

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

(I) **Activities of the Department**

1. The 127th Birth Anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was celebrated on 14th April, 2017 in the Parliament House Lawns, New Delhi. The Hon'ble President of India and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India led the Nation in paying floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar. The other dignitaries, viz. the Vice President of India, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Ministers (Social Justice and Empowerment), and other Cabinet Ministers etc. also paid the floral tribute to Babasahab. A large number of general public was also present on the occasion.
2. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation organized a function relating to presentation of Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Awards to meritorious students belonging to Secondary & Senior Secondary Examination 2016 on 18.04.2017 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
3. Two Amendment Bills viz. (i) The Constitution (One Hundred Twenty Third Amendment) Bill, 2017 and (ii) The National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Bill, 2017 introduced by this Ministry for setting up of a National Commission for socially and educationally backward classes, were passed by the Lok Sabha on 10.04.2017 and have since been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 11.04.2017.
4. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2017, was passed in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 23.03.2017 and 10.04.2017 respectively. The Bill received assent of the President on 28.04.2017 and has been published in the Gazette of India on 01.05.2017.
5. A new Scheme viz. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) was launched on 01.04.2017 at Nellore, A.P. by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development and Information and Broadcasting in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. The scheme is meant for providing Physical Aids and Assisted Living Devices to the Senior Citizens belonging to BPL Category. Another camp was organized at Ujjain on 08.04.2017. Total beneficiaries at these camps were 1843 and 2145, respectively.

(II) **Activities of Corporations**

1. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles to help Scheduled Caste weavers and their families by promoting production and marketing of high value quality Handloom products at Cluster level in the field of Handlooms.
2. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) actively participated in the fair organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and created awareness about the schemes of NBCFDC. Names of potential beneficiaries were also registered, who may avail loan from channel partners of NBCFDC in Jharkhand.
3. National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) organized 6 Awareness Camps in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal to make the target group aware about the schemes & programmes of NSKFDC/Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) and motivate them to avail financial assistance and also to enroll for Skill Development Training Programme.
