sahib district and Hoshiarpur district) were selected during 2015-16 and the development works in these villages are almost complete. The development works in these villages have been carried out as per the actual need of the village. During 2016-17 list of 50 villages was sent to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, but the approval of the ministry has not been received so far. Funds from the ministry were also not received during 2016-17. An expenditure of Rs. 1742.00 Lac is likely to incurred during 2017-18. A budget provision of Rs. 2660.00 Lac given during 2018-19.

3.19 Construction of Dr. B.R Ambedkar Bhawans and their operation:

The scheme was started in 1990-91 to commensurate the memory of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar. The state government is setting up Ambedkar Bhawans at each district headquarter. These Bhawans consists of an auditorium hall with seating capacity of 500 seats approximately, meeting hall with seating capacity of 50 seats and a library-cum-research centre. The district wise status of Ambedkar Bhawans is as under:-

i. Completed and functional -14 Distts (Fategharh Sahib, Sri Muktsar sahib, Faridkot, Gurdaspur, Kapurthala, Roopnagar, Sangrur, Mansa, Bathinda, Moga, Firozpur, Patiala, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar and Ludhiana).
ii. Incomplete-3 Distts- (Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, and Amristar).

iii. Work yet to be started in 5 districts- (S.A.S. Nagar, Tarn Taran, Barnala, Fazilka and Pathankot). Land is being acquired in these districts.

Tentative expenditure of Rs. 315.00 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2016-17 and expenditure of Rs. 1.00 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2017-18. During 2018-19, an outlay of Rs. 101.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme.

3.20 Award to SC Sports Students (6-12 Classes):

The objective of the scheme is to inculcate the spirit of competition amongst scheduled caste students in the field of sports. The SC students who stand 1st, 2nd and 3rd from 6th to 12th classes were given awards at the rate of 25/- p.m per students in each educational block. This amount has been enhanced w.e.f. 21-3-2014, as per detail given below :-

i. Primary Level 500 per year for 3 years.
ii. Middle Level 750 per year for 2 years.
iii. Higher secondary Level 1000 per year for 2 years

Award money is directly transferred in the bank accounts of the claimant student through DBT system.

Tentative expenditure of Rs. 23.45 lac has been incurred under the scheme during 2016-17 to cover 3241 students. And expenditure of Rs. 5.86 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2017-18. During 2018-19, an outlay of Rs. 25.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme.

3.21 Loan waiver scheme for PSCFC:

There are many SC people who are unable to pay back the loan taken from Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development and Finance Corporation due to various reasons like failure of the venture, death of the borrower or natural calamity etc. It has been decided to waive of the loan of those borrowers whose loan is up to 50,000 (lumpsum) including interest/penalty etc. as on 31.3.2017. The benefit will be given to those borrower who have been declared defaulter on 31.3.2017. The cut off date for calculation of interest/penalty will be 31.3.2017. Punjab Govt. will reimburse the waived off money to the Corporation and No Objection Certificate will be issued to the borrower only when Punjab Govt. will reimburse the waived off money to the Corporation. In case of those borrowers who have filed any case in Civil Courts against Corporation, the benefit will be given only after he has withdrawn the case. Executive Director of the Corporation will be the final authority if there is any dispute regarding loan waiving and legal jurisdiction will be Chandigarh. An expenditure of Rs. 1818.45 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2017-18. During 2018-19, an outlay of Rs. 1818.45 lac has been earmarked under the scheme.

3.22 Provision of Free Text Books and Tool Kits to the Scheduled Castes:

Under this scheme, students belonging to scheduled castes are provided theory books and tool kits at the time of admission. After the completion of training, they will keep the theory books and tool kits with them so that they are able to set up their own venture. Tentative expenditure of Rs.9.37 lac has been incurred under the scheme during 2016-17. An expenditure of Rs. 1.00 lac is likely to be incurred under the scheme during 2017-18. During 2019-20, an outlay of Rs.100.00 lac has been earmarked under the scheme. The detail of various schemes/programmes to be implemented exclusively for SC in the year 2019-20 is given at Statement X.

3.23 Strengthening of 108 Community Centres - providing equipment and raw material:

Under the scheme, one year training in cutting, tailoring and embroidery is provided to the below poverty line women/girls to enable them to be self employed/self dependent. The expenditure on the staff is met from the non-plan budget. Funds required for raw material, repair and maintenance of machinery, free sewing machines to the successful trainee etc. are provided from SCA to strengthen the existing Community Centres opened in the State. At present only 39 community centres are functioning.

In each centre 20 BPL SC women/girls are trained every year. A free sewing machine is given to the trained girls after completion of the training so that they are self-employed. The items prepared by the trainees during the training are sold in the market at 10% profit by holding exhibitions on different occasions. The profit money is used as revolving fund for purchase of raw material for the concerned trade. After completion of one batch, the training centres are shifted to other villages preferably SC dominated villages having 40% or more SC population. The concerned village panchayat provides rent free building and also pays the electricity and water charges of the centre running in the village. An amount of Rs. 31.50 lac is likely to be spent during 2017-18 to provide free sewing machines to trained SC women/girls during 2017-18. An allocation of Rs.31.50 lac has been earmarked for the year 2018-19.

In Punjab the first Integrated Child Development Services Project was started in Nurpur Bedi in Ropar District. Now is functioning in all the districts of Punjab. Under this scheme project is opened in rural or urban slum area having population of one lakh. One project must have 100 Anganwadi. The focal point of the delivery of Integrated Child
During the last six decades, number of schemes were launched for welfare of the Scheduled Castes in Punjab. Scholarship schemes for the Scheduled Castes students have been the most regular in terms of their implementation. Some schemes such as library room in dharamshalas in villages, Residential Schools for Scheduled Caste boys and girls etc. were never started and remained only on paper. Grants for some of the other schemes were sanctioned irregularly. Important among these are, schemes relating to opening of hostels for Scheduled Castes boys and girls. Post-Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Castes students, Pre-Matric Scholarship etc. The Rural Landless Employment Guarantee scheme introduced in Sixth Five Year Plan was changed into Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in the year 1981 and then into Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana in 1991, and presently named Swaran Jyanti Swai Rojgar Yojana in April 2000. A prominent scheme known as Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA) was changed into Self-Help Groups Scheme. The basic contents of these schemes remained almost similar. It was like the old wine in new bottles. Welfare bureaucracy expanded as new agencies and offices with new designation were created.

Thus if we compare the present economic condition of the Scheduled Castes with that of Scheduled Castes in 1971, we find that there is a considerable change in their conditions, specially their economic conditions. Their literacy rate was 12.77 per cent in 1971. It had improved to 37.41 per cent in 1991. More and more parents are now sending their children to schools. Infant mortality rate has decreased. Their clothing has improved. Reservation in jobs and admission in professional courses has benefited them a lot.

But, despite so many schemes and programmes for them, more than 68 per cent are still living below poverty line. If we see the number of the schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes people, it is very encouraging. But if we look into their implementation, the only objective of the concerned government agencies seems to be to fill the official records and to achieve the targets, whether in reality or in papers only. Nobody seems to be concerned whether the Scheduled Castes persons were actually benefited with the schemes or not or what kind of schemes the Scheduled Castes persons are in need of.

Interviews with various officers in the departments concerning welfare of the Scheduled Castes people revealed that the government agencies had no feedback mechanism to know the success or failure of these schemes. So there is an urgent need for a proper check mechanism on the implementation of these schemes. Further there should be proper participation and role of Panchayati Raj institutions and intellectuals of same fields in the formulation of the schemes.

For the successful policy operations-formulation and implementation of welfare and development programmes, it is necessary that a sound social administrative system is evolved. The existing administrative set-up at district, block and village levels should be strengthened.

A strong administrative structure is necessary to support the public service delivery system for weaker sections and backward classes. In view of structural deficiencies, the bureaucratic system should be organised on functional lines to facilitate proper command and coordination. The major structural defect existing at present, is the absence of people’s participation. As such, leaders or wards members of Backward Classes should be invited in different forums of planning, programming and execution of various welfare and development programmes and schemes.

### 4.0 Status profiles of scheduled castes:

Some of the general conditions of members of Scheduled Castes compared to their more resourceful counter parts would be evident from following facts:

1. 30.91 percent of Scheduled Castes household had electricity as compared to 61.31% for Scheduled Castes household.
2. 9.84% Scheduled Castes household had access to sanitation as compared to 26.76% for non-Scheduled Castes household.
3. More than 20% Scheduled Castes population does population does not access to safe drinking water.
4. Monthly per capital expenditure (1987-88) was Rs. 133 for Scheduled Castes as compared to Rs.169 for others in rural area and it was Rs. 185 for Scheduled Castes as compared to Rs.256 for others in urban area. This gap increased from the level existing in the years 1983-84.
5. The death rate among Scheduled Castes was 15.50% in rural area, as compared to 11.20% for others. It was 12.90% in urban area as compared to 8.40% for non-Scheduled Castes.

5.0 Conclusion:

To sum up, the Government of India has floated various educational, economic, housing loan schemes and constituted various institutions who specially cater to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. The Protection Civil Rights Act 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act1989 seek to protect the rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Efforts have also being made to provide vocational training through various schemes to these underprivileged classes. Tribal Research Institution, Tribal Cooperation Marketing Development Federation of India and Legal Services Authority of India have done considerable work for the upliftment of these classes.

Based on review of the studies, it can be concluded that majority of Scheduled Castes are having low literacy status which in turn causes for backwardness with illiteracy, low income, landlessness, poverty, etc. In spite of affirmative action with various education as well as development programmes, the status of these castes has not improved to the desired level. Hence, all the educational and development programmes should be planned for social inclusion scheduled castes, which constitute significant proportion of India population.

There is a need to enhance the effectiveness of all these departments, committee and welfare schemes so that the gap between the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and general population can be bridged.

6.0 References: