

The following are the important activities of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment during January, 2018.

Activities of the Department

(i) Government has introduced Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Third Amendment) amendment Bill, 2017 regarding setting up of a Commission for socially and Educationally Backward Classes namely the National Commission for Backward Classes by insertion of article 338B in the Constitution. The Bill introduced by this Department was passed by the Lok Sabha on 10/04/2017. Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with the deletion of substantive clause 3 of the Bill on 31/07/2017. The Government introduced alternative amendment viz. Clause 3 of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha on 03/01/2018 where it is pending consideration.

(ii) Governing and General Body Meetings of Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation were held on 18/01/2018 under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

(iv) A review meeting was taken by the Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice & Empowerment with Principal Secretaries/Nodal Officers of State Governments/Union Territories, representatives of National Institute of Social Defence, AIIMS, Regional Resource Training Centres (RRTCs), etc. on 30/1/2018 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi regarding the progress of National Survey on drugs.

(v) 24th meeting of the Committee constituted for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offences of untouchability and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and effective implementation of Protection of the Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment was held on 30/01/2018 to review implementation of status of the above said two Acts, in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat,

Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

(vi) A meeting was held on 30/01/2018 with the Ministers and Principal Secretaries of Departments concerned of the State Governments of the 18 States to discuss the modalities of the National Survey of manual scavengers in these 18 States. The meeting was chaired jointly by the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment and Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The Action Plan and the modalities of the survey were discussed and finalized in the meeting. It has been decided that the survey would be completed by 30/04/2018.

Activities of Corporations

(i) National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) signed Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) with Punjab National Bank, New Delhi and Bank of Baroda, Mumbai for expanding outreach PAN India.

(ii) Towards digitization of National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) Loan Management System, the NBCFDC arranged a presentation for Channel partners to understand & start using the "Loan Employee Automation Project" (LEAP) Software. The software is aimed at providing online platform for sanction, disbursement and tracking of recovery etc. and expected to be implemented across all SCAs from 2018-19.

(iii) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) organized one Awareness Camp in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh on 06/01/2018 to make the target group aware healthy living and about the schemes and programmes of NSKFDC/Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers and to motivate them to avail financial assistance and also to enrol for Skill Development Training Programme.

(iv) NSKFDC participated in the "LokutsavMela" at Darva Sangam, Goa from 12/01/2018 to 21/01/2018 and "National Handloom Expo" in Assam from 27/01/2018 to 18/02/2018 wherein people were made aware of NSKFDC schemes.

(v) NSKFDC released One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) of Rs. 48.40 Lakh @ 40,000/- each to 121 identified Manual Scavengers in the States of Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

(vi) NSKFDC signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Women Empowerment Corporation, Ahmedabad for providing financial assistance to Women Self Help Groups of Safai Karamcharis and their dependents under NSKFDC Schemes.

(vii) NSKFDC successfully organized Recognition of Prior Learning programme for 528 sanitation workers of various Municipal Corporations in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
